



Welcome to Spring in April!



Help with the FDA Tobacco Bill!

Life-saving legislation is now ready for action on the House floor. On April 2, the House Energy & Commerce Committee passed the FDA tobacco bill on a bipartisan 38-12 vote. This clears a big hurdle on the path to passing this legislation in to law. The American Lung Association is pushing for the entire House of Representatives to vote on the bill later this month. This is a true team effort with volunteers across the country working hard to create the pressure on Congress to move this legislation forward.

Next week volunteers from across the country will come to Washington as part of the Lung Association's Capitol Hill Advocacy Day and will be asking their Senators and Members of Congress to pass the bill this year. If you would like to be a part of this advocacy effort virtually, please sign up and become a member of the ALA's e-advocacy network at www.lungaction.org.

Source:

<http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK900E&b=4000007>

Medicare Alert for Spring Break

AMA champion Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich, has submitted her bill, S. 2785, otherwise known as the Save Medicare Act of 2008. In three short months Medicare will cut physician payments by more than 10 percent. This cut will be a disaster for Medicare patients, as 60 percent of physicians say it will force them to limit the number of new Medicare patients they can treat. But Sen. Stabenow's bill is an excellent step to preserve seniors' access to health care, and the Patients Action Network applauds her ongoing commitment to solving this important health care access issue.

Senators are home for their spring break (also known as a district work period) and it's a perfect time to catch up with them on our issues-especially encouraging them to cosponsor our new bill! Call or email Senator Sen. Herb Kohl (D) and Sen. Russell D. Feingold (D) TODAY. Use the Patients Action Network toll-free hotline at (888) 434-6200 to acquire information. or visit <http://www.patientsactionnetwork.com/content/aboutmedicare.aspx>

Source: <http://patientsactionnetwork.com>

CrazyLegs Classic

There's still time. Wisconsin's CrazyLegs Classic (a UW Athletics event) is Saturday, April 26th, 2008. Kate Schwalbe still intends to walk for Team Alpha to promote Alpha-1 awareness (not fundraising). To join Kate, contact her at: cashcrop90@yahoo.com or 715-642-0697. CrazyLegs link: <http://www.crazylegsclassic.com>

Alpha-1 Education Day in Chicago

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, the Alpha-1 Association will host an education day from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523. Topics will include:

- Alpha-1 Lung Disease, Dr. Kyle Hogarth
- Alpha-1 Liver Disease, Dr. Josh Levitsky
- Update on Alpha-1 Research, John Walsh
- Advocacy Opportunities, Miriam O'Day
- Medical & Surgical Options for End Stage Lung Disease, Dr. Robert B. Love
- Getting Positive, Bonnie Chakravorty, PhD, MSW

Register by April 21 by calling 1-800-521-3025.

National Education Conference

Plan now to attend the Alpha-1 Association's 17th Annual National Education Conference on June 20-22, 2008 in St. Louis, MO. The conference theme is *Building a Better Future* and features keynote speaker, Frank Deford, who is a noted author and sports commentator for Sports Illustrated. In addition, Jeffrey Teckman, M.D., Asst. Professor of Pediatrics at St. Louis Children's Hospital will speak on *Potential Breakthroughs in Alpha-1 Liver Research* and Research David Lomas, M.D. Deputy Chair, University Chair, Cambridge University in England will speak on *Potential Breakthroughs in Alpha-1 Lung Research*.

