



# D & A News

Lawrence County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.

(Single County Authority)

Volume I, Issue I

June 2003

## LCDAC Sponsors 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alcohol Awareness Poster Program

The Lawrence Co. Drug & Alcohol Commission sponsored its first local alcohol awareness poster contest, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's state alcohol awareness poster program.

This contest was educational and valuable on several levels. As students created posters that discouraged underage drinking, they were being educated on the consequences of drinking, such as low academic achievement, harmful personal relationships, vehicle accidents, and addiction. In addition, the posters reinforced the positive concept that young people can reach their goals by remaining alcohol free.

The local winners in each category received U.S. savings bonds and their posters were forwarded to Harrisburg for competition at the state level. Each year approximately 1100 entries are submitted at the state level of which 80 posters are selected for further recognition. Some of the designs selected will be featured as posters, book covers, T-shirts or on the Internet. Additional U.S. Savings Bonds are awarded to the top entrants.

Congratulations to our local winners who have advanced to the state competition:

**Kindergarten:** 1<sup>st</sup>-D'Asia Francis, Croton; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Stephanie Illsley, Croton; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Rhianna Slagle, Croton  
**Grade 2:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Dylan Norris, Hartman; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Susan Duncan, Hartman; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Darren Blatchford, Hartman  
**Grade 3:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Mark Patton, Mohawk; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Jay Wooley, Mohawk; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Joseph Hoffman, Mohawk  
**Grade 5:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Linsey Covelli, Union; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Uniquia Rice, Union; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Chelsea Wilkins, Mohawk  
**Grade 7:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Kayli Valentino, Lincoln; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Tyler Jacobs, Lincoln; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Hallie Gilmore, Lincoln  
**Grade 9:** 1<sup>st</sup>-James Calhoun, Lincoln; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Lauren Scialdone, Lincoln; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Nick Buffone, Lincoln  
**Grade 11:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Ryan Burick, Shenango; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Sarah Polansky, Shenango; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Amber Kulnis, Shenango

A group photo and first place posters can be seen on pages 3 and 4.

## The Odyssey Continues...

Chapter III, "Get In The Game", was held Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at Cascade Park. Despite the rainy, cloudy day, over 600 young people and their families came to enjoy the activities.

This event, sponsored by Adult Literacy Lawrence County/Family Choices, is the continuation of the Animal Odyssey and the Star Odyssey that were held in the park for the last two years and serves as a kick-off for the summer reading program. Lawrence County families enjoyed storytellers, made crafts, participated in sports demonstrations, played games, sang with the NC Playhouse Stars of Tomorrow, and petted the animals from the Living Treasures Animal Park Petting Zoo. All the children received a free T-shirt and a bag of goodies.

Representatives from the Lawrence County Drug and Alcohol Commission read the book, The Very Lazy Ladybug, while the children participated in a reader's theater with each child acting out the different animals from the story. Animal masks, animal noses, a kangaroo pouch, and a turtle shell were all part of the costuming. Each "actor" kept his costume as a souvenir of the day.

The weather may have been dreary, but all in all, the event was a success. Listening to the giggles of each child brightened the day considerably. We discovered all of us had a great time and were glad none of us were "left out of the game".

### Inside this issue:

*Goggles Help to Demonstrate Intoxication Impairment* 2

*Local Schools Receive Mini-Grant for Drug & Alcohol Awareness* 2

*LCDAC Prevention Staff* 2

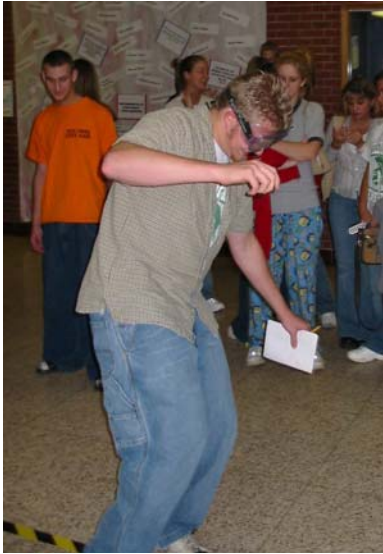
*LCDAC Annual Alcohol Awareness Poster Program Winners* 3

*Lawrence County Smoke-Free Day!* 5

*BUSTED! Youth Movement* 5

## Goggles Help to Demonstrate Intoxication Impairment

Alcohol is a major component of more than thirty percent of car crashes involving young adults ages fifteen to twenty in the United States. To stop similar tragedies from happening locally, the prevention staff at the Lawrence County Drug and Alcohol Commission collaborated with several area law enforcement agencies during prom season to present programs dealing with underage drinking and driving under the influence of alcohol.



