



# Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

APRIL 2021 Vol 37 Number 2

## IN MEMORIAM



ANSR Staff

Longtime ANSR staff and board member Sandra "Sandy" Sandell died on March 11, leaving a lasting mark on many of the programs at ANSR.

# Longtime ANSR staff, board member dies

Irascible first comes to mind when ANSR president Jeanne Weigum recalls former staff and board member Sandra Dianne "Sandy" Sandell, who died on March 11.

"She was irascible, unique, dedicated, hardworking and smart, loyal to a fault," Weigum said. "But she certainly was irascible."

Weigum recounted an infamous story about Sandell, who discovered the day before a grant was due that the grant needed to be double-spaced, not single-spaced. That necessitated cutting the information in the grant almost in half in a limited amount of time.

"She holed up in her

office and worked on it," Weigum said. "We knew better than to interrupt. But she got it done, and we got the grant."

Weigum credits Sandell, who was 79 when she died, with three major accomplishments during her time as an ANSR staff member.

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## Annual sale returns

Are you ready to get your thrifting on? After a hiatus last year, ANSR's annual garage sale will return to join the plant sale.

The 38th Annual ANSR Plant & Garage Sale will be on May 21-22, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day at 1647 Laurel Ave., Saint Paul. Mark your calendars and get ready to join us and shop. As always, we need your stuff. Best for us are small items, such as housewares, jewelry, tools, books, CDs/DVDs, collectibles and decorator items. We no longer take clothing, TVs, exercise equipment or large furniture.

Do you have time to help? We always need help collecting saleable items before the sale, organizing and pricing things the day before the sale and working the sale itself. We would love your assistance. Please call Jeanne at (651-) 646-3005 to volunteer or talk about other ways you can help.

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ANSR staff photo

Sandra “Sandy” Sandell, second from left on back, served on the ANSR board and also as a staff member, leaving a lasting legacy with her work.

“She did the original research that helped create Live Smoke Free,” Weigum said.

Live Smoke Free has dominated the state and national scene as a leader in smoke-free housing. Sandell executed numerous surveys and wrote the initial grant proposal for funding to ClearWay Minnesota. Her early research set the standard for later research on smoke transfer. That initial program was known as the Initiative for Smoke-Free Housing (ISFH).

Program creation within ANSR proved to be Sandell’s forte. She also conceptualized and wrote the original grant that led to ANSR’s Tobacco-Free

Youth Recreation (TFYR) program. Additionally, she created a physical library source pre-internet for secondhand smoke resources. It was a go-to source until the proliferation of the internet and the release of the Surgeon General’s report on secondhand smoke in 2006.

“Back then, it was the resource for anything you wanted,” Weigum said.

Sandell also worked in tobacco control at the Minnesota Department of Health and with HealthPartners. During her initial time with ANSR, the nonprofit consisted of just three people on staff. In addition to working as a staff member, Sandell

served on the ANSR board until 2019.

Sandell was born Sept. 20, 1941 in Minneapolis to Samuel T. Sandell and Christine Marie (Torgerson) Sandell. She earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Minnesota in 1981. She was an instructor of composition, technical writing and literature at the University of Minnesota and College of St. Thomas. In 1988, she began working in the field of tobacco control, writing grants and developing policies and educational programs.

Upon retirement, Sandy began volunteering as a Guardian ad-Litem for the State of Minnesota.

## ROUNDUP

# FDA to regulate menthol

ANSR applauds the Biden Administration’s decision to end the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. While the decision is long overdue, this action is a powerful and crucial step toward mitigating some of the disparities in health outcomes for BIPOC communities in our state, especially among Black Minnesotans.

For full release, go to [ansrmn.org](http://ansrmn.org).

### CONGRESS TIGHTENS

**LAW:** As part of the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,” in the most recent COVID-19 relief bill signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020, Congress amended the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (“PACT”) Act to apply to e-cigarettes and all vaping products.

It prohibits the use of the U.S. Postal Service to deliver tobacco products to consumers. It went into effect March 28.

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For more information, contact ANSR at:

2395 University Ave. West, Ste. 310, St. Paul, MN 55114 or at (651) 646-3005.

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Residents of a public housing agency in New Jersey attend a smoke-free housing celebration and mini health fair in 2019. ANSR staff provided consultation and resources to assist the agency with the event.

## Live Smoke Free team wraps up RWJ grant

The Live Smoke Free program (LSF) was awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in March 2018 to support public housing agencies (PHAs) nationwide with implementation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Smoke-Free Public Housing Rule. This included residents, staff, and resident service providers. The LSF team recently wrapped up their work on the grant.

With this grant, Live Smoke Free created Clean Air for All: The Smoke-Free Public Housing Project. Clean Air for All was a partnership between Live Smoke Free and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

Throughout the grant, Clean Air for All collaborated with various partners, including the National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing (NAR-SAAH), the Public Health Law Center, and Alison Freeman, national tobacco and a secondhand smoke expert formerly of the Environmental Protection Agency.

### Clean Air for All project highlights

**Conferences:** Presented and/or exhibited at 10 national and regional conferences, engaging with more than 920 PHA staff, residents, resident service providers, and other stakeholders.

**Webinars:** Hosted nine national webinars for a total of 1,145 PHA staff, residents, and resident service providers.

**Connect Calls:** Hosted 22 Connect Calls or discussions, with a total of 719 PHA staff, residents and resident service providers on a variety of smoke-free housing topics.

