



## KFADD Newsletter

Kiwaniis Family Against Drunk Driving

Roger Barbour - Chair, email: barbourpole@ados.net

News from around the Barbourpole



April 2006, Issue #21

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3/7/06:

2006 legislative session ends in two days (Thursday 3/9/06). Currently the **DUI bill** is in **caucus with Senate Democrats**. The bill states that the 5th DUI within a 7 year period becomes a felony. Senator Esser submitted an amendment to remove the 7 year stipulation. The Senate Dems are negotiating a compromise to 10 years as well as waiting a year for its implementation if passed.

Thank you for all your calls and emails! Please continue your efforts and **call/ email again today and tomorrow**. You may hear responses indicating that it's too late or that you're calling the wrong office, I've learned this week that those responses are part of the game. Every contact counts.

**PASSED THE WASHINGTON STATE SENATE 45 – 0**

3/8/06:

The DUI Bill was sent back to the House with changes from the Senate to be approved. We have one day to go! Please take a moment to call and email the following 3 representatives with the following request: "**Regarding the DUI Bill 3317, I want the House to accept the Senate change or concur with the Senate.**"

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### CONDOLENCES

*Condolences go out to the family members of Randy Herman.*

*Randy was a faithful Kiwanian and KFADD committeeman from Western British Columbia.*

*Our sincere appreciation for all Randy accomplished. He will be missed by all who knew him.*

*Roger*

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**From MADD, Columbia County Community Action Site - Portland, OR Affiliate**

**On March 15 and 19th, MADD, in conjunction with the Columbia Community Mental Health Prevention Specialist helped to conduct Town Hall meetings in St. Helens. The programs targeted the parents and teens on the 15th as it related to underage drinking, and substance abuse with methamphetamines as it effects young people. The meeting on the 19th was open to the general public. Although the turnout was not quite what was expected, those in attendance candidly addressed the problems as they impacted their own neighborhoods. These talks were fact based, presenting the SAMSHA underage drinking video and the Washington County Sheriff Department's "Crystal Misery". The law enforcement head of the local narcotic team also spoke about the inter-relation of underage drinking, marijuana and meth that is seen locally.**

**Following the presentations, attendees gathered to brainstorm about what they can personally do to effect change. All participants went back home armed with factual knowledge and information to share with their neighbors and family.**

**These presentations followed two others previously given at the local Alternative High School on two different mornings. Those presentations involved candid discussions with the students, giving them information on the brain research that has been done. It also allowed them to openly discuss how their lives had been impacted. Following the two days, the teachers reported back that discussions continued for several more classroom hours of positive interaction.**

**On a positive note, Scappoose High School in Fall 2005 changed their athletic policy in regards to substance abuse and athletes. The new policy held the athletes accountable for their actions and resulted in some very positive change in the entire school atmosphere. The materials used and the changes made combined information from John Underwood of the American Athletic Institute and the Nevada Statewide Athletic Policy. It involved a buy-in by staff, teachers, School Board and ultimately the students. Recently the athletes were selected as one of the top 10 schools in Oregon for academics and athletes during the fall term. All teams earned GPA's of over 3.00 and higher for the Fall Term, something the school had never done before. This was a positive reflection of the change in the school.**

**MADD Columbia County CAS paid the fees for the AD of Scappoose and two CAS members to attend the Underage Drinking Conference in Tucson last August. The materials and information received there helped to promote the change in policy and**

**its acceptance among the students and their families. It is hoped that all four other high schools will make similar changes in the next year.**

**Lynn Chiotti, Community Coordinator CAS (and KFADD Committee Member).**

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Everyday Hero – March 2006

Daybreakers Kiwanis Club selected one of its own for the March Everyday Hero. Nominated by her husband, Stan, this member has been active for over twenty-three years in alcohol and drug issues in the county. In 1984, she organized the MADD Columbia County Chapter and has served in many capacities since then with MADD on both the State and Local levels. Her interest in working with others has resulted in becoming involved in educating thousands of young people about the dangers of alcohol and especially under-age drinking. She coordinates both the Victim Impact Panel for Columbia County as well as the Minor in Possession classes.

This member also serves as Recording Secretary for the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission since 1988, speaks to many community groups, serves on the Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee for Columbia County and is a past Board member of the Oregon Student Safety On the Move (OSSOM) for Oregon.

Her interests do not stop with safety issues, but she is District Director for Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, and for ten years served as editor for the State Newsletter. She currently serves as President of the St. Helens Garden Club and works, along with her husband, as a teacher for the Lewis and Clark Garden Group of 3rd ,4th, and 5th graders, teaching them floral design, horticulture, planting, pruning, and just having fun with nature.

She currently is recording secretary for the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, Western District of OFWC, and the St. Helens Women's Club.

March's Everyday Hero is Lynn Chiotti, affectionately know in the area as the MADD Lady. Hat's off to Lynn. (She is also a member of the KFADD Committee).

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(Article forwarded by Sylvester Neal with comment from active Kiwanian and DUI supporter, Ed Koly, who lives in Olympia, WA.):

***This letter provides pre-eminent approach for DUI repeat offenders. Washington State Legislature continues to enact untenable laws that will not improve highway safety. This legislative activity continues in most other states. Please share this letter with others as a information resource.***

**State's gutless new DUI law will cost lives**

**ROBIN BENSKIN**

Published: March 26th, 2006 01:00 AM

It was 7 a.m. in March 2003 when the phone rang. My wife answered and received the most horrific news a parent could possibly receive.

