



# A NEW LEAF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MA NEWSLETTER  
2628 PROSPECT AVENUE  
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214

FEBRUARY 1992  
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FAX#: 213-261-5192

## EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR MA AS A WHOLE

(Sobriety Requirements)

Sometimes when new GSRs attend their first few General Service Meetings they look around and say "Hey your're trying to tell us how to run our meetings!" No, we're not. There are, however, a few rules in running the society of MA, and it wouldn't hurt if all of us knew them.

Our district voted, quite some time ago, that all meeting secretaries and GSRs should be sober by MA's definition of Sobriety - free from marijuana, alcohol, and all mind altering substances. We didn't want newcomers attending meetings where some "off the wall" secretary was guiding a renegade meeting. We didn't want GSRs to still be drinking or snorting and have a vote in how our district is run. Meetings who don't follow these guidelines run the risk of being considered a renegade meeting and having their meeting pulled from the directory. This is not a "control" issue as to what's happening at your meeting, but a way to protect our members, and particularly newcomers, from ending up at meetings that don't meet their needs. Our Trustees and Delegates must be Sober and at the May 1991 World Service Conference it was voted on at conference level that meeting secretaries should be Sober. This was done because the sobriety level of our meetings affects MA as a whole. (I'd personally hate to go on vacation and attend what I thought was a sober meeting only to have the group go out for a few beers after the meeting!). We'd like to see treasurers and all other commitments at meetings be sober too, we do recommend that, and we even recommend six months sobriety, but that's at meeting level. Any meeting willing to trust their money to an addict who's still using something is free to do so. (Just don't be surprised if your money, chips, or coffee pot

## HELPLINE



If you need to  talk, here's a list of people who would like to listen.

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Carol M . . . . .         | 818-708-0717 |
| Loren N . . . . .         | 818-509-1715 |
| Al & Michelle E . . . . . | