

NICOTINE NIX



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Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance
(ATCA)
creates a statewide network of health advocates to develop, support and sustain comprehensive tobacco control programs.

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VOICES FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

By: Anna Sappah and Wilbur Brown



Hello ATCA membership,

Greetings from the newly elected co-chairs for 2008. Wilbur Brown was elected for another term and Anna Sappah was elected during the Steering Committee meeting held in Bethel prior to the 2nd Annual Tobacco Summit. Wilbur is a Tobacco Prevention Coordinator from SEARHC. Anna is a Tobacco Prevention Policy Specialist with the Smokefree Alaska Project at Akeela, Inc.

The Summit was a great success. The committee did a wonderful job of coordinating with the local community to plan an engaging program and networking opportunity for tobacco control advocates from across the state. Many thanks to the summit committee chairperson, Marti Pausback, and all of the volunteers for a job well done.

There is a lot of momentum building across the state for tobacco control policy. Thanks to an effective media campaign and the groundwork being done in so many communities, we are starting to see interest initiated from the general public to have clean indoor air ordinances in several communities.

This is an exciting time to be working in tobacco control. It will become increasingly important to proceed in a thoughtful and strategic manner to insure success as we move into the future of tobacco control. Learn more about the six goals and related strategies of the strategic plan at this website: http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chronic/tobacco/ATCA_Plan.pdf

Steering Committee meetings are scheduled for September 25, 26, November 13, 14 and February 12, 13. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the tobacco control community and look forward to hearing from you during the coming year.

STATE PROGRAM MANAGER CHANGE



Lisa Aquino will work in South Africa, managing an HIV youth prevention work for the Desmond Tutu Foundation. Her parting words: *"I am very excited, but also sad to be leaving as the Program Manager of the Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. I have great hope for the future of tobacco in Alaska because of all of you, and because of the extraordinary team of professionals at the Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program."*



Gail Schiemann, MPH, was recently hired to fill the position. Previously she managed the Tobacco Community Grants for the state. Before working for Alaska's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, Gail worked as a Wellness Education Coordinator for Rural Alaska Community Action Program. Welcome to your new position!



Bethel Mayor Eric Middlebrook



Former Bethel Mayor Agnes Phillips



Two of the 100+ entries to the poster contest from students in the Bethel area.



Gene Peltola shared the history of Bethel's policy



A rare moment when Mary Weiss, Carrie Enoch and Caroline Nevak paused from their invaluable work behind the scenes.



Summit Chair Marti Pausback, and Brenda Holden double check details.

Got Air Aneryaarvingertukut!

ATCA celebrates 10 years of Clean Indoor Air in Bethel 2nd Annual Tobacco Summit

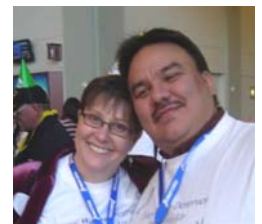
The city of Bethel welcomed the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance's Annual Summit to their community to celebrate ten years of clean indoor air. The 40 below zero temperatures and wind chill did not affect the warm greeting and friendly reception. Blue skies and sparkling frost decorated the community. The Summit meetings were snug and friendly and were a brilliant celebration of 10 years of clean indoor air.

Some highlights of the Summit included The Ayaprun Elitnavik elementary students who opened the day with Yupik dancing. Each child wore a kuspuk and sang songs in Yupik. The walls of the cultural hall were covered with colorful posters created by the local youth who depicted 10 years of clean indoor air. Former Mayor Agnes Phillips and current Mayor Eric Middlebrook spoke about the importance of the clean indoor air ordinance to the health of the people in their city.



Summit speakers addressed a variety of topics, including tobacco tax as an effective youth prevention strategy, Alaska's new strategic plan, and an introduction to Alaska's tobacco quit line contractor, Free and Clear. Dr. Gary Ferguson reminded participants about the importance of wellness. Judy Stephany from the Center of Disease Control discussed the new CDC best practices. Emily Nenon described the best way to develop grassroots change in a community. Emily used the metaphor of baking a cake. She described a well written clean indoor air ordinance as a delicious cake. She then sang happy birthday to Bethel.

