

# TOBACCO-FREE NEWS

July 2009

## VOICE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

KAY ASHTON



Even though this is old news to all of us advocates now, I wanted to take a few moments to mention the FDA bill that has recently been signed into law. Like many of you, I was in Phoenix when the news broke. We were in a room with hundreds of tobacco prevention and control advocates from across the country when the speaker was interrupted and an announcement made. I was a bit surprised that the reaction wasn't more jubilant. As I learned more from our colleagues the reaction became clearer. Although achieving FDA regulation is a monumental battle won in the struggle, the war against tobacco is far from over.

Yes, this is an amazing victory for all of

us, no matter whether we have been involved for months or many years. This victory came about by the dedication of everyone who works so hard for clean air and the ability to live healthy lives. Every ulcer-inducing Clean Indoor Air campaign, every small change we have made to make tobacco less accessible to youth and every effort we've made to educate our communities was part of the tide that carried this change into reality. It helps give us more tools to make substantial gains in the health of youth and many Americans.

While this wasn't perfect legislation, it shows the absolute need for and the benefits of compromise. And as many of us heard repeatedly from speakers, "this is the time to make lemonade out of lemons."

As we move ahead towards a statewide tobacco-free ordinance we hopefully will

MOSES TULIM



remember that these things take time and compromise. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (HR 1256) took ten years of planning, hard work, setbacks and victories. Our statewide initiative will also. But the talent and expertise that we have here will prevail. Congratulations to each of us, for the progress we have made and will make.

Sincerely,  
Kay Ashton

## Unalaska's Got Air!!

### New Clean Indoor Air Ordinance in Alaska!

By Char Gisvold, APIAI

On May 28 Unalaska's City Council passed a comprehensive clean indoor air ordinance. This followed an intense year of community education and public testimony by The Unalaska Tobacco Prevention Partnership.

Last fall Unalaska resident, Vic Fisher and his friends developed a draft clean indoor air policy and before we knew it, he and one of our city council members presented it to the City Council. An ordinance was now on the council table and the partnership rushed to educate the community. In the next nine-months the community was educated and the proposal was reviewed by experts.

Once the ordinance had expert approval, the City Council opened a portion of their meetings for review. Public input went on for what seemed like forever. And, frankly, there were times I thought it would fail. Unalaska is known as "the last frontier" and a place of freedom. One of the biggest obstacles seemed to be the bars. Owners claimed fishermen go to bars to smoke and drink. If the ordinance was passed then



revenue would crash and fighting in the streets would increase.

Unalaska's economy is dependent on fishing related businesses, like bars, restaurants, a hotel and fish processing bunk house units, so there were some pretty strong feelings. Our community also has a smaller family-oriented permanent resident population that is health conscious. Both sides presented their views. There had to be some give and take.

### SAVE THE DATE—2010 ATCA

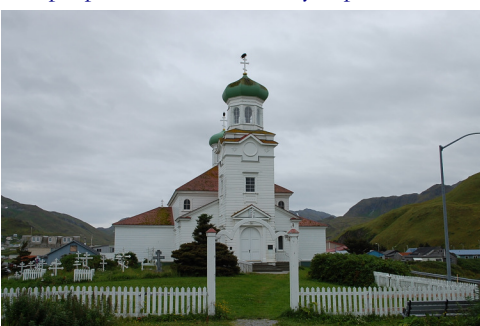
Tobacco Summit, Kenai, Alaska – April 21, 22, 23, 2010; Challenger Training Center. To offer assistance contact

Jenny Olander, Tobacco Summit Chair, at [tcap@alaska.net](mailto:tcap@alaska.net).

And then, fisherman after fisherman stood up to be heard. To my utter astonishment, the first one said he had been all over the country and was amazed when he came here and people were still smoking in the bars. The second one said "we smoke outside on the boats all the time...what's the big deal?" And, like manna from heaven, the third said he smoked, but thought we were way behind the times, and should pass this ordinance!

It passed by a unanimous vote of the City Council that night and will go into effect August 9, 2009. In a nutshell, the ordinance bans smoking in bars, restaurants and all businesses that employ four or more people and all public places. The distance from a public entry is 20 feet. This also includes open windows and the deck at the hotel/bar. It specifically includes any home or office that provides child care.

While we did not win everything we wanted, Unalaska is proud of this ordinance. I would like you to know there were many, many people who worked on this ordinance and I would like to extend a huge thanks to everyone who helped. Congratulations Unalaska you now have "Got Air!"



## Youth opportunities: AkTAI

By Megan Gildersleeve



*Go ahead. Smoke.*  
**I JUST WON'T  
 BREATHE!!**

### Secondhand smoke hurts kids



BBAHC Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program  
 1-800-478-5201 or 842-9292  
 Alaska Quitline 1-888-842-QUIT

In April 2009, twenty high school aged youth from around Alaska convened at the Anchorage Sheraton for the two day Alaska Tobacco Advocacy Initiative Youth (AkTAI) Summit in Anchorage, representing cities like Soldotna, Juneau, Petersburg, and Palmer. The teens came together to discuss the present issues in the tobacco prevention movement, also discussing their policy recommendations for the tobacco prevention and control movement in Alaska. They learned about tobacco industry marketing, the basics of advocacy, and effective ways to get their message out. Furthermore, the youth identified alternatives to suspension programs as a policy priority and are hoping to approach their respective school districts with alternatives within the next school year. For next year, the youth voiced their hope for more

AkTAI applicants from other parts of the state, citing the importance of having a fully representative state-wide coalition.

For those youth groups interested in becoming part of the Alaska Tobacco Advocacy Initiative minigrant program, applications will be available in the fall from the American Lung Association. Contact the Alaska office at 907-276-5864.

#### Steering committee 2009

Contact information available on the web at:

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

#### **Kay Ashton, Co Chair**

Core Agency: American Lung Assoc.

#### **Moses Tulim, Co-Chair**

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#### **Lincoln Bean Sr.**

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Southwest representative

#### Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA)

creates a statewide network of health advocates to develop, support and sustain comprehensive tobacco control programs.

#### JOIN TODAY

**It's free and fun**

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