

2006 RESOLUTION
Smoke Free Meetings

1 Whereas, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and
2 that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a leading cause of disease
3 in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and
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5 Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control has estimated that secondhand smoke is responsible for the deaths
6 of 38,000 Americans annually; and between 700 and 1300 deaths in Wisconsin from lung cancer and heart
7 disease¹; and
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9 Whereas, the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known
10 carcinogen²; and
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12 Whereas, secondhand smoke has been proven to be hazardous to elderly people, pregnant women,
13 asthmatics, and individuals with cardiovascular disease, impaired respiratory function and those with
14 obstructive airway disease; and
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16 Whereas, a recent survey found that over 70% of Wisconsinites support ordinances requiring smokefree
17 dining³; and
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19 Whereas, public demand has resulted in smokefree ordinances in 25 local units of government in Wisconsin
20 as a means of protecting people against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and
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22 Whereas, communities that have adopted comprehensive smokefree air laws should be rewarded with
23 increased convention and tourism business; and
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25 Whereas, if WPHA houses its annual meeting in facilities and cities that have created safe and healthful
26 environments and avoid those that continue to allow exposure to secondhand smoke this action will provide
27 local tobacco coalitions with demonstrable evidence to describe the economic consequences of not adopting
28 a local smoke-free ordinance;
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30 Therefore Be It Resolved, that WPHA hold its meetings in smokefree communities; and
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32 Be it further resolved, that if no smokefree community can accommodate a meeting, WPHA will hold
33 meetings in a smokefree meeting facility; and
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35 Be it further resolved, that WPHA strongly encourages other organizations to adopt similar resolutions; and
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37 Be it further resolved that WPHA should make diligent efforts to demonstrate the positive economic impact
38 created by smoke-free policies.

Fiscal Impact: Minimal. Time to contact other organizations would be contributed primarily by interested association members. Some paid staff time may be used in order to coordinate outreach to other organizations and respond to questions and calls from other organizations.

Probable Impact on Public Health: Demonstrate the positive economic impact a local clean indoor air ordinance can make to a community's economy. Also, provide communities considering an ordinance demonstrated evidence that organizations do make positive decisions based on local clean indoor air ordinances.

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¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease and Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2004.

² (U.S. DHHS, 2000, citing Cal. EPA, 1997)

³ Ahrens, D. Secondhand Smoke: Awareness, Attitudes and Exposure Among Wisconsin Residents, UW- CTRL, Insights: Smoking in Wisconsin, Series 2. 2005