

Coalition News

Inside this Issue

Big Decline in Heart Attacks with Smoking Ban	2
Drug Strategy Aims to Expand Use	3
Misused Drugs	3
April ASAP Meeting Minutes	4
Signs of Drug Use	5

Future Meetings

June

23 ASAP Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Trees For Tomorrow

July

28 ASAP Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Trees For Tomorrow

August

18 ASAP Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Trees For Tomorrow

New Drunken Driving Law Under The Influence Of Alcohol Industry Contributions

Madison - The cost of tougher penalties and treatment programs in a new drunken driving law effective in July is not paid for because the legislature refused to increase liquor or beer taxes opposed by the alcohol industry – one of the largest special interest contributors to legislative campaigns, a Wisconsin Democracy Campaign analysis shows.

The industry, which includes liquor, beer and wine manufacturers, distributors, stores and taverns, was one of the largest special interest contributors in 2008 and 2009 to current legislators. The industry contributed \$293,892 in 2008 to help legislators get elected, ranking it third among 97 special interest groups. Last year legislators received another \$115,191 from the industry – fifth highest among special interest groups – while numerous bills to change drunken driving laws and increase the beer tax were being considered.

Over the past 10 years, the liquor industry has contributed \$2.53 million – fifth highest among about 100 special interest categories – to all legislative candidates and leadership committees.

Most of the top recipients of liquor industry campaign contributions in

In 2009 were legislative leaders who control which bills survive or die and their four legislative leadership committees which are used to milk powerful special interests for contributions spent at election time.

Topping the list of recipients of alcohol industry contributions in 2009 was the Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee which got \$17,500 from the industry. Assembly Democrats control that house 52-46-1 and rejected raising beer or liquor taxes to pay for law enforcement and alcohol treatment costs. Its counterpart, the Republican Assembly Campaign Committee, received \$13,800. Democratic Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan accepted \$3,000 from liquor interests and Republican Minority Leader Jeff Fitzgerald got \$3,700.

The State Senate Democratic Committee accepted \$9,893 and the Committee to Elect a Republican Senate took \$5,850 from liquor interests. The Senate is controlled 18-15 by Democrats. Republican Senate Minority Leader Scott Fitzgerald got \$4,950 from the industry while Democratic Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker received only \$853. The Senate opposed increasing the beer tax but briefly floated a liquor tax increase which was dumped in the compromise bill with the Assembly that passed in December.

Continued on page 3



Big Decline in Heart Attacks If All States Had Smoking Bans

Americans would suffer 18,000 fewer attacks per year, save millions in health costs, study finds

By Steven Reinberg
HealthDay Reporter

THURSDAY, May 20 (HealthDay News)

-- If all states banned smoking in restaurants, offices and other public spaces nationwide, the number of Americans suffering from heart attacks would drop by more than 18,000 within the first year, researchers report.

"Comprehensive smoking bans have been implemented in some states, but not in every state," noted lead researcher Dr. Mouaz Al-Mallah, co-director of Cardiac Imaging Research at Henry Ford Hospital, in Detroit. Currently, 39 states have some type of public smoking bans, with 26 banning smoking in any enclosed public space, while 11 states have no bans at all.

Based on the finding, Al-Mallah said that he would "encourage all states to institute a ban on smoking in public place to protect people from second-hand smoke. Authorities should do everything possible to prevent healthy individuals from being exposed to secondhand smoke, and one of the ways is by passing such laws."

Al-Mallah was scheduled to present the findings Thursday at the American Heart Association's annual Quality of Care and Outcomes Research conference in Washington, D.C.

For the study, the researchers looked at data from 13 states that do not have laws banning smoking in public places. In states without smoking bans there were 169,043 hospitalizations for heart attack, the researchers found.

Based on their calculations of an 11 percent drop in heart attacks if bans were instituted nationwide, there would be 18,596 fewer hospitalizations for heart attack in the first year. In addition, there would be a savings of \$92 million in costs of caring for these patients, the researchers said. In 2008, Al-Mallah found that a smoking ban in Michigan would result in a 12 percent drop in heart attacks in that state.

Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, said that, "smoking and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke are well established and modifiable risk factors for heart attack, stroke and premature cardiovascular death."

He said that a number of studies have demonstrated that when communities adopt comprehensive smoking bans, substantial reductions in heart attacks follow.

"Adopting a national comprehensive smoking ban would prevent cardiovascular events, reduce death and disability due to cardiovascular disease, and greatly improve the cardiovascular health of this nation," Fonarow said.

Another expert agreed, and said that bans' benefits extend to nonsmokers as well by reducing secondhand smoke.

"This is another important piece of evidence that smoke-free laws protect health," said Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids said. "It shows why it is critical that every state pass a comprehensive smoke-free law that protects all workers and applies to all workplaces and public places."

Drug Strategy Aims To Expand Use

President Obama announced the White House's new [drug control strategy](#), which includes provisions to help states set up electronic databases to monitor overprescribing of controlled substances, the [AP/Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) reports.

The drug control strategy aims to reduce youth drug use by 15% over five years and achieve similar reductions in chronic drug use and drug-related deaths. To achieve these goals, the strategy emphasizes early intervention, community-oriented treatment and engagement with health care providers (Hananel, *AP/Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 5/11).

Advocates Call for Greater Standardization

Forty-one states have passed laws to create prescription drug monitoring programs, but each state operates its program differently.

Some advocates are pushing for a reauthorization of the 2005 National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act, which could help states standardize their electronic monitoring systems.

Advocates say such changes eventually could pave the way for a nationwide database that would allow officials to combat prescription drug abuse across state lines (*Wilkinson*, [Government Technology](#), 5/11).

Alcohol Industry Contributions (cont'd)

Aside from funding, critics say the new law is tepid because Wisconsin drunken driving penalties remain behind those of most other states. The National Conference of State Legislatures says Wisconsin is the only state where first offense drunken driving is a traffic offense and not a criminal misdemeanor in all cases, and Wisconsin and North Dakota are the only states where drunken driving is not a felony in all cases until the fifth offense. Wisconsin is also one of only 12 states that do not allow roadside sobriety checkpoints.

Another drunken driving proposal, Assembly Bill 547, which would have criminalized first offense drunken driving and legalized sobriety checkpoints, was bounced from committee to committee and died when the legislature adjourned its 2009-10 floor session in mid-April.

The new law raises about \$12 million a year to pay for incarceration, probation and treatment costs by increasing various fees and license reinstatement costs for those convicted of drunken driving. However, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau says the annual cost of the bill will be between \$47 million and \$82 million. Costs not paid by the state would be borne by county taxpayers.



Phil Hands

Misused Drugs

The following list is comprised of the top 10 misused drugs in the world today according to [www.streetdrugs.org](#):

TOBACCO : biggest killer (450,000 deaths/year)

ALCOHOL : most widely abused legal substance

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS : dangerously addictive, rising in popularity

METHAMPHETAMINE : labeled an epidemic problem by the press

MARIJUANA : most widely abused illegal substance

MDMA (ECSTASY) : little research on long term effects, still popular

CRACK COCAINE : cheap, destructive drug making a comeback

HEROIN : highly addictive drug making a comeback in some areas

STEROIDS : horrible side effects, taking a toll on athletes

INHALANTS : abuse is on the rise among youth again

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Continued on page 5

April A.S.A. P. Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm.

II. Introductions

The following persons were present: Lori Collins, Bob Kovar, Carol Wright, Nancy Junkerman, Jeremy McClain, and Heidi Nykolayko.

III. Review of January Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved without any changes.

IV. Who Host Lose The Most Campaign

Carol Wright mentioned that the Smoke Shop in Lac du Flambeau put PWHLTM stickers on liquor bottles. Heidi contacted Phelps school several times but has not received a reply to date. Patrols were done in the Lakeland area over prom weekend. Results are not in yet. Suggested locations for stickers included florists, Pizza Hut, Subway.

