



Service at All Levels: A MAWS Trustee Report

Hello, I'm Alan, and I'm a recovering marijuana addict.

I am honored to be able, as the Marijuana Anonymous World Services (MAWS) Trustee Secretary, to add my voice to the discussion of the status and workings of MAWS here on the pages of "A New Leaf." But first, let me say that I am grateful to our fellow addicts who work each month to bring us this little "written meeting" we call "A New Leaf." Without the efforts of those who procure and write the articles, do the editing, arrange for the printing, the handling, the mailing, the finances, the accounting... this newsletter could not exist. And, with the exception of the "part-time" office manager, they all do it "for fun and for free."

So it is with the nine Trustees of MAWS. While the efforts required of me, as Trustee Secretary, are rather minimal (participate in and take Minutes of quarterly Trustees meetings, prepare and circulate those Minutes, prepare, seek approval for and circulate "bullet points" of key areas covered at each meeting), each Trustee is entrusted with a role without which MAWS would cease functioning as smoothly as it does. I am grateful to my fellow Trustees who, with all their (our) human imperfections, get the

work of MAWS done. (Oh, and I guess the office manager, shared with our subsidiary "A New Leaf Publications" helps as well.)

We Trustees cannot accomplish all the work of MAWS on our own, nor should we. This is perhaps at no time more evident than at the annual Conferences and the run-up thereto.

I remember as a new member of M.A. being vaguely irritated by the time taken up with discussing the Conference, the making of motions for Conference, reviewing motions made by others. I either wanted "others" to take care of such matters, or wanted to make the decisions myself and have everybody defer to my opinions.

The thing is, there really are no "others" to take care of the fellowship, at any level. The room won't get magically set up, the coffee won't make itself; M.A. books and pamphlets do not "just appear" on the literature tables, District events don't "just happen." The current edition of "Life With Hope" didn't write itself, and amendments to that book which are currently under consideration won't happen without a committee – made up of members of this fellowship who volunteer their time and efforts to help better carry the message to those who follow. If I

am not willing to do my part, why would I think others will do it for me?

It is ordinary members who volunteer to help keep track of MAWS finances, arrange for putting on conferences and conventions, participate in national (as well as local) outreach to hospitals, institutions and to members of the public who seek information, help to update our policies and procedures as set out in the Service Manual, and keep the MAWS website up-to-date and available to the hundreds of thousands of people who visit it each year.

So, I guess I'm asking you to be of service, at whatever level and in whatever way you can. None of us are professionals at this, and your help can mean a great deal to so many, including, perhaps, yourself.

I hope to see many of you in Portland next month for our 2010 Convention, at which the Trustees will be presenting a workshop, and will be available to answer any questions you may have about MAWS or about being of service at the World level.

Until then, best wishes for a happy, healthy, productive, successful, challenging and real 2010!

~ Alan B., Trustee Secretary



a new leaf

The purpose of A New Leaf is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength and hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service.

The articles contained in A New Leaf are the sole opinions of the authors and do not reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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Torrance, CA 90504

or submit online:

www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on publications

“Retired” At 55

Because his name was Ray D. (Dennis), the name I went by for years, had to either go to prison, or the Army for a minimum of two years for two felony counts of auto theft! I was only 17 at the time!

After hard-headed Dennis spent 29 days in a way out west Texas town, he (finally) gave in that Dad should be contacted! He was, and came back two weeks later to get me out!

In the service, in 1968, all alone on guard duty of the ammo dump, I smoked my 1st joint! I really liked it!!

The next year, I went to Germany and LIKED the effects of hashish (a more "potent" form of being f*cked up)!!

Oh, & acid, too - in all kinds of different "flavors" - took 15 of those, & celebrated my early release from the Army in December 1969, with a chunk of hashish in a hookah as big as a Marlboro pack!! It only cost \$100 back then in Frankfurt! "Ladies of the night" were only \$10!! Cigarettes (American were 25 cents) (German were about 12 cents)!

