



A NEW LEAF

A PUBLICATION OF MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

January 2002

Volume 12, Number 1

Alert! The 2002 Convention in Seattle is coming! For an order form, please see page three. And, for information on the upcoming event, please, visit the Convention website at www.seattlema.org!

My Last "High"

by Paul G.

I recently passed the two-year anniversary of my last bong hit, and it got me thinking back to the last time I smoked pot. Without a doubt, I finished at the bottom. Every character defect and every negative response to the drug was in full form that day, ensuring that if I ever think I could use a toke, all I have to do is think back to my last "high." It was, in fact, an extreme low.

It was Labor Day, 1999. I had been attending MA meetings for about six weeks but had less than 30 days clean, and I went back to my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, for a visit. Problem was, there was no MA there, and I wasn't ready yet to branch out into other 12-Step programs for support.

My old pothead friends invited me over to their place for a cookout. There I was, beginning the process of getting sober, and I knew without question I would never make it through that cookout without getting loaded. I wasn't ready to tell my friends about being in recovery, and I was certainly incapable of saying no to actual marijuana.

So I decided to just have at it. Resistance was futile. I was powerless! I got there, grabbed a beer, and said, "So where's the herb?" I smoked up - the same rancid, brown, headache-causing garbage weed I had left behind when I moved to Oregon, home of the Kind Green Buds - and within moments I was pitifully stoned. And

there I was again, back at my bottom: paranoid, isolated, barely able to speak, surrounded by people I didn't really know, depressed, doing something I wished I wasn't doing, and unable to change any of it.

This didn't stop me from smoking more, of course. I smoked and drank all day, and then I drove home. Nor did it stop me, when I was left alone with the guy's stash, from stealing some of it to use later - at my parents' house. I was stealing the stuff that was making me miserable from people who were supposed to be my friends, then driving home plowed in a state where I already had a DUI on my record. My life was unmanageable!

I got home with my little stolen pocketful of depression, and I felt lower than a tech stock. I knew in my heart that I was utterly powerless against weed, that I needed to get it out of my life entirely and forever. Of course, I still had this stolen stash, so I did the only thing I could at the time.

Did you see this coming? That's right - I smoked it! I knocked back three or four bong hits in a row and thought, "There, I 'got rid' of it."

It was not long after this, when I got back to Oregon and to MA, and I started putting some clean days together, that some things I heard at my first meetings started to make sense to me. One was the simple power of "Keep coming back." Another was "I don't have to do that anymore." I clearly had no

choice in the matter on Labor Day 1999, because I was, as Life With Hope says, "ensnared in the insidious grip of marijuana."

But now I have found a power that's greater than my addiction. On Labor Day 2001 I went for a hike with sober friends and then went to a meeting and carried the message of hope and recovery. That, my friends, is progress!

Today I have a new high, a real high. I'm free of marijuana, and of the stealing, isolation, and paranoia I wallowed in during that last "high." I have true friends with whom to share a real life. My last "high" was a low bottom which today I can learn from and even laugh at, and that's a real blessing.

Thank you, MA!



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to

A NEW LEAF

For \$12 per year, a monthly issue of *A New Leaf* will be delivered to your home.

Send a check to:
PO Box 4314
No. Hollywood, CA
91617





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 necessarily reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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Send all articles, inquiries and correspondence to:
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LWH2: Apologies and a Correction

Due to an error in the production process of the second edition of Life With Hope, the Table of Contents erroneously reported the order of items in the first part of the book. Below is an errata page for your use to cut out and insert into your copy so that you have an accurate reflection of the contents. We apologize that this is necessary. Future copies sold of the first printing will include this page; once the present printing has been sold, the page in question will be printed in its corrected format. Again, our apologies, and our thanks for your understanding and patience.

The Editors of Life With Hope

ERRATA

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The Steps of Marijuana Anonymous

Step One	1
We admitted we were powerless over marijuana, that our lives had become unmanageable.	
Step Two	5
Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.	
Step Three	11
Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, <i>as we understood God.</i>	
Step Four	15
Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.	

8th Annual Marijuana Anonymous World Convention

President's Day Weekend

February 15, 16, 17, 2002

Seattle, WA

Come enjoy the fellowship of other MA members. The weekend will feature many workshops and meetings, entertainment, banquet, dance, and a raffle. Lots of fun and sharing!

Friday, February 15 *

4-9 Registration
 6 Introduction, Meet & Greet
 7 Taco Salad Bar
 8:15 Announcements
 8:30 Speakers Meeting
 10-1 Entertainment

Saturday, February 16 *

Breakfast on your own
 9-12 Workshops (Meetings)
 12-1:30 Lunch on your own
 1:30-4:45 Workshops
 4:45-6:30 Free Time
 6:30 Banquet Buffet, Raffle
 8 Speakers Meeting
 9:30-1 Musical Entertainment
 & Dance

Sunday, February 17*

Breakfast on your own
 9-10:30 Workshops
 Check-out of Hotel
 11:30-2 Soup & Salad Buffet
 Closing Meeting
 Raffle
 Birthday Countdown

** All times are subject to change!*

The Hospitality Suite will be open all weekend, from 4 pm on Friday until Sunday morning. The suite will have free snacks and drinks, and is a great place to say hello. Vegan food items will be available at the suite and at all meals. Drum Circle, Chair Massage and other surprises TBA. We are working on getting ASL Interpreters for the Deaf, for more info, please contact Mary, sabetto@home.com. Check out the convention website, www.seattlema.org

