



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

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I Am One of the Lucky Ones

When I was hitting bottom, or more accurately bouncing along the bottom for many hopeless, stony months; someone who loves me told me about MA. Furthermore, the meetings were located a short walk from my house. When I heard that, I had no excuse but to at least check it out.

The 1st MA meeting I tried to attend never happened; I was the only person to show up. I sat and cried alone in the parking lot, then went home and got stoned, resigned to being without the help I needed indefinitely. But at that point I was so desperate that I didn't know where else to turn, so I tried another meeting a few days later. This meeting was small, but there were several people in attendance with long-term sobriety. They were laughing a lot and seemed happy. Those things were mostly foreign to me at that time so I suspected I could benefit from learning how they did it.

After a few months of half-assing the program and getting the expected nil result, I put a larger part of my ass into it. The Steps seemed silly to me; how could that stuff help me, a terminally unique pothead who was not exactly like any of you? But I began doing them anyway. I got a service position and a sponsor. I went to fellowship events and called other members in the program. I even made a checklist of healthy, productive things I'd try to do each day. Routine (doing things other than reaching for the bong) was very helpful.

One item on that list was transformational – Do something for another person. I'd never realized how selfish and self-centered I had been my entire life!

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Ma Ma, MAWS

My experience at the 2014 MAWS Conference was transformative thanks to the people, the places, and the things. I got to soak up wisdom from kind, Robert's-Rules-of-Order-obsessed veterans. I got to explore Southern California with other sober young adults. I met the MA members who designed and coded the MA app (available for both iPhone and Android!), and the gracious people who fixed MAWS' finances after some unexpected hurdles last year.

In addition to the human connections I made at the conference, I saw the inverse triangle shape of MA service structure in action. What I mean is that we had assembled in Los Angeles, not to come up with rules for districts to obey, but to better understand and serve the meetings and districts. In this way, they would be better equipped to help a sick and suffering addict on the ground.

Although it isn't always obvious how debating amendments to amendments to motions gets someone off of pot, it is clear that the effort works. This year, Marijuana Anonymous' 25th Anniversary, we have a booth at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. AA and NA have long had booths, and it is about time we let officers, judges, and the like know they can offer a specific program of recovery from marijuana to people who get mixed up with the law. This

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**“They were
laughing a lot
and seemed
happy.”**

Decide to Tell Your Story - Act Now

a new leaf

Share Your Experience, Strength & Hope

“After all, we learn from each other's experiences; the more diverse our groups become, the more experiences we have to draw from.” - Tradition Three

Your stories are a valuable addition to the diversity, mission and vision of our fellowship. Share yours today.

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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www.marijuana-anonymous.org/anl
and click on the [newsletter](#) tab.

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Correction

Last month ANL incorrectly identified the author of the article "El Mata Caballo" as Nicholas M. The horse-killer, Spider Wasp story was actually written by Craig R., District 7, Los Angeles County - South.

Thank You for Letting Me Be of Service

It's only Friday night at the 2013 Irvine, CA. MA World Convention and already I am having such a wonderful time. I have a little over six years and this is my seventh MA Convention—yes, you got that right. Although I only have six years, this is my seventh Convention. I attended my first when I was less than 30 days old!!!

I still remember that first one; February, 2007, Concord, CA. I was thirty-four and I had less than thirty days, had a slight mental break down, learned how to "turn it over," took home a wood chip and returned to my home groups super charged.

Next year the Convention was in Portland, we had doughnuts, a car trip up and I met a new friend—actually several.

The next year we road-tripped up to Seattle. Now to be honest, I hardly remember the workshops, the meetings, the panels, etc., heck— sometimes I even forget people I saw at a previous year's convention, but the fellowship—best in the world, and Seattle was no different—Frisbee under the Superdome, a Rock & Roll Museum field trip and a "Stepping Stone Meeting."

Now the Convention in New York, or was it New Jersey, I forget— was quite special as well... I got on the plane with a newly sober sponsee (that I am still with today!). Once at the Convention, I walked from the hotel with my sister (also in MA) and some new friends to a nearby lunch spot. The hotel afforded us some killer

views making the NYC Convention super-great.

Ok, ok, history buffs, maybe my memory is slightly off, you'll have to excuse me, I should be watching this skit that's being performed right now. Remember, I am writing this at the 2013 Convention! I digress, so maybe the order of the conventions is a bit different than I'm telling it here, perhaps, but good memories transcend order.

There was also Los Angeles and San Jose... At the LA Convention a late night meal at a diner with some new friends, walking distance from the hotel,

after the day's festivities had ended, was a highlight.

Many specifics get dissolved into my general tapestry that is my sober life; however, I do remember at each and every

convention, several times a day, deep and sincere feelings of gratitude sweeping over me. Also, just as super-rad — meaningful friendships getting forged, soul stirring serenity and a high I could never have even imagined in my most stoniest-uh-dopiast dreams.

It's only Friday and as I sit at this round table writing my Convention memories, loving the funny skit being performed in front of me that is parodying a meeting with each member sharing as a monologue in song, I look around the room and see many familiar faces. I feel such overwhelming gratitude.

When I was using, I could never understand why anyone

cont'd on pg. 3

**"...but the
fellowship
-- best in the
world."**

Ma, Ma, MAWS

cont'd from pg. 1

accomplishment is the result of a huge amount of work, and it was an honor to meet some of the fellows who made this booth happen.