A Laurel High School Student experiences the physical impairments of a person with a .17 BAC level.

Local and state police officers, as well as Prevention Specialist informed students in many of the school districts in Lawrence County of the laws and penalties in Pennsylvania regarding driving under the influence and underage drinking. Students were told what would happen if they were stopped for a DUI, what field sobriety tests are conducted, and what to do if a friend is suspected of having alcohol poisoning.

Students were given the opportunity to experience what an intoxicated person may feel like when attempting sobriety tests. Using Fatal Vision® Goggles, students struggled to “walk the line,” pick up a stationary object, throw and catch a ball, and keep their balance while standing on one foot. The goggles simulate a blood-alcohol level of .07 to .10, the legal driving limit for adults, and .17 to .20, twice the legal limit. Many of the students would experience a BAC level of .10 from as little as two or three drinks (one drink is equal to 1.5 ounces of liquor, five ounces of wine, or twelve ounces of beer). In addition to the goggles, the Fatal Reaction™ Speech Impairment Unit was implemented to imitate the way hearing and concentration are affected by alcohol.

The effect of these presentations went far beyond the entertainment of watching friends fumble over their feet while attempting to walk on a line. The students realized the destruction a small amount of alcohol can do to their balance, coordination, and depth perception. Participants and onlookers alike now have a visual memory of the incredible degree of danger to which alcohol use can lead.

## LCDAC Prevention Staff



*Sitting:* Sally Hilton, Michele Orlowski  
*Standing:* Raschelle Smith, Kevin Webb

## Local Schools Receive Mini-Grant for Drug & Alcohol Awareness

The Lawrence Co. Drug & Alcohol Commission awarded eight Lawrence County high schools with a mini-grant for their efforts in drug and alcohol awareness during the recent prom and graduation season. Laurel, Lincoln, Mohawk, Neshannock, New Castle, Shenango, Union, and Wilmington High Schools each received \$2000 mini-grants to be used for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug-free activities.



## Lawrence County Smoke-Free Day!

On Friday, April 25, 2003, Lawrence County celebrated its first Lawrence County Smoke-Free Day. This day was set aside to encourage smokers to refrain from smoking during this one-day event, as well as to promote the health risks associated with secondhand smoke. Throughout the month of April, presentations were scheduled at various schools throughout the county to promote the awareness of this event and topic.

Students in grades 4-6 in the following schools participated: Mohawk Elementary, Laurel Elementary, Union Middle School, Wilmington Elementary, Wilmington Middle School, Hartman Elementary, Perry Elementary, North Side Elementary, Walnut Ridge School, New Castle Christian Academy, Holy Redeemer School, Rhema Christian Academy, St. Vitus School, George Washington Intermediate, and Neshannock Elementary. Each student received a t-shirt depicting a no smoking sign stating, "This means . . . Don't Smoke Around Me!" to encourage others not to smoke in the presence of others.

Smoke-Free Day activities were funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in partnership with the Lawrence County Drug & Alcohol Commission's Tobacco Control Program. Smoke-free home and vehicle pledge cards and static stickers were also distributed to each student to encourage the establishment of smoke-free environments within the county. All schools were provided with the opportunity to participate in this part of the campaign. Classrooms returning at least 10 pledge cards were eligible to receive a free pizza party in addition to tobacco-free pencils and stickers.

## BUSTED Youth Movement

BUSTED! is a statewide, youth initiative focused on exposing the deceptive marketing practices of Big Tobacco in targeting youth. This particular movement, funded by the PA Department of Health, evolved in April 2001 with approximately 400 youth statewide. Since this time, BUSTED! has continued to grow in communities across the state as youth spread their message through rallies, public service announcements, and activities.

