

91 Are Recognized for Policies And Resolutions to Reduce Tobacco Use in Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming Counties

Smoke Free NOW, Reality Check Programs in Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties, the School Policy Program, and the Cessation Centers (North and South) hosted a Recognition Breakfast for over 90 agencies, businesses, events, and venues Tuesday, April 28th at Terry Hills Restaurant and Banquet Facility in Batavia, NY. Genesee County Manager Jay Gsell welcomed the attendees to Genesee County. These programs have contributed to a 22 % reduction in adult smoking in the last 10 years in New York, and smoking among New York high school students has declined by 43% (2000 -2006).

The featured speaker was Rick Stoddard, nationally known anti-tobacco and anti-smoking advocate (www.rickstoddard.com).

114 attendees were present to recognize those entities which have collaborated with programs funded by the New York State to reduce the burden of tobacco on New York residents.

The following government officials (or their representatives) attended the event:

Alan Davis, Assemblyman Steve Hawley's office
Esther Leadley, Genesee County Legislator
Jack Gillman, Town of Kendall
Joan Harrison, Senator Dale Volker's office
Jodie Freese, City of Batavia
Mary Pat Hancock, Chair, Genesee County Legislature
Tracy Rozanski, Town of Bethany
Walter Wenhold, Bethany Town Council
William Gick, Town of Bethany

The following individuals, agencies, organizations, events, venues, and municipalities were recognized for the following:

Having a Written Policy Requiring that their Apartments be Smoke Free

- *Charlotte Crawford, Batavia*
- *Gail Seamons, Alden*
- *John & Gina Pestillo, Batavia*
- *Mark & Tammy Schmidt, Batavia*
- *Pete & Sue Sherman, Pavilion*
- *Worth Harder, Batavia*

Passing Resolutions Encouraging Tobacco Ad Free Magazines & Smoke Free Movies

- *Alexander PTA*
- *Batavia SIT (Student Improvement Team)*
- *Batavia District Wide PTA*
- *Elba BEST (Building Elba School Together)*
- *Letchworth Board of Education*
- *Liberty Partnership LIFE (Liberty Increase Future Experiences) Program*
- *Orleans United DFC (Drug Free Communities) Coalition*
- *Pavilion PTO*
- *Perry Board of Education*
- *Warsaw Board of Education*
- *Warsaw Tiger Support Network*
- *Wyoming County Youth Bureau*
- *Wyoming School PLUS*

Having a Policy to not Accept Tobacco Company Advertising, Sponsorship, Promotion, or Funding

- *Alexander SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)*
- *Batavia ATOP (All Types of People Living Chemically Free)*
- *Batavia Catholic Youth Organization*
- *Batavia High School Ice Devils*
- *Bohm-Calarco-Smith Funeral Home*
- *Byron Bergen SADD*
- *Christmas in the City*
- *CCE of Wyoming Co. Garden Day*
- *Cooper Hypnosis*
- *Drug Free Marshals of WNY*
- *Everyday Heroes of Genesee County*
- *GCASA Awards Dinner*
- *Genesee Co. Nursing Home Child Care Center*
- *Genesee Countywide SADD*
- *HE Turner & Co. Funeral Home*
- *Human Services Council of Orleans County*
- *LeRoy Physical Therapy*
- *LeRoy Village Fitness*
- *Letchworth Pines*
- *Liberty Partnerships LIFE*

- *Logo It*
- *Ministry of Concern*
- *National Night Out of Batavia*
- *Orleans United DFC Coalition*
- *Partners for Prevention*
- *Pavilion SADD*
- *Perry Chalk Art Festival*
- *Rural Life Choice Center*
- *St. Joseph's Penny Carnival*
- *SUPA (Students United for Positive Action)*
- *Terry Hills Golf Course & Country Club*
- *Wiggly & Jiggly's English Pub*
- *Wyoming Co. Youth Bureau Family Fun Night*
- *Wyoming Countywide SADD*

Passing a Resolution Encouraging Tobacco Retailers to Reduce, Rearrange, or Eliminate Tobacco Advertising- Organizations

