



A Valuable Resource

Sponsorship has proven to be a rich source for learning what I find I value most. What I have experienced in that relationship has been the breeding ground for creating that value in the balance of my life.

Before getting sober, I thought I wanted intimacy but it was later revealed to me that looking good on the outside had been my overriding priority. Upon reflection, my actions had centered on trying to control

the impression others had of me. My insides were, and in some cases still are, being numbed with some substance to cover up the screaming fearful, rejected, angry, and hollow responses from within.

Working the steps with my sponsor was the first time I was willing to take time to be with myself. It was also the first time I was willing to completely reveal what I had discovered to another person.

In retrospect I have to laugh. Arrogantly, I had a desire to prove she didn't know what she was talking about, that she was wrong – that I was smarter than her. Overtime, I began to throw her the most complex problems I had and she would reply with, what seemed like at the time, the shallowest of responses: "Did you eat? Go eat and call me back." "Do you have to make a decision now?" "Take a nap." "Pray on it." "Put it in your

God box." "Call a newcomer." "Find someone to help." "It is none of your business what others think of you." "Did you do the writing on your step?" "Read the big book that will help you sleep." "My, you are addicted to drama." I thought she did not "get it." I thought I needed someone a bit smarter after all she was going through bankruptcy what did she know? I was going to bury her with situations, teach her how complicated my situations were and how little she knew; until at some point she too would doubt what she knew and even the program itself.

Instead, time after time I was both disappointed and relieved her solutions seemed to work.

"I had a desire to prove she didn't know what she was talking about, that she was wrong - that I was smarter than her."

My Journey Home

I first got high on hash in 1970. I adored it! I was 15 years old and had been pining to become a loadie for a year or so. I had been to a local outdoor rock concert with a buddy on our Stingray bicycles where we saw "hippies" sharing wine and "reefers." Some girls even took their tops off! I went to a local "head shop," entranced by the black-light posters, and bought a little pipe that I carried around faithfully until I finally scored. Over the ensuing years I used many drugs and drank a lot, but grass was always my first love and my favorite.

In the early 1980s I got busted for drunk driving and was sent to a 12-Step Program via a "nudge from the judge." I started to identify. I almost got clean but was chided for sharing about my boyfriend since gay was not yet politically correct in the suburb where I lived. I continued to drink and use for another decade.

In my mid-thirties I went to therapy because I was so miserable. The shrink wanted to talk about my drug use so I fired him and found another who was willing to talk about my childhood abandonment issues. Eventually I decided that, for therapy to work, I'd better stop using – so I returned to a different 12-Step program. That was in 1990. This time I really tried to work the Program. I stayed pretty much clean for the next decade but along the way I retrained to work in pharmacy and the temptation



21st Annual Marijuana Anonymous World Convention February 13-15, 2015 in Portland, Oregon

COSTS

Register Early and Save!

- \$75 before 1/3/15
- \$100 between 1/3/15-2/6/15
- \$125 after 2/7/15
- \$45 Saturday banquet

TRANSPORTATION

Options Abound!

Free shuttles between the hotel and Portland International Airport (PDX) 24hrs a day. We have volunteers to help with rides as needed from train station or bus depot. Also see www.trimet.org for information on local public transportation.

HOTEL

Portland Airport Holiday Inn

8439 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland (503) 256-5000 or (855) 642-6271
Group Name: **MA Convention**
\$106 per night, up to 4 people
Suites available for \$139
www.hiportlandairport.com
Block: **MJA**

Pre-CONVENTION RAFFLE

We are offering a pre-convention raffle to enhance your visit. Experience Portland with the locals! We have some great outings available and other treats for you to enjoy. For convention registration and to learn more about our awesome pre-convention raffle, please visit www.mawsconvention.org.

We welcome your questions!
Email us at info@mawsconvention.org

REGISTRATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

_____ Please contact me about volunteering at the convention

Registration: \$75 (before 1/3/15) \$100 (1/3/15 - 2/6/15) \$125 (after 2/7/15) \$ _____

Banquet: \$45 \$ _____

If you would like to join us for the Banquet on Saturday night, please choose one:

Chicken: Chicken Dijon with roasted red potatoes and seasonal veggies

Total \$ _____

Fish: Pan seared Pacific Northwest Salmon with lemon-dill
buerre blanc sauce, roasted potatoes and seasonal veggies

Veggie: Charbroiled Portobello mushroom with veggies, polenta with
balsamic reduction and basil infused olive oil (vegan)

Your personal information will be used for convention purposes only. Feel free to share only a last initial and your city. Please include an email address.

Registration is easy on the website www.mawsconvention.org
or you can complete this form and mail it with a check or money order to:

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

(The 2015 MA World Convention is brought to you and sponsored exclusively by MA District 11.)

A Valuable Resource

cont'd from pg. 1

My struggles became the source of inspiration for looking at and listening to myself. Growth followed when I was willing, open, and honest with my sponsor and myself.

My first inventory took 15 hours to review with my sponsor. The graciousness she showed to sit through that discussion in one sitting was beyond anything I would have ever have expected. And frankly it was beyond what I thought anyone would ever do for me. Afterward, I did not call her for a week. Previously, I had been calling her on a daily basis. I was certain I had taken too much and she would be revolted by me. Not because of what I did but because of who I was at the core – selfish, dishonest, manipulative, angry, and fearful.