- Learn about the latest Advances in Research from some of the top researchers in Alpha-1
- Hear the latest "State of the Cure"
- Have an opportunity to meet the experts in Alpha-1 related liver and lung disease and lung transplantation
- Expand your knowledge of Alpha-1
- Learn current legislative issues that affect you
- Connect with the Alpha-1 Community and see how you can make a difference.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, June 5, 2008

Location: Sheraton Westport Plaza Lakeside Chalet 191 Westport Plaza Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO 63146

Room Rates: \$109 per night plus tax

Reservations: 1-800-822-3535, 314-434-5010, or online:

www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/alpha18

Discounted Room Rate Deadline: May 18, 2008

Patient Match Program for ALF Run for Research in the Boston Marathon



Gracie and Meghan Bauernfeind, young ZZ Alphas, have been matched with Jennifer

Davis, a runner in the Boston Marathon. They were matched in the American Liver Foundation, New England chapter patient match program, which has a goal to promote awareness about many liver diseases. Jennifer will train and run in the marathon while wearing Grace & Meghan's names on the back of her shirt. Last year, the American Liver Foundation raised over 1.2 million dollars in the Run for Research. If you'd like to contribute to Jennifer's fundraising efforts, please go to:

<http://www.active.com/donate/liverteam08/alfJDavis>



Milwaukee ALF Liver Walk



The Milwaukee chapter of the American Liver Foundation will hold the Liver Walk on Saturday, June 14, 2008 at Noon at Frame Park, which is located at East Moreland Blvd & White Rock Avenue in Waukesha, WI. For more information, contact Dee Girard or Samantha Chartrau by phone at 414-961-4936 or 888-945-4837. To register for the walk go to:

http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?CHECKSSO=0&EVENT_ID=1557965

Note: Another Liver Walk will be held in Madison, WI on September 13th, 2008. Stay tuned for details.

Southern Shores Region Mtg. Minutes

by Noreen James, President of The Alpha Pack

March's meeting in Milwaukee was an open forum for members to talk on any subject. Topics such as health insurance, transplant, local and national events, financial concerns, and even flu season were foremost on members minds. On a more airy issue, the Breath Free Wisconsin Act (SB 150/ AB 834) did not pass this year. Rallies were held throughout the state during January, February, and March. A few Southern Shores Alpha Pack members attended a rally in Cudahy to promote the campaign. Nonetheless, despite state-wide testimonies, Wisconsin legislation caved to allow smoking at businesses. On a positive note, voters in Marshfield passed a smoke free referendum on April 2,

which will include bars and restaurants. And during the last week of March, the Eau Claire City Council approved a similar measure. Middleton and Monona are also in gear to create smoke free ordinances. To read more about the Wisconsin smoke-free campaign, go to <http://www.smokefreewi.org>.

A total of 8 members gathered for the Southern Shores March meeting. Industry guests present were from Accredo and Coram. Food and refreshments were provided by Accredo, an infusion service for Aralast® and Zemaira® <http://www.accredohealth.com>.

The next Milwaukee meeting will be Thursday, May 8, 2008.

Green Bay Region Mtg. Minutes

by Chelsea Krueger, Support Group Co-Leader

March's meeting featured speaker Ashok Chainani, who presented on *Medicare Managed Care*. Slides of the presentation are available on the www.thealphapack.org web site. Noreen James, president of The Alpha Pack, attended the meeting and introduced the new support group leaders of the Green Bay Region: Ron Bernard and Chelsea Krueger. Noreen also shared that The Alpha Pack participates in the combined federal campaign (CFC), which allows certain charitable organizations to solicit contributions from employees of the Federal government of the United States. The donations to The Alpha Pack have increased since last year. © It is currently the third year that The Alpha Pack has been listed as a 501c3 charity.

The next Green Bay Region meeting on *What's New with O2?* By Tiffany Rentmeester, RT for Green Bay Home Medical Equipment, will be on Tuesday May 20, 2008. For details, contact Ron Bernard at (920) 490-7811 or schnitzle4@new.rr.com.

Central Fields Region Mtg. Minutes

The next Marshfield meeting is planned for May 1, 2008. For details, contact CFR Co-Leader, Dawn Smith, at (715) 536-8145 or dawny1804@aol.com.

Northern Lights Region Mtg. Minutes

The next Siren meeting on *Lung Volume Reduction Surgery & Lung Transplant: Who is a Candidate.* & *AIAD and Liver Disease* is planned for May 15, 2008. For details, contact Judy Parker at (715) 653-2666 or sjparker@centurytel.net