**Resources:** updated and created new resources including a policy implementation guide, an online PHA staff training tool, a compliance and enforcement toolkit, and an online directory of smoke-free housing programs.

**Resident Commissioner Training:** hosted a series of three trainings for Resident Commissioners and resident leaders with more than 100 registrants.

Clean Air for All provided resources, technical assistance, and a variety of training opportunities to PHAs throughout the grant period.

The project assisted PHAs in all 50 states, with a focus on 13 Tobacco Nation states, where smoking rates are high, and there are fewer resources to support tobacco

prevention.

Clean Air for All also collaborated closely with other Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grantees including the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, the National Housing Law Project, and the North American Quitline Consortium.



Eric Li, bottom, of the Minnesota Youth Council, testifies in Roseville in favor of restricting the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

## Roseville restricts flavored tobacco products

The Roseville City Council took a big step in protecting youth and vulnerable populations from the targeting of the tobacco industry on Feb. 8 as it voted unanimously to restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, to adult-only tobacco stores and capped the number of those stores to the city’s current number of four.

Menthol, candy and fruit-flavored tobacco products are attractive to youth, and the tobacco industry uses these flavors to hook a new generation of users, resulting in addiction, disease and death. Eighty percent of youth tobacco users use flavored tobacco.

“It’s a health issue, a health issue that’s been going on for decades,” council member Wayne Groff said during a January public hearing. “Flavored tobacco increases the likelihood of people being addicted.”

Mayor Dan Roe said while youth usage of flavored tobacco is definitely a public health issue, he didn’t want to dismiss the equity part of it with

menthol, either. The tobacco industry has targeted youth, women, LGBTQ and Black people for decades with menthol. In Minnesota, African American (88 percent), LGBTQ youth (70 percent) and all youth (34 percent) smokers use menthol at a higher rate than the general population.

“Menthol continues to be disproportionately used among youth, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and the LGBTQ communities,” said Shoreview Human Rights Commissioner Gene Nichols. “Greater use, addiction, and health disparities exist and persist because of the tobacco industry’s history of marketing and promotion of menthol tobacco products in these communities.”

Eric Li, a high school sophomore and member of the Minnesota Youth Council, spoke in favor of the ordinance in January.

“Young people continue to use flavored products despite distance learning,” Li said during the meeting.

### Lauderdale strengthens ordinance

The City of Lauderdale added to its tobacco ordinance, including menthol in its flavored tobacco prohibition.

Lauderdale was among the first Metro cities to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products but didn’t include menthol at the time. This changed with the passing of an ordinance in March.

Katie Engman, a program director for ANSR, praised council member Groff for his efforts in bringing this ordinance in front of the council.

“Council member Groff has been a strong leader throughout this entire process,” Engman said. “His dedication to improving the health of all in our community is outstanding. He is dedicated to improving health equity.”

## WEEK OF ACTION 2021



Unlike previous years, advocates were not able to meet with Minnesota state legislators in person for a “day at the hill.” Instead, advocates met virtually with legislators. At left, youth from North High in North Saint Paul, speak with Rep. Leon Lillie, and at right, advocates speak with Rep. Athena Hollins about the dangers of flavored tobacco products.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

ANSR has created a toolkit outlining youth engagement and survey implementation that we conducted in 2020 and shared the results for. This toolkit also includes sample questions to ask, as well as a step-by-step guide on how to create your own survey, and engaging youth to collect data.

This toolkit can be used as a guide in creating and implementing your own surveys on youth tobacco use. It can also be used as a guide to youth engagement, why it is important, and how you can effectively engage youth in tobacco prevention work.

At right, the toolkit is pictured.



## ANSR Membership Form

I want to help ANSR's ongoing work:

- Guarantor \_\_\$100 \_\_ \$200 \_\_ Other
- Sustaining member \_\_\$50 \_\_ \$75
- Contributing member \_\_\$30 \_\_ \$40
- Regular member \_\_ \$25
- Associate member \_\_\$15 \_\_ \$10

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Anyone wishing to donate to ANSR or renew their membership online may do so at [www.ansrmn.org/donate](http://www.ansrmn.org/donate)

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*Already a member? Not your renewal date? Pass this form along to someone you think might be interested. Share your newsletter. Also, please send in your email address to help us update our records.*

Please mail this form with your check to:  
**Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota**  
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# ANSR Bulletin

[www.ansrmn.org](http://www.ansrmn.org)

## ANSR issues statement on racism

The Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR) stands strongly with our staff, community partners, and all members of the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander community, who are facing increased racism, xenophobic attacks, and bigotry. As an organization focused on tobacco prevention, public health policy change, and community education, ANSR recognizes our role in eliminating the health inequities that Asian American communities in Minnesota face including those due to decades of tobacco industry targeting. ANSR denounces the discrimination that has intensified during the pandemic and which is fueled by hateful political rhetoric. We do not tolerate racism,

xenophobia, or violence of any kind, and continue to review and ensure that our internal policies are equitable. We remain committed to working in solidarity with our partners to end racism, be anti-racist allies, and stop racially-motivated violence. ANSR recognizes that racism in America is a public health crisis. As a public health advocacy organization, we strive to make policy, environmental, and systems changes in our community to address the health inequities created by systemic racism. ANSR is deeply saddened by the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, and we stand with Black Lives Matter movements across the country.

**Spring Forward MN**  
 May is a great time to support ANSR. If you can't make the Plant & Garage sale, consider a donation during GiveMN's Spring giving season that runs May 1-11. You can donate then or anytime by visiting us at [ansrmn.org/donate](http://ansrmn.org/donate)