At the close of the Summit, ATCA honored Marge Larson for 2 years of co-chairing the ATCA steering committee. She was given a plaque and a standing ovation. ATCA is grateful for her service and her kind and open leadership style. Anna Sappah and Wilbur Brown were named as new co-chairs. We look forward to their skillful leadership as ATCA encounters new opportunities for tobacco prevention and better health for all people in Alaska.



3rd Annual Tobacco Summit In Fairbanks, April 2009!

Contact any of these people if you are interested in helping!

Tobacco Summit Chair: Melanie Brenner—melanie.brenner@tananachiefs.org

Content Sub-Committee Chair: Marie Lavigne—mjlavigne@anthc.org

ALASKA TOBACCO CONTROL ALLIANCE 2008 *PAVING THE WAY AWARDS*

These awards were announced at the Annual Tobacco Summit held in Bethel

Sharing Your Story: Jim Hamp, posthumous

Mr. Hamp was a long-time commercial fisherman from Haines. He smoked for 50 years and developed COPD. He shared his story with SEARHC and gave them permission to publish his story, inspiring many people to quit or never start using tobacco.

Promoting Policy: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, Juneau

NCADD's Juneau Affiliate worked hard to see the Juneau clean indoor air policy through implementation this January. Their broad-based campaign included obtaining community education funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Caring For Community: Paul Andrew

Mr. Andrew is an elder and a store owner from Tuntutuliak. He stopped selling tobacco products at his store three years ago after learning of tobacco's true effects on his community. He announced his decision on a Yupik talk show on KYUK and, true to his words, has never sold tobacco again.

Community Backbone: Anna Sappah

Ms. Sappah served the Smokefree Alaska Project through three agency changes in 18 months. She never allowed the tobacco prevention policy mission to be lost in the shuffle, nor did any community go without service.

Pioneering Spirit: Pat Reynaga

Ms. Reynaga's tireless efforts promoting tobacco-free policies in Alaska notably include: development of Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line; past service as ATCA Media Spokesperson; and local, state and national advocacy as the American Cancer Society's volunteer State Lead Ambassador.



Marge Larson presents Pat Reynaga's award in Bethel

Ripples of Change: Mayor Stotts & Barrow City Council Members

Last summer, the City of Barrow passed a \$1 tobacco tax. Research shows that tobacco taxes keep kids from ever starting to use tobacco and help those who want to quit. This is a proven way to reduce tobacco use among youth in a community.

Partners in Change: KYUK & KOTZ Radio Stations

KYUK and KOTZ help get the tobacco prevention message out to Bethel and Kotzebue and their surrounding regions. They are each an invaluable resource for public health information and help people of their regions stay tobacco free.

Youth Advocacy Leadership: Bethel Youth, 1998 Smokefree Campaign

Bethel youth were an important part of the successful campaign for clean indoor air in Bethel in 1998. These young adults are great role models to young people across Alaska who are making a difference by making their communities healthier.

Good Neighbor: North Pacific Rim Housing Authority, Brenda Christoffersen

NPRHA serves the Prince William Sound area and is the first affordable-housing association in Alaska to enact a smokefree housing clean indoor air policy.

ATCA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL TO TRAINING OR TO BRING A TRAINER TO YOU

The scholarship committee has limited funding available for scholarships that could be used to help cover costs of travel to a training OR to help pay for a trainer to come to your community to train several people. Contact Brenda Holden at Brenda@iialaska.com for details.

ATCA STEERING COMMITTEE

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SOME OF THE FACES OF ATCA

This photo is from the November 2007 Steering Committee Meeting.



- Albert Ningeulook, Lincoln Bean Sr.
- Laura Revels, Celeste Barrett
- Bill Bouwens, Laura Muller
- Marie Lavigne, Dana Diehl, Marge Larson
- Melanie Brenner, Wilbur Brown
- Eric Myers, Marc Hellenthal
- Marilyn Thorson, Lisa Aquino, Marti Pausback
- Caroline Nevak, Kate Herring, Tanya Iden,
- Gail Schiemann

A few photos from the April 2008 Meeting



Christine Grangaard and Laura Muller



Lakota Murray, Emily Nenon, Marilyn Thorson, Suzanne Sands



Carrie Enoch