- *Bayoumi Medical, PLLC*
- *Batavia ATOP*
- *Byron-Bergen SADD*
- *Cooper Hypnosis*
- *Daniel W. Shiavone, DDS*
- *Drug Free Marshals of WNY*
- *Genesee County Youth Bureau*
- *Genesee Co. Interagency Council*
- *Genesee Countywide SADD*
- *Human Services Council of Orleans County*
- *Lake Plains Community Care Network*
- *Letchworth Pines*
- *Liberty Partnerships LIFE*
- *Logo It*
- *Ministry of Concern*
- *Orleans United DFC Coalition*
- *Orleans County Youth Board*
- *Pavilion SADD*
- *Rural Life Choice Center*
- *Wyoming County Youth Bureau*

Passing a Resolution Encouraging Tobacco Retailers to Reduce, Rearrange, or Eliminate Tobacco Advertising- Municipalities

- *Town of Bethany*
- *Town of Carlton*
- *Town of Gainsville*
- *Town of LeRoy*
- *Town of Middlebury*
- *Town of Perry*
- *Village of Albion*
- *Village of Alexander*
- *Village of Attica*
- *Village of Warsaw*
- *Wyoming County*

Agreeing to Reduce, Rearrange, or Eliminate Tobacco Advertising

- *Joe's Mini Mart, Medina*
- *Perry Marketplace*

Having a Memorandum of Understanding to Work Toward Best Practices in School Tobacco Policies

- *Batavia City Schools*
- *Letchworth Central School*
- *Pavilion Central School*

For Having 100% Smoke Free Campuses

- *Medina Memorial Hospital*
- *United Memorial Medical Center*

Rick Stoddard spoke about the loss of his wife, Marie to smoking in 2000. She died at age 46. “I never thought of 23 as middle-aged,” said Rick. The crowd of more than 100 was completely silent for nearly an hour as Rick described his love for Marie and his loss of her due to her smoking. He focused on the reasons that he now speaks around the country; encouraging adults to quit smoking, discouraging youth from starting to smoke, and exposing fewer people to second-hand smoke. He said that each year in New York State, 25,500 people die from smoking related illnesses. And, for every eight smokers who die, they take a non-smoker with them from exposure to second-hand smoke. In addition, taxpayers in New York spend \$5.4 billion on Medicaid just for smokers’ smoking related illness.

Rick spoke of the tobacco industry’s use of movies and magazines to promote their products. Smoking is shown in kids’ movies like Roger Rabbit, 101 Dalmatians, and more. He showed how cigarette ads in magazines mimicked ads by Chanel #9, X-Box, and, the ad for 101 Dalmatians.

Rick finished by saying that until his wife died, he stood on the sidelines and did nothing about the tobacco industry. But now, with 1,200 people dying from smoking every day in the US alone, and 53,000 dying every year from second-hand smoke, we must all take action to prevent what happened to Marie from happening to our children and grandchildren.

Chris Lewis, Coordinator of Smoke Free NOW, urged the attendees to return to groups they belong to and to urge them to create policies and pass resolutions that will ultimately help to reduce the burden of tobacco use on our society. By visiting www.SmokeFreeNOW.org, we can find more ways to become involved in campaigns to protect our children and others.

The following tobacco control program staff also planned and participated in the Recognition Event: Angela Barbeau, Reality Check Coordinator for Orleans County; Jen Waldron, Reality Check Coordinator for Genesee County; Kathleen Kohl, Reality Check Coordinator for Wyoming County; Tara Fraser, School Policy Program for Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming and Allegany counties; Kim Bank, Cessation Center coordinator for Genesee and Orleans counties; and Patrick O’Connell, Cessation Center Coordinator for Wyoming County.

Those interested in more information about policy change regarding tobacco issues are invited to contact Chris Lewis toll free at 1-877-SFN-1020 (1-877-736-1020) or at clewis@gcasa.org. Those wishing information about how to quit smoking may contact the New York State Smokers’ Quitline at 1-866- NY QUIT (1-866-697-8487) or at www.nysmokefree.com. Most New York Smokers are eligible to have four weeks’ of nicotine replacement therapy (patch, gum, or lozenge) mailed directly to their homes at no cost.