I was wrong. When I finally called her, she laughed and knew I was hiding. I was just human. I was shocked to find that I have feelings and needs just like everyone else. At some level I was disappointed, I was no better, nor worse. I had always felt above others and thought I could control my emotions and then almost simultaneously I would feel less than others for harboring these unattractive thoughts and emotions. After sharing all of this with her, I found myself walking down the street looking people in the eye.

The first time I took a sponsee through the Steps I had another surprise. I experienced a spontaneous love for another person with absolutely no desire or expectations of getting something back. It was and still is a profound experience. Love without attachment... I have no words but it

is an experience I cherish until, the seemingly inescapable moment, I start to create expectations. Of course, then I get to dive in for some more spiritual growth.

I continue to experience a profound love that springs forth from vulnerability as people struggled with their perceived darker side. I am touched by any trust others place in me. I am hungry for an opportunity to share my experience if it can help another find a way out of their misery. It gives my struggle value and helps me see things in my own life differently.

Overtime, I experience a greater sense of acceptance for others and myself. It helps me see the human condition as being chronically imperfect and perfect simultaneously. I feel peace, at increasingly greater intervals.

Carol W.

My Journey Home

cont'd from pg. 1

to self-medicate overwhelmed me. However, I believe that when I returned voluntarily to Program, I transitioned from chronic addict to periodic. Life got better. I have been "in and out" ever since.

Today I am 6 months and two weeks squeaky clean and sober. I attend daily 12 Step meetings including MA. When I first entered the rooms over 30 years ago I was a fire-breathing atheist. I knew that God was an invention of men, created to control and subjugate the gullible. Today, I believe in the Creator with all my heart and do my best to honor that faith in my words and deeds. I am sober one day at a time. Know that, whatever your story, we are here for you in Marijuana Anonymous. We welcome you with open hearts. We will work diligently to honor you and keep an open mind. Welcome home.

Corey B.

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.

District Bureau Chiefs

- District 1: Maggie R.
- District 2: Tim V.
- District 3: Mark S.
- District 4: Michael S.
- District 5: Ryan
- District 6: Carol R.
- District 7: Nick D.
- District 8: Evan F.
- District 10: Kim "Van Dyke"
- District 11: Lon M.
- District 12: Jim B.
- District 13: Ray C.
- District 15: Joe J.
- District 18: OPEN

ANLP Staff

- Chairperson: Alan B.
- Treasurer: Chrysanthemum H.
- Secretary: Louise
- Office Manager: Tom W.
- Publishing Editor: Steve R.
- Field Editor: Ron H.

Send all articles, inquiries and correspondence to:
stories@anewleafpublications.org
 or submit online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org/anl
 and click on the newsletter tab.

A New Leaf
 P.O. Box 6482
 Torrance, CA 90504

marijuana anonymous worldwide

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

MA World Services
PO Box 7807 Torrance, CA 90504 800.766.6779
www.marijuana-anonymous.org
email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

District 1 San Francisco
www.ma-sf.org 415.325.4785

District 2 East Bay
www.madistrict2.org 510.287.8873

District 3 South SF Bay Area
PO Box 551 Saratoga, CA 95071 408.450.0796

District 4 Western Washington
PO Box 17452 Seattle, WA 98107 206.414.9270

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 310.494.0189

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 626.869.6210

District 11 Portland
PO Box 2012 Portland, OR 97208-2012 503.567.9892

District 12 North Bay, CA
PO Box 2842 Petaluma, CA 94952 415.419.3555 or 707.583.2326

District 13 MA Online
www.ma-online.org

District 14 London, England
<http://www.marijuana-anonymous.co.uk> 24hr Helpline 07940.503438

District 15 Long Island, NY
www.ma-longisland.org 631-647-0768

District 16 Melbourne, Australia
24HR. info 0403 945 083 from overseas +61 403 945 083

District 17 Denmark
info@ma-kbh.dk

District 18 Sacramento, CA
www.sacramentoma.org 916.341.9469

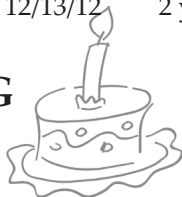
District 19 Toronto, Canada
www.matoronto.org 647.201.9161 or 416.999.2244

Birthdays Celebrating 82 years of sobriety!

A Special "Happy Birthday" from ANLP to all those celebrating anniversaries whose dates will not get posted until 2015. The January issue goes to print in early December, prior to our normal submission deadline, due to the holidays. That means most late November and December birthdays will appear in the February 2015 issue.

District 2		
Louise R.	12/3/98	16 yrs.
District 7		
Sheila J.	11/27/87	27 yrs.
District 9		
Gregg L.	12/4/04	9 yrs.
District 11		
Andy D.	12/2/07	7 yrs.
Bethany D.	12/12/12	2 yrs.
Cassi S.	12/9/97	17 yrs.
Claire K.	12/30/12	2 yrs.
Nikhil K.	12/13/12	2 yrs.

KEEP COMING BACK!



ANL wants to publish your sobriety anniversary. Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANLP contact information on page 3. Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that, a) HAVE occurred, b) HAVE NOT been published and, c) are not older than 45 days.

ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

How has service work helped you in your recovery?

(Note: Submit by February 15, answers will be published in the March 2015 issue.)

STEP ONE

We admitted we were powerless over marijuana, that our lives had become unmanageable.

TRADITION ONE

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon MA unity.

Help Someone Get in the Boat!

ARTICLES WANTED

a new leaf

Share Your Experience, Strength & Hope

"How did you escape the Lotus Eaters?"

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