



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

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End of an Era

I was just a few months sober when I first made my way into the Tuesday night MA meeting at St Bede's Episcopal Church in Mar Vista (West Los Angeles), California. I was living in a rehab

first meeting was over that I had found my home in recovery.

I took various commitments at Tuesday Mar Vista, and soon was able to also attend the Thursday night meetings in the same downstairs community room. Fellows came and went, while a core of regulars remained. The fellowship at those meetings grew, and it is now not unusual to find forty, fifty or more recovering marijuana addicts in the meetings, with attendance swelling to close to 100 for special events, such as the annual Sober Feast in December, and Feast of Fools in April. I was grateful for the annual Thanksgiving Marathon, where I and others seeking to maintain their recovery could seek support and a turkey dinner before, after, or instead of a sometimes tension-filled family function.

The church was always supportive of our meetings, maintaining our rent at a reasonable level and making their facilities available for our events. They turned down an offer to rent "our" room out at a higher rent

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in the center of town, and had been taken to 12-Step meetings of many other fellowships in my first months of sobriety. Eventually, I was permitted to visit a meeting on my own, and headed off to Mar Vista. It became clear before that

Working Steps 5 and 12

On a recent trip back from Texas, in a Dallas airport, a woman approached me and asked, "Are you the man from Intervention? You know, that cable TV show?"

I had to say that I wasn't he and really didn't have a clue about what she was talking about. She said that she was sorry to bother me and started to go away. I told her that I was in recovery and maybe I could help her. I told her I was a member of a 12 Step program and it helped me with my illness. She asked me if I was in AA, and was surprised when I told her I was in Marijuana Anonymous. She asked me about MA and shyly

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Join the ANLP Board

A New Leaf Publications (ANLP) is looking for a new Secretary. The Secretary serves as one of five ANLP Board members.

The ANLP Secretary must be clean and sober from marijuana, alcohol and all other mind-altering substances for at least two years, and must have experience either as 1) a MAWS Delegate for at least one year; or 2) has been a MAWS Trustee for at least one year; or 3) has been a Managing Director of ANLP for at least one year. The position requires approval by the MA World Services Board.

If you are interested in taking your service to a new level in the ANLP Secretary's position, or have any questions, please contact chair@anewleafpublications.org or Alan B. at (310) 892-2149.

A Note from Prison

"I want to thank you for your service of providing this monthly message of recovery to an incarcerated member. I enjoyed the articles supplied in the September issue a lot. I took something positive from each one as I do all the time.

Thank you for your service once again."

Name and facility withheld for anonymity

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.
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ANLP Staff

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- Publishing Editor: Steve R.
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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
340 S. Lemon Ave. #9420
Walnut, CA 91789-2706

Announcing the Third Annual MA World Services Town Hall

Meet the author of "Another Doctor's Opinion"
Marvin D. Seppala, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Hazelden Betty Ford

Latest Info on:

- MA Convention - Walnut Creek, CA
- MA Book of Meditations
- Social Media/Internet Guidelines
- Panel on Fellowship Growth

What:

What's happening with MA World Services? Engage in lively conversation and bring something back to your district.

When:

Sunday
October 18, 2015
10:00am - 12:00pm Pacific
1:00pm - 3:00pm Eastern

How:

Phone: 1 (712) 432-1212
Access code: 349 - 225 - 494 #
via Internet
<http://freeconferencecall.com/wall/3492255494>

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

End of an Era

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to a non recovery-related group. Recently, when neighbors started to complain about some of our members hanging out, smoking and talking in the parking lot after the meetings, the minister came to speak to the meetings, telling us that he supported us, wanted to be able to keep the meetings there, and that we needed to keep the noise down outside, and to get everyone off the premises by 10 p.m.

The meetings appointed "shushers" to help remind people to stay quiet, and added announcements about the risk of losing the meetings due to noise complaints. To a great extent, members complied.

Neighbors apparently remained concerned about not just the noise, but about the meetings themselves. The proliferation of sober living houses in the neighborhood had become a major issue for a number of local homeowners. Perhaps the existence of our meetings (and others held at the church) was encouraging such facilities, and bringing more addicts to the neighborhood.