Our 24-year-old daughter, Heather, had died after the car she was a passenger in was hit head on by a drunken driver on Highway 16. The drunk ended the life of a beautiful, loving, talented, exciting, energetic young woman, daughter, friend and co-worker.

That was an excruciating seven-hour flight from New Jersey to Washington, trying to understand how a repeat drunken driver could still be driving. Yet he was driving drunk, without a license, in a vehicle someone else bought for him. He was going the wrong direction and crashed three times in a 10- or 15-minute span.

The drunken driver had numerous other traffic offenses on a lengthy rap sheet. He pled guilty and received an eight-year sentence. He can be released after serving half of his time.

Our daughter's death disrupted and destroyed the lives of her family, her friends and her co-workers. None of us will ever forget that tragic day.

The Legislature and the governor have again failed to provide adequate safety and protection to the people of Washington. The drunken-driving legislation Gov. Chris Gregoire signed recently is not an important "public safety" bill as claimed; it is a gutless, weak, ineffective embarrassment to the state. The new law gives drunken drivers five shots at killing and maiming someone's loved ones before the state gets partially serious. The five-year sentence can be negotiated to two or three years if the driver hadn't already killed someone.

Nearly one-third of all drunken-driving fatalities are caused by repeat offenders. In looking at the total number of deaths each year in Washington, that means 80 to 85 lives could be saved annually by simply applying legitimately tough laws to repeat offenders.

Repeat offenders are also more likely to have blood-alcohol levels higher than 0.08 and normally in excess of 0.15.

In addition to their failure to act, state lawmakers even extended the killing opportunities until July 2007 because of budget issues. So to save a few dollars, it appears to be acceptable to kill a few more people. What are 80 to 100 lives worth?

Numerous creative measures could have been enacted to prevent repeat offenders from killing or maiming our loved ones. Obviously, these weren't researched by the Legislature.

Some of the best examples are: tougher legal limits for previous DUI offenders – zero tolerance or 0.05 tolerance for any DUI arrest after the initial conviction; DUI offenses prohibited from being plea-bargained to lesser offenses; mandatory jail time for the first offense; mandatory treatment program; mandatory ignition system locks; mandatory license plate identifiers (such as DUI-001); vehicle impoundment for three to six months; and Global Positioning System tracking of convicted offenders for the first year after a conviction and for an extended period of time for subsequent offenses after release from prison.

The newest technology is a bracelet that can detect and monitor alcohol use around the clock. The offenders would pay most if not all of the cost of these programs.

It's unacceptable for lawmakers to take 25 years to come up with a bad law that continues to let drunken drivers kill, maim and destroy the lives of our loved ones. This law sounds more like something written to appease bar and restaurant owners and to ensure that tax revenues are well-maintained on liquor sales. It does not fall under my definition of a good law or hard work, nor would I sign my name to it. My daughter certainly wouldn't. She would have preferred singing, smelling wildflowers and playing with frogs.

Robin Benskin and his wife, Susan, live in Marlton, N.J.

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## PARENTS – BE AWARE

30% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders have had a drink within the last 30 days.

Binge drinking is becoming a real problem among young girls.

Freshman surveyed indicate that 20-25% have had an alcoholic drink by the age of 8 years old.

PARENT HELP CALL LINE                      1-800-923-HELP

TEEN HELP CALL LINE                        1-877-553-TEEN

Parents need to be aware of changes in their childrens attitudes and habits.

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## DON'T SPEND TIME – INVEST IT

Studies have shown that teenagers are having to struggle with not getting enough sleep at night.

Thirty percent of students are dozing off, or completely falling asleep during school classes. This also relates to driving while in this state.

Teen accidents are at an all time high. This is why many teens, as well as adults, are looking for that pick-me-up in alcohol and drugs.

DUII citations are not down, but are increasing in many areas. Police say that for every person caught, there are 10 that don't get caught. Many DUII arrests are repeat offenders.

We need to turn this trend around. Help our kids, and yourself, to get enough rest.

Some ways to help:

1. Turn off TV-computer-music at least 30 minutes before going to bed. Unwind first so you rest when you sleep.
2. Leave time in your busy schedules to take a break to refresh yourself—get up and walk around—do a different activity—something to change your mind activity.
3. But primarily: **DON'T DRINK OR TAKE ANY TYPE OF DRUGS AND DRIVE.** Remember, you could save a life. Possibly yours.

“If time could be our servant,  
Our days would be sublime,  
But if we fail to master it,  
We're only serving time” (Hess)

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**TO ALL KFADD COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALL MADD CHAPTERS**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

(Please advise any upcoming events you have scheduled for the next couple of months, and I will list them here in the next newsletter).

NEWS ITEMS:

(I need your help to put out an informative and interesting news letter. Please send me stories or news flashes that can be reproduced in the news letter. Your help will be greatly appreciated.)

e-mail to: [barbourpole@ados.net](mailto:barbourpole@ados.net)

Thank you,  
Roger Barbour  
Chair  
KFADD PNW District