The environment of service and dedication at the MAWS Conference is something that is impossible to emerge from unchanged. In addition to feeling more connected to MA, I feel responsible to continue the work that as a delegate I have assumed. I pledge to educate fellow district officers about the online support available to them, keep communication going between District 8 and MAWS, and continue the work of the Outreach Committee.

The chance to be involved in service at the MAWS level has left me deeply imprinted by the belief that the work we all do in MA is vital, effective, and possible.

**Lucy D.
District 8 - New York**

One of the Lucky Ones

cont'd from pg. 1

Despite having little faith that the Steps & the program could help me, things began to get better. Days became weeks, then months, free from marijuana and all mind-mood-altering substances. I went to 90 meetings in 90 days by attending the beverage fellowship & inserting "smoke" when I heard "drink". And I put pencil to paper and worked some Steps. Before I knew it, the Steps, especially Step 5, had removed my desire to get stoned. I felt healthy and happy for the first time in years.

In time I was told I could raise my hand to sponsor others and began to give back to the fellowship that saved my life. It has been said that marijuana is a "gateway drug" but did you know MA is a gateway fellowship? It's true, because it leads to harder fellowships! So many of us move on to larger fellowships and don't

stay to help the new people in MA who need us. I've tried to live the change I want to see in the world by never abandoning MA.

Once I was able to string together 10 days sober. I've managed now to string together over 10 years, one day at a time. I still attend MA regularly, have a service position at my home group, and sponsor others. I've been involved at the World Service level for many years as well.

As MA completes its 25th year of existence, I am filled with hope and yet faced with the hard reality of the numbers. The rapid growth I'd always expected frankly has never materialized. Donations to MAWS have fallen off sharply over recent years. Will MA survive another 25 years? My intention is to keep doing my part and hope others as lucky as I am decide to do the same and keep coming back.

**Cheyney
District 1 - San Francisco**

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wouldn't want to use— weed was my lover, my best friend, my answer to everything. Although I didn't realize it then I had no sustainable visions, no meaningful friendships and rarely an honest motive.

Now at almost forty with an amazing academic future, full fellowships of support and real goals with plans I actually implement, my life stands for something.

It's only Friday night at the 2013 MA World Convention and how fitting... just as the Convention has two more days filled with events, as of yet unknown, but nevertheless sure to be amazing, uplifting and positive-growth inducing, my life too, is sure to unravel— is unravelling, in a manner far grander than I ever would have thought possible.

Epilogue

Today is June 23rd, 2014. I finally typed this into my computer and edited it to submit it for A New Leaf, but before I do, I get chills when I think of the last two Conventions. Two highlights: A late night beach adventure walk in 2013 and the second annual Addicts on Asphalt meeting in 2014. Well, "Thanks MA." It took me seven years, but I finally submitted a little something expressing my gratitude for the Conventions, the fellowship & our wonderful newsletter.

**Another Grateful Pothead
District 1 - San Francisco**

**ROVING
REPORTER
ASKS...**

What's your favorite Step and why?

(Note: Submit by August 15th, answers will be published in the September 2014 issue.)

Step Seven
Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition Seven
Every MA group ought to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

marijuana anonymous worldwide

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

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 email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

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District 8 New York

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District 11 Portland

PO Box 2012 Portland, OR 97208-2012 503.567.9892

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PO Box 2842 Petaluma, CA 94952 415.419.3555 or 707.583.2326

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www.ma-online.org

District 14 London, England

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District 15 Long Island, NY

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District 16 Melbourne, Australia

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District 18 Sacramento, CA

www.sacramentoma.org 916.341.9469

District 19 Toronto, Canada

www.matoronto.org 647.201.9161 or 416.999.2244

Birthdays

Celebrating
183
 years of sobriety!

District 2

Erin O.	6/1/86	28 yrs.
Kathy H	6/14/95	19 yrs.
Nina S.	6/21/85	29 yrs.

District 5

Andrea Y.	6/15/10	4 yrs.
Brandon	6/6/11	3 yrs.
Gustov	5/23/11	3 yrs.
Londyn	5/23/11	3 yrs.
Pearl C.	6/21/10	4 yrs.
Trudie	6/1/98	16 yrs.

District 6

Alice	6/1/95	18 yrs.
Ben R.	6/1/06	8 yrs.
Erin W.	6/2/07	7 yrs.
Neil	6/6/13	1 yr.

District 7

Alex R.	5/20/12	2 yrs.
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District 8

Larry L.	5/30/05	9 yrs.
Larry S.	5/23/04	10 yrs.
Pamela	6/14/10	4 yrs.

District 11

Alycia	6/26/08	6 yrs.
James D.	6/18/11	3 yrs.
Ron P.	6/7/08	6 yrs.



**KEEP
 COMING
 BACK!**

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANLP contact information on page 2. Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that, a) HAVE occurred, b) HAVE NOT been published and, c) are not older than 45 days.

MA To Go

Our Fellowship now has a recovery app: MA Mobile. The smartphone-tablet app is free and is available for Android in the Google Play Store and for iOS at the App Store. It is easily found by searching for "Marijuana Anonymous." The app features GPS-enabled meeting search, all MA literature, access to our online forum and MA Online (District 13) meetings, and a marijuana sobriety counter. Visit your preferred apps vendor to read about additional features.



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