Jeremy McClain reported that he passed out stickers in Minocqua to Subway, Pizza Hut and Dominoes. Was having trouble getting into the Ministerial Association. Bob Kovar and Lori Collins both offered assistance. PSAs were provided to WRJO and WRHN radio. WXPB was suggested as another radio station to pursue. There was one party broken up in Three Lakes on prom night. Police were tipped off on Facebook.

V. Kids' Fun Run

Heidi Nykolayko explained that the Kids Fun Run is done in conjunction with Journeys Marathon and is a healthy activity sponsored by the Public Health Department. It is also an anti-tobacco initiative.

VI. Parent Networks

Bob Kovar reported on the start of a parent network at Lakeland Union High School. Interest came from the administration and school board. There was a board meeting on Monday where this was to be discussed. No word on it yet, but Bob has a meeting next week. The school is discussing who should run it, but they are definitely going to start one. Talked about coalitions supporting it which meets the goals of the coalitions. Three Lakes is having a parent meeting on May 12 to discuss a parent network.

Lori Collins reported that Northland Pines Middle School has a PTSA that includes students. However, there isn't any organization at the high school level. Scott Foster, the principal is interested but does not have the time. He spoke with Patty Schoppe about being the liaison. Heidi Nykolayko offered to contact Patty about doing something over the summer to start a parent network for the upcoming school year.

VII. Other Business

Discussed post prom activities. Decided that this is something that we would be interested in pursuing at a later date.

Nancy Junkerman agreed to speak to Sheriff Niebuhr about alcohol sales compliance checks.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next ASAP meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23 at 5:00 pm at Trees For Tomorrow.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by Heidi Nykolayko

Alcohol Industry Contributions *(cont'd)*

Efforts by some Democratic legislators to increase beer and liquor taxes were turned away. One plan would have increased the liquor tax 50 cents a liter – a move that would have made Wisconsin's liquor tax the 13th lowest in the nation. Right now Wisconsin has the 10th lowest liquor tax in the country. Another effort to increase the beer tax by \$8 a barrel or 6.5 cents per gallon – the first increase since 1969 – also died. Wisconsin currently has the third lowest beer tax in the country.

Together the beer and alcohol tax increases would have raised an estimated \$65 million a year to pay for increased law enforcement and alcohol treatment costs.

Signs of Drug Use

Narcotics: Lethargy, drowsiness, euphoria, nausea, constipation, constricted pupils, slowed breathing

Hallucinogens: Trance-like state, excitation, euphoria, increased pulse rate, insomnia, hallucinations

Alcohol: Slurred speech, impaired judgment and motor skills, lack of coordination, confusion, tremors, drowsiness, agitation, nausea and vomiting, respiratory ailments, depression

Depressants: Drowsiness, confusion, lack of coordination, tremors, slurred speech, depressed pulse rate, shallow respiration, dilated pupils

Cocaine/Crack Cocaine: Excitability, euphoria, talkativeness, anxiety, increased pulse rate, dilated pupils, paranoia, agitation, hallucinations

Inhalants: Slurred speech, lack of coordination, nausea, vomiting, slowed breathing

Marijuana: Mood swings, euphoria, slow thinking and reflexes, dilated pupils, increased appetite, dryness of mouth, increased pulse rate, delusions, hallucinations

Stimulants: Excitability, tremors, insomnia, sweating, dry mouth and lips, bad breath, dilated pupils, weight loss, paranoia, hallucinations

Tobacco: Smelly hair, clothes, and breath; yellowing of teeth; coughs; increased asthma attacks; shortness of breath and poorer athletic performance. After only a few weeks, users of spit tobacco can develop cracked lips, white spots, sores, and bleeding in the mouth

Source: SAMHSA

*Know the
signs!*