



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

\$1.25

July 2015

Vol. 25, No. 7

What Is My Problem?

I first drank alcohol when I was 12, tried marijuana in 7th grade, was getting high or drunk on a regular basis my freshman year in high school and was using drugs daily by the following summer. My 3rd year of high school I was experimenting with a lot of different drugs. Looking back

*I portrayed
the role of
“healer” on
the outside,
while inside
I was a sick
and suffering
addict.*

on the crazy things I did, ingesting drugs uncertain of what exactly they were, it's a miracle that I didn't suffer worse consequences. I rarely saw my behavior as a problem and I had (and still have) a lot of bad behavior. I was selfish, self-centered, afraid, resentful and deluded to name a few (and still am all of those to a lesser degree).

I graduated high school with highest honors, was accepted to UC Davis and remain gainfully employed from the age of 12. I was married and a step-father just before my 20th birthday. I joined the U.S. Coast Guard shortly after and received an honorable discharge 6 years later. We had a daughter together and when that first marriage ended I was a single father of two for 2 ½ years. I remarried 5 years later and adopted a 2-year old step-daughter. Had another daughter with my second wife and later adopted another girl. Income from my employment was the primary support during both marriages and I was never fired from a job. My first wife was alcoholic and my second wife was a drug addict. They both got in a lot of trouble and I was the more stable parent/partner. Looking at these parts of my life, instead of the whole picture, supported my delusional thinking.

It wasn't until my 2nd wife was in her 3rd rehab (25 years after I first used) that I began to see that my life was unmanageable by me. My wife's psychologist at the rehab suggested I go to a 12-Step meeting for family members and I was in enough pain that I was willing to take direction. I got a sponsor right away and began working the Steps. Four months later while I was working my Fourth Step I had my moment of clarity. In reflecting on my part, which was painful to see, I began to realize all the damage I caused my
continued on pg. 2

MA World Services Outreach Quarterly

The MA World Services (MAWS) Conference held in Los Angeles this May was a success. For the first time, UK District 14 and Toronto District 19 each sent a delegate. In addition to international representation, every US District sent at least one Delegate. We added San Diego, California as our newest MA District (20). Micah from

*For the first
time, UK
District 14
and Toronto
District 19
each sent a
delegate.*

NY, currently serves as President and is entering into his 4th year on the Board, which means next year we will have a new President. Maurice from Ontario was voted onto the Board, and is serving this year as our Treasurer. For the first time, a Delegate from outside of North America was voted to
continued on pg. 3

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:	Kevin L.
District 11:	Susan C.
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:	OPEN
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

What Is My Problem?

cont'd from pg. 1

family, how my marijuana use was hurting me and inhibiting my growth. I recognized that I am an addict and I am the problem. Not my parents, not my wife, not my kids, not work, not the government, not even the drugs or the people that are rude toward me. I am the problem!

Recognizing that I am an addict has been the best thing that ever happened to me (inclusive of many poignant moments like the birth of my

children). Before I admitted I am an addict, that I am the problem, there was no way to begin the process of growth and change. Surrender is necessary. Control is an illusion. I am powerless. Today when I have a problem I know where to look for the solution. I try to see my part in it. I am not the keeper of my fellows on this journey and it's not my place to manage life as it happens. I need to do my best to manage my thoughts and actions with the help of my Higher Power. I practice faith that all is happening according to the Master Plan. This is not easy, but the benefits have been amazing.

As I write this article I have been clean and sober for 6,863 days, that's 18 years, 9 months and 16 days (so says my MA Mobile App ☺). I'm clean, sober and in recovery by Grace - The unmerited favor of The Spirit of the Universe. And I have learned and experienced so many wonderful things during this journey. My life today is better than I could have imagined. I am so grateful to HP and the MA Fellowship for helping me along in this journey that I was unable to make alone.

Terry H.

*I realized that
marijuana
was the most
important thing
in my life.*

MA To Go

Do you have our fellowship's 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.