Initially, Lawrence County had only one BUSTED! chapter established. However, during this last year, the Lawrence County Tobacco Control Program with the help of our service provider, Lawrence County Cares, has been able to expand that number. Currently, there are seven BUSTED! chapters organized throughout the county schools. Each chapter is led by an adult advisor. Schools with BUSTED! chapters include: Laurel High School, New Castle High School, Mohawk High School, Union Area High School, Lincoln High School, and Shenango High School. Members of each of these chapters must be at least 14 years of age.

Since the conception of each of these chapters this spring, BUSTED! members within the area schools have worked together to spread their message by sponsoring anti-tobacco events such as rallies, picnics, peer education presentations, as well as distribution of anti-tobacco messages using posters and public service announcements. On April 2, 2003, many BUSTED! chapters planned events in celebration of the nationwide Kick Butts Day!

Outside of the schools, BUSTED! members have the opportunity to participate in county, regional, and statewide events. Beginning in December 2002, the first board of youth advisors, also known as (BOYA), was established. Two representatives from our county were selected by the PA Department of Health based on the information submitted by interested BUSTED! applicants. The first meeting was held in December at State College. Here, BUSTED! BOYA members throughout the state met to discuss the BUSTED! initiative as well as learn useful information in which they could take back to their community to utilize in planning upcoming events and activities. In addition, this training enabled BOYA representatives to share activities and ideas with other BUSTED! members from across the state. The second BOYA meeting was held on May 29-30, 2003.

Regional meetings are also scheduled throughout the year. This past March, the first regional meeting was held in Clarion. Four BUSTED! members from Lawrence County had the opportunity to meet with other BUSTED! members from the Northwest and Southwest regions during a two-day mini-summit. At this meeting, the youth discussed ways in which they could impact their community in spreading the message of Big Tobacco's deceptive marketing practices. BUSTED! members shared ideas of activities currently taking place within their community as well as upcoming events planned for Kick Butts Day! A second regional meeting is scheduled for June 2003.

For more information relating to the BUSTED! Youth Movement, visit their website at [www.pabusted.com](http://www.pabusted.com).



Mark Patton  
Third Grade  
Mohawk



Linsey Covelli  
Fifth Grade  
Union



Kayli Valentino  
Seventh Grade  
Ellwood City



James Calhoun  
Ninth Grade  
Ellwood City



Ryan Burick  
Eleventh Grade  
Shenango

## LCDAC Annual Alcohol Awareness Poster Program Winners



Row 1: D'Asia Francis, Rhianna Slagle, Stephanie Illsley  
Row 2: Uniquia Rice, Linsey Covelli, Dylan Norris, James Wooley, Mark Patton, Joseph Hoffman, Chelsea Wilkins  
Row 3: Hallie Gilmore, Kayli Valentino, Tyler Jacobs  
Row 4: Ryan Burick, Amber Kulnis, Sarah Polansky  
Not Present: Darien Blatchford, Nick Buffone, James Calhoun, Susan Duncan, Lauren Scialdone



D'Asia Francis  
Kindergarten  
New Castle



Dylan Norris  
Second Grade  
Ellwood City

Mailing address



The LCDAC staff is available to provide educational presentations regarding alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. If your group or organization is interested, please call Michele Orłowski at 724-658-5580.

The LCDAC is a Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource (RADAR) Network Associate Center, affiliated with the PA Department of Health. As a RADAR site, we can provide you with free pamphlets, posters, and other materials regarding alcohol, tobacco, drug, and other health-related issues. For more information, please call Kevin Webb at 724-658-5580.

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Stella Magusiak – *Student Program Specialist (K-6)*  
Darcy McKinney – *Case Management Supervisor*  
Michele Orłowski – *ATOD Prevention Program Supervisor*  
Raschelle Smith – *Prevention Specialist*  
Charlotte Thomas – *Case Management Specialist*  
Judy Thompson - *Executive Director*  
Barbara Wagner – *Clerk Typist*  
Linda Ward – *Secretarial Supervisor*  
Kevin Webb – *Prevention Specialist*  
Roger Williamson – *Case Management Specialist*