The dollar was worth 3 2/3 Marcs!! The Army was good for me! I grew up real quick in one a half years - totally prepared to go to Vietnam IF they wanted me to go! BUT, the pot use continued on!!

I'm disabled, due to a mild stroke that made it impossible for me to "work" again! I NOW have my own music publishing company, my own record label,

my 1st CD released by my own recording studio (9 songs = \$10), & am a featured artist in 52 countries, have been on the radio since April of this year, AND it's all because I had a wake-up call from GOD !! Yes, I HEARD his voice!!!

I wanted to live past 30, so I changed my ways!! No more smoking of EITHER kind of cigarettes or tobacco - that was hard cause my grandpa used to grow "tabbca" in Kentucky - no more drinkin' - that meant NO more honky-tonkin' or playin' my guitar in dives - for tips anymore!! Bummer!! That's how I "survived" the week-end! Make just enough \$\$\$ over two days to buy some dope! I got tired of babysitting, tired of being the ONLY one sober, or straight (sometimes, I wasn't either - but it was MY car!) I went my separate way!!

Now, I still pick with the bluegrass "buddies" I've had for 30 years!! I found a style of music that was JUST like what we used to sing in church, & remembered what God had done before!

When I "retired" at age 55, I just let HIM be boss! For 55 years, MY way of doing things didn't work so hot!! Thx for letting me tell MY story!!

~ Ray Dennis W.



Roving Reporter Asks: *Coincidence or Higher Power: Share about a good experience you've had since choosing sobriety and a program of recovery:*

I had a bitter divorce from my ex-husband. There was also an ugly custody battle. My ex-husband threatened to take our young children and move out of state.

I was given custody and the children's father was ordered to pay child support. Instead of paying child support, he quit his job and moved out of state. Every time a court order was issued to garner his wages, he would quit his job. He continued to do this until the children became 18; when they were no longer eligible for the custody payments. I had an enormous amount of resentment towards him because he never made an effort to pay any of his debt to our children.

Recently, a friend suggested praying for my resentment every hour, every day, until the resentment was lifted. He suggested praying that only good things would happen to my ex-husband.

An amazing thing happened!! I received a phone call from my ex-husband. He agreed to pay the child support after all these years. I no longer have a resentment towards him.

I don't have to ask myself if this was a coincidence or the result of praying to my higher power. I know the answer.

~ Willow, District 13 (clean and sober 10 years)



A good experience I had involves my relationship with my

Mother. I didn't think that was possible as I wanted to blame her for my condition and for my using. But after coming into recovery, I learned that I can't blame people, places and things for my addiction. Anyways, thanks to being in recovery, I was part of her life again. When she got her purse snatched on the way to church one Sunday morning, I promised myself I would never let that happen to

her again. I am now and have been taking her to church, going out for breakfast with her, shopping and helping her with whatever else I could help out with, for the last 4 years. I owe that to being in recovery. But the good experience I had came at the end of one of those days when I did all those things with her.

(Continued on page 4)

16th Annual MA World Convention - Building Bridges
February 12-14, 2010 Portland, Oregon

REGISTRATION FORM

www.maconvention.org



HOTEL

The Doubletree Lloyd Center
1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland
(503) 281-6111
\$104 per night, up to 4 people
Call direct, ask for MA's group rate to save \$, or use the Hotel link on our website: www.maconvention.org

COSTS

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE
\$35 before 12/1//09
\$45 between 12/1/10 - 1/20/10
\$55 after 1/20/10
\$45 Sat. banquet
\$5 Sat. Dance featuring
Dist. 4's The Resentments!