And so, just last week, our Tuesday and Thursday meetings, which have been at that same location for 25 years, were informed by the church that we would need to be out by November 1 – that the room would now be used for church-related functions.

A committee has formed to seek out a new location in the neighborhood. There is some thought that the Tuesday and Thursday meetings might have to meet at separate locations.

What will happen to the fellowship? How will things ever be the same? Well, they won't be the same. We will face challenges as we go through this change; change which we didn't ask for and didn't want. Hopefully, we will walk through this change while

...we will walk through this change while applying the principles of our Steps and Traditions...

applying the principles of our Steps and Traditions, with the help of our Higher Power, as we do the work and stay out of the results.

I am incredibly grateful to St Bede's for providing MA with a home in this area for the last 25 years. I am grateful to the hundreds of men and women I have meet at the Mar Vista meetings, many of whom have been an important part of my recovery, and many of whom continue to trudge this road with me.

Right now, I stay in the present. I have faith that, if we do the work, everything will work itself out.

Alan B.

Working Steps 5 and 12

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about my problems. She sat down and we talked about my addiction, and her problem. It seems that her mother was an alcoholic and was getting sick in body from the alcohol. She didn't know how to get help for her mother. We talked a little bit about the First Step and how the addict needs to admit that we have a problem and our lives were unmanageable. She said that that was the problem. Her mother didn't want to quit and that was the root of the problem.

I was at a loss. If the addict doesn't want to change, what can we do? I told her about Al-Anon and suggested that it may be a way to find help for her and her mother. She brightened up a little. She said that she would search the Internet for Al-Anon in her hometown to see if they can help. The airline called the flight and we went our separate ways.

I didn't think much about this anymore during the 3-hour flight. Standing at the baggage carousel, I saw this woman one last time. She walked up to me and gave me a hug. She said she found a group to help her and she found new hope that there could be help for her mother. She thanked me and walked away with a smile.

I think she felt good and that made me feel good, too.

Louis W.

Share Your
Experience,
Strength & Hope

**a new
leaf**

ARTICLES WANTED

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 1088 Penngrove, CA 94951 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

ma-danmark.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 **149**
years of sobriety!

District 2

Robert D.	9/22/14	1 yr.
Sally W.	9/17/04	11 yrs.
Zonia	9/23/14	1 yr.

District 5

Alan	8/16/14	1 yr.
Cassie	9/13/09	6 yrs.
Dave D.	9/22/09	6 yrs.
Lisa T.	8/21/90	25 yrs.
Omeed	8/20/12	3 yrs.
Scott	9/4/14	1 yr.
Terry H.	9/7/96	19 yrs.

*Let the fellowship know
about your
important milestone.
ANL depends on you to
submit birthdays.*

*Give your anniversary date
to your District Bureauchief
or your meeting GSR.*

District 6

Steve C.	9/10/11	4 yrs.
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District 7

Craig J.	9/23/96	19 yrs.
Guyo K.	9/13/08	7 yrs.
Marie S.	9/28/13	2 yrs.
Ryan R.	9/16/13	2 yrs.
Seth S.	9/28/14	1 yr.
Shawna T.	10/3/12	3 yrs.

District 11

Bill C.	9/15/12	3 yrs.
Cindy T.	9/2/12	3 yrs.
Duane H.	8/31/11	4 yrs.
Jeremy B.	8/28/10	5 yrs.
Kyle M.	9/12/12	3 yrs.
Marchall T.	9/9/09	6 yrs.
Stephan H.	9/15/02	13 yrs.

**KEEP
COMING
BACK!**



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...

What are you grateful
for today?

(Submit by November 21st, your answers will be published in the December 2015 issue.)

STEP TEN

Continued to take
personal inventory and
when we were wrong,
promptly admitted it.



TRADITION TEN

Marijuana Anonymous
has no opinion on outside
issues; hence the MA
name ought never
be drawn into public
controversy.