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Hotel is **not included** in the price of the Convention; you must book your room separately.
 Call the hotel and make a reservation (no reservations booked online!)
 Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98109
 (206) 448-9444 or 1-800-351-9444

Reservations must be made by January 1, 2002

*Our guarantee of a minimum of 25 room nights booked per night ensure our receiving use of meeting rooms and Hospitality Suite free of charge; **PLEASE RESERVE EARLY!!!***

Single or Double Room \$79.00, call for details

IMPORTANT!!! Shuttle Tickets for Airport Transportation are only for those who pre-register!!!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
•Before January 1, 2002 \$40.00	-----	-----	-----
•After January 1, 2002 \$45.00	-----	-----	-----
•Banquet Buffet, Speaker Meeting, Dance (vegan options) \$40.00	-----	-----	-----
GRAND TOTAL:			-----

Any person attending the Banquet will be eligible for the Banquet Raffle, the Banquet is an additional cost

Please make check out for total amount payable to Marijuana Anonymous, and mail to MA Puget Sound Service Committee, PMB 4403, 10002 Aurora Ave. North #36, Seattle, WA 98133-9334

Your anonymity will be protected for all mailing purposes.

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

A Note from the Editors

We apologize for the shortage of stories in this issue. The necessity of printing the LWH errata page, and the final publishing of the Convention order form, as well as the amazing number of birthdays we joyously include, severely limited the space we had available, and precluded us from publishing a story which was sent to us in time for the issue. We promise it will appear next month.

In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our readers for their continued support and appreciation for this small contribution we make each month to the continued recovery of our members, and the growth of the program. As humans, we make many errors; we are glad to stand corrected when necessary; we are grateful for your understanding. We are only too glad to be of service, however falteringly we may carry it out.

We would like to extend to all of you in every part of the globe to which we reach our heartfelt wishes for a safe, growth-filled, serene and joyous year to come. We wish to humbly thank you, our readership, for contributing to our recovery by making our effort in this endeavor possible. We sincerely wish all of you the very best...one day at a time.

MA WORLDWIDE

For Land and Online Meeting Schedules Go To: <http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>

email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

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510.287.8873

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408.450.0796

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206.548.9034

Orange County (District 5) (Includes San Diego)

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358 S. Main
Orange, CA 92868-3834
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619.685.2808

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PO Box 2433
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818.759.9194

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Culver City, CA 90231
323.964.2370

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PO Box 3003
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Market Road, Auckland 3
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649.846.6822

★
★ **Congratulations to Our Members** ★
★ **Celebrating their Sober Birthdays!** ★

District 2

Karen S.	1/??/86	16 Years
Leah	1/??/89	13 Years
Jerry	1/7/91	11 Years
Paul M.	1/??/96	6 Years
Angie	1/??/00	2 Years
John L.	12/15/84	17 Years
Quentin	12/12/00	1 Year!

District 3

Carol G.	1/5/90	12 Years
Bob F.	1/1/95	7 Years
Will N.	1/7/96	6 Years
Bobbe	1/26/97	5 Years
James S.	1/28/97	5 Years
Karen F.	1/18/97	5 Years
Andy C.	1/21/98	4 Years
Chris T.	1/1/99	3 Years

District 4

Bryan D.	1/12/98	4 Years
Mary S-D	1/1/98	4 Years
Paul L.	1/28/99	2 Years

District 5

Mike L.B.	1/10/87	15 Years
Cigar Matt	1/13/88	14 Years
Melody W.	1/16/89	13 Years
Sandy P.	1/1/94	8 Years
Sue "Tracker"	1/5/96	6 Years
Andrea	1/1/99	3 Years
Andrea	1/4/99	3 Years
Kelly	1/8/00	2 Years
Debra	1/10/00	2 Years
Tina	1/14/00	2 Years
Lorn	1/17/00	2 Years
Cory T.	1/1/01	1 Year!

District 6

Dave K.	1/15/89	13 Years
Loren N.	1/14/90	12 Years
Joellen F.	1/26/93	9 Years
Jacqui P.	1/2/94	8 Years
Tim P.	1/2/94	8 Years
Judy S.	1/16/95	7 Years
Robin H.	1/16/95	7 Years
Ben B.	1/4/98	4 Years
Davin	1/20/99	3 Years

District 7

Frank	1/4/88	14 Years
Gerald	1/3/95	7 Years
Debra	1/3/95	7 Years
Jim M.	1/16/95	7 Years
Ali	1/1/99	3 Years
Roy	1/23/99	3 Years
Anna	1/13/00	2 Years
Alicia	1/5/01	1 Year!

District 8

Tony D.	1/23/93	9 Years
Anthony R.	1/2/96	6 Years
Josue	1/1/98	4 Years
Gary B.	1/1/98	4 Years
Eddy P.	1/24/99	3 Years
Marc Y.	1/6/00	2 Years

Idaho

Shane N.	1/11/89	13 Years
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Texas

Eva G. (Austin)	1/1/94	8 Years
Jogi (Houston)	1/9/99	3 Years

Celebrating 366 Years of Sobriety in This Issue!