

# Nonsmokers' group asks breathing room

BY DWIGHT EISNACH  
Of The Herald staff

Non-smokers who for years have choked from the tobacco habits of others claim they finally have found the answer that could satisfy the needs of all.

ANSR (Association for Non-Smokers' Rights) is a new organization that has been formed not to get smokers to quit but to get everyone into his own corner.

One of the group's primary goals is to get public places, restaurants in particular, to segregate smokers; and non-smokers' areas.

"We want to get the puffers on one side and the breathers on the other," says Mrs. Raye Topliff, who is helping to organize ANSR in Duluth. "Smokers feel they have the right to smoke anywhere at anytime. All we are asking is the right to breathe somewhere, sometime."

The group was formed last February in Minneapolis and now boasts over 4,500 memberships in Duluth and on the Iron Range now but an organizational meeting to elect officers and adopt by-laws will be held Monday at 10 a.m. in the Northeast Minnesota Lung Association office in the Duluth Courthouse.

"We are interested in encouraging and promoting a cleaner indoor environment," says Mrs. Topliff. "without really offending anyone. The problem is that smokers can take fresh air but non-smokers can't handle smoke-filled rooms. Not only is it bothersome, it becomes a definite health problem for people in public places who have lung problems. All we really want is for smokers to be more courteous."

Part of the group's activities in the Twin Cities includes a campaign to get all restaurants, where feasible, to cordon off areas for smokers and designate them as such. A Minneapolis newspaper columnist has agreed to print a list in his column of restaurants who are complying with ANSR's request and those who are not.

Another area of attack that ANSR has concerned itself with is in the field of legislation. There is a bill in the legislature now that would make it mandatory for all public places with room for 40 or more people to have designated smokers' areas. Violators who smoke in other than designated areas could be fined up to \$100 and proprietors who fail to provide separate facilities for smoking would be guilty of a misdemeanor under the terms of the law.

Smokers are in the minority among the general adult population according to figures from the U.S. Surgeon General, says Mrs. Topliff, and should be treated as such. Only 35 per cent of all adults smoke.

Men smoke more than women but women are less likely to quit, says Mrs. Topliff, who herself quit six years ago because of an asthmatic son. 58 per cent of adult men do not smoke and 70 per cent of adult women do not smoke.

ANSR is sponsored by the Respiratory Disease Associations of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties and the Northeast Minnesota Respiratory Health Association. It has been endorsed in Duluth by the St. Louis County Board of Health.



—(Staff Photo by Earl Johnson)

AN ANSWER TO 'SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES?'



DULUTH, MINNESOTA  
HERALD  
D. 24,067  
DULUTH METROPOLITAN AREA

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Handwritten notes in the left margin: "KALA" and "W. J. Johnson" (circled), with an arrow pointing to the photo. There is also a circled signature or initials "AJC" below the photo.