



a new leaf

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Weed Whacker

At a recent meeting, our speaker suggested the topic, "Tools you used then, and tools you use now."

Before MA I had no tools. I had worked long and hard to organize my life so I could say and do anything I wanted and didn't need tools. More than once in awhile I would offend someone, or skip a responsibility, and instead of repercussions I would hear, "That's just Alan." It was my ticket to everything. Every late meeting, every biting word, every weirdness, "That's just Alan" was my Get Out of Jail Free card, and I was unscathed by the fires I left behind.

Outside: callous, harsh, sarcastic. But inside: suffering. And the only tool I had to get me through the day was weed. I used it to cope with everything.

Molecules moving too quickly in the air? Weed.

Call my mother? Weed.

Watch a movie, Weed.

Read a book? Weed.

Write a song? Weed.

Clean my office? Weed.

Defrost the freezer? Weed.

Not paranoid enough? Weed.



Intimacy? Weed.

Fight with wife? Weed.

Bored? Weed.

Happy? Weed.

Sad? Weed.

Sex? Weed.

Write an essay? Weed.

It was my go-to, and my go-away-from -- from everything in life. I hid behind a forest of weed. I couldn't see anyone and I thought no one could see me.

In meetings I heard lots of people talking about lots of tools they acquired for their toolbox. But I only found one big, all-encompassing tool at MA, my Sobriety. My Swiss Army Sobriety. It's my machete, my scythe, my International Harvester tractor that clears the weed from everything. I have an image in my mind of wielding my

Freedom From...

Most of us know that the MA groups started in different places, with different names, within a couple of years of each other. They started hearing about each other in the late 1980's and decided to try and see if there was a way to fold these few small groups into a larger group in order to be able to help more marijuana addicts.

The San Francisco area group was called Marijuana Addicts Anonymous (MAA); the Orange County (CA) Group was called Marijuana Smokers Anonymous (MSA); the Los Angeles group and the Seattle groups were called Marijuana Anonymous (MA).

The Los Angeles MA had started the process for incorporation in February of 1989 and was finished in May of the same year. Meanwhile the MAA, MSA, and Los Angeles MA groups were starting to get in contact with each other and decided to have a meeting in June of 1989 in Morro Bay, CA, which was about half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. A total of 11 delegates gathered.

That meeting was another whole story, but this is about the decisions on MA sobriety requirements. MA in Los Angeles had always been about freedom from marijuana and all other mind-altering substances including alcohol – Period and Exclamation Point – for everybody. The other two groups were about singleness of purpose, like the original anonymous group. The members from LA more or less caved in because

ANL's Purpose

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. MA is not affiliated with—and does not endorse or accept contributions from—any outside enterprise.

District Bureau Chiefs

We will be reaching out to districts soon to update the District Bureau Chief list. Additionally district representatives, including but not limited to those serving as Bureau Chief are encouraged to stay in touch: editor@anewleafpublications.org

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Send articles/stories:
stories@anewleafpublications.org

Or they may be submitted online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org/story

Weed Whacker...

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Sobriety to cut through the forest of weed that has cluttered my life.

Weed destroying my creativity? Whack.

Weed covering my desk? Whack.

Dull mind? Whack.

Disengaged. Whack.

Running late? Whack.

Misunderstanding? Whack.

Disappointment? Whack.

Weed at work? Whack.

Weed on my responsibilities? Whack.

Weed on my windshield? Whack.

Weed on my marriage? Whack.

I wield my Sobriety like a scimitar, slicing through the forest that surrounds me, creating a clearing that lets me see for miles in any direction. I plow through, deforesting the darkness and whacking away the weed. ▲

Alan C.

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Freedom From...

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they personally wanted to unify and be able reach more addicts. And then, they came home.

Los Angeles County, which later became Districts 6 and 7 and part of 10, was not happy and the meetings all over the county demanded a meeting with the three delegates that returned from Morro Bay. They were the MA President, Secretary and Treasurer due to the incorporation. So, a meeting was held in a park, which is now part of District 6, and the original mood was to drop out of the merger all together. MA members wanted absolutely nothing to do with singleness of purpose. After hours of discussion the compromise became that as long as all members of World Services (Trustees, Chairpersons, and Delegates) were totally clean and sober then membership could be about the desire to quit using. (They figured that later on their Sponsors could work on that "other" stuff too.) So, MA was willing to join with the other two groups if they were willing to compromise.

The second Unity Conference was held in October of 1989, one day in Orange County and the next day in LA County. In the meantime, MA in Seattle was heard from and they sent delegates too. They had been about freedom from all mind-altering substances too, so the Grand Compromise was made. The only requirement for membership is "a desire to stop using marijuana," but any commitment at World Services level is to be freedom from marijuana and all mind-altering substances. In fact, one group had sent an elected Trustee but he had to resign because he still drank. Another member of that group became a Trustee instead. (Originally published in the June 2013 issue) ▲

Carol McD

[Save the Date]

MA District 7 Los Angeles invites you to:

>The Art of Recovery

Marijuana Anonymous World Services Convention
www.mawsconvention.org

February 17, 18 & 19, 2017

Come! Be with your people for:

- Big Ol' Meetings, Co-ed & Stag!
- Illuminating Workshops!
- Captivating Entertainment!
- Recovery-Themed yet Possibly Tasteful Merchandise!
- Tons of Fellowship!

Where:

In or near beautiful Los Angeles! You'll want to fly in to LAX!

How much will it cost?

Possibly a little more money than last year!

Questions?

Email: maconvention2017@gmail.com

But what about the specifics & stuff?

We'll let you know all specifics as we know them, for real.

Anything else?

We love you. Come by and see!



Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

For a complete listing of all meetings visit
WWW.MARIJUANA-ANONYMOUS.ORG

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About Birthdays

Stay tuned as we update our process for gathering and listing birthdays.

UPDATE!

Windows phone, tablet and PC users can now install the MA Mobile app. Just as for iOS and Android, search the Microsoft store for "marijuana anonymous" or use the links at www.marijuana-anonymous.org.

MA Daily Meditation Book

The Literature Committee continues its **call for your writing** as we compile a year's worth of daily meditations focused on recovery from marijuana addiction. The writings should be approximately 250 to 500 words.

What would you want to read on your sobriety birthday?

The earliest submissions have a good chance of being printed on your recovery birthday. If you feel so moved, send in more than one. Looking for inspiration? Take a look at daily meditation books from other fellowships or take a look at the sample at: www.marijuana-anonymous.org/meditations. Find an inspiring quote to kickstart your creativity. Go for it...Write yours today! **Send your submissions to:** stories@anewleafpublications.org

From Life with Hope

Step Twelve

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to marijuana addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



Tradition Twelve

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.