Scan to install for Apple Apps



Scan to install for Android

MAWS Outreach Quarterly

cont'd from pg. 1

the Board of Trustees: Renata from the UK will be heading up Hospitals and Institutions this year. The motions presented to the Conference body this year were for the most part not very controversial and garnered strong consensus. We decided not to begin the process of editing our First Step (changing the comma to a dash), which was probably our most difficult motion (newly discovered historical documentation may lead us to reconsider this topic next year.) The language in our Twelve Questions was altered slightly to connect with a broader range of newcomers and other members: www.marijuana-anonymous.org/how-it-works/the-twelve-questions. As always, the 2016 MAWS Conference, in New York City, will be open to all members!

World Services Committee News**Conferences and Conventions:**

Providing support to the Convention over the next several months, putting together historic/archive data for Districts' use in planning events. Plan to visit San Francisco East Bay Area for the 2016 MA Convention hosted by District 2, Feb. 13-15, 2016. For details visit www.mawsconvention.org

Finance:

Taking on the task of sponsoring District Treasurers to help them stay current in their accounting. That will keep World

Services financial information current, and make things easier for our accountant. Anyone is welcome to contact them for help related to finances or accounting at treasurer@marijuana-anonymous.org.

Internet:

The Marijuana Anonymous World Services Internet Committee is engaged in a number of projects designed to deliver on the promise of Tradition 5 (Each group has but one purpose, to carry its message to the marijuana addict who still suffers).

We continue development of our free mobile app which was accessed by more than 2,500 different users this past month alone.

We are upgrading our Forum and exploring new ways for members to communicate online in real time.

We are improving our Worldwide Directory, helping Members find support in-person, online and by phone.

With too many projects to mention, we need help. If you have an interest in how to apply technology to recovery, send a note to internet@marijuana-anonymous.org to discuss joining our group.

Literature:

Gaining momentum on a Meditation Daily Reader - consider writing an entry: www.marijuana-anonymous.org/literature/meditations. Working on exciting new literature, "Another Doctor's Opinion" about marijuana addiction from a medical professional, for possible inclusion in Life With Hope.

Policies and Procedures:

Inviting District Service Committee Chairs to spend time learning the Marijuana Anonymous Service Manual and maybe read or discuss a portion at DSC meetings: <https://www.marijuana-anonymous.org/literature/maws-service-manual>.

This vital information source on service structure, bylaws and suggested protocols is designed to help carry the message to addicts who still suffer.

Join the committee to develop indispensable knowledge!

If you are in touch with founding members of MA who are willing to share some of their experience or knowledge, please connect them with the Policies and Procedures committee at www.policiesandprocedures@marijuana-anonymous.org.

Public Information:

Pursuing attendance at the 2016 National Association for Drug Court Professionals conference and similar ventures, along with a great Public Service Announcement (PSA) Media Campaign.

Meeting Information:

Remember to check if there is an independent MA meeting you can attend while traveling for work or vacation. Visit this page -- <https://www.marijuana-anonymous.org/meetings/in-person>. (You can also find meetings here that are not associated with a particular District #.)

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 North

PO Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 818.759.9194

District 7 LA County South

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

email info@madistrict10.org or call 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

District 20 San Diego, CA

www.ma-sandiego.org

Birthdays

Celebrating **130**
years of sobriety!

District 2

Ever	6/14/14	1 yr.
Kathy H.	6/14/95	20 yrs.
Nina	6/21/85	30 yrs.

District 4

David B.	6/14/14	1 yr.
----------	---------	-------

District 5

Andrea Y.	6/15/10	5 yrs.
Brandon	6/6/11	4 yrs.
Gustov	5/23/11	4 yrs.
Londyn	5/23/11	4 yrs.

District 10

David	1/20/14	1 yr.
Elena	4/7/13	2 yrs.
Sacga	4/6/14	1 yr.
Tom T.	4/23/01	14 yrs.

District 11

Craig S	5/26/87	28 yrs.
Lael P	5/18/11	4 yrs.
Lisa G	5/16/13	2 yrs.
Ron P	6/7/08	7 yrs.
Sheila B	5/23/13	2 yrs.

ANL wants to publish your sobriety anniversary. 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.

ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

How do you experience the
12 Steps in your daily life?

(Submit by August 15th, your
answers will be published in the
September 2015 issue.)

STEP SEVEN

Humbly asked God to remove our
shortcomings.



TRADITION SEVEN

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