TRANSPORT

The hotel is relatively close to the Portland International Airport (PDX). There is inexpensive public transportation (MAX Light Rail) that is almost door to door from the Airport to the Hotel. Please use the online Trip Planner at: <http://trimet.org>

One registration form per attendee please

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration: \$35 (before 12/1) \$45 (12/1 - 1/20) \$55 (after 1/20) \$ _____

Banquet: \$45 (please specify) veggie _____ meat _____ fish _____ \$ _____

Dance: \$5 \$ _____

Raffle Tickets: \$1 Number of Tickets: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Registration and payment can be made through the website. Otherwise, please mail a check or money order with this form to:

MA District 11 • P.O. Box 2012 • Portland, Oregon • 97208-2012

For most current information please visit: www.maconvention.org
We welcome any questions you may have! Please email us: info@maconvention.org

marijuana anonymous worldwide

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email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

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District 2 East Bay

PO Box 20484 Oakland, CA 94620 510.287.8873

District 3 South SF Bay Area

P.O. Box 551 Saratoga, CA 95071 408.450.0796

District 4 Western Washington

PO Box 17323 Seattle, WA 98107 206.548.9034

District 5 Orange County

1439 W. Chapman Av. PMB#215 Orange, CA 92868 714.999.9409

District 6 LA County No.

PO Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 818.759.9194

District 7 LA County So.

PO Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 323.964.2370

District 8 New York

PO Box 1244 Cooper Station New York, NY 10276 212.459.4423

District 10 LA County East

PO Box 94400 Pasadena, CA 91109 626.583.9582

District 11 Portland

PO Box 2012 Portland, OR 97208-2012 503.221.7007

District 12 North Bay, CA

PO Box 2842 Petaluma, CA 94952 415.419.3555 707.583.2326

District 13 MA Online

www.ma-online.org

District 14 London, England

07940.503438

District 15 Long Island, NY

www.ma-longisland.org 516-568-5883

District 16 Melbourne, Australia

24HR. info 0403 945 083 from overseas +61 403 945 083

District 17 Denmark

info@ma-kbh.dk

For a complete listing of all meetings visit www.marijuana-anonymous.org

Roving Reporter Asks...

(Continued from page 3)

She started to cry.

I asked, "What's the matter"?

She said that she was happy I was helping her, because she had all but given up hope on me that I would never stop getting high and be there for her.

That was a most humbling experience, a very positive experience. It came at a time when I didn't think recovery was

working for me or worth the effort. But that feeling I got from being told that by my Mom, it was great. You can't buy that feeling from a dealer or bartender. Thanks to being in recovery, I am now giving back, and it feels so right.

Thanks for letting me share.
~ Mike S.

WE'RE INTERESTED

Please keep an open ear at the meetings you attend, share a copy of A New Leaf and perhaps suggest members submit their stories. It may be that some members are shy or don't think their story is worth sharing... an encouraging word could make all the difference.



birthdays - Celebrating 165 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL contact information on page 2.

District 2

Lisa H.	11/18/06	3 yrs.
Fay C.	11/30/89	20 yrs.
Louise	12/03/98	11 yrs.
John L	12/15/84	25 yrs.

District 5

Russell	12/12/08	1 year!
Hillary	1/1/2009	1 year!

District 7

Penny LB	11/12/01	8 yrs.
Jeff M.	12/06/96	13 yrs.
Liz M.	12/08/02	7 yrs.

District 8

John M.	12/14/94	15 yrs.
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District 10

Sarah A.	12/11/06	3 yrs.
Arleigh A.	12/14/07	2 yrs.
Dan E.	1/14/08	1 year!

District 11

Anthony S.	11/26/00	9 yrs.
Josh B.	11/28/07	2 yrs.
Andy D.	12/2/07	2 yrs.
Cassi S.	12/9/97	12 yrs.
Mike F.	12/15/98	11 yrs.

District 13 (Online)

California		
Willow	12/3/98	11 yrs.
Russell	12/12/08	1 year!
San Diego, CA		
Alyssa S.	12/9/08	1 year!
Montana		
Chris W.	12/13/07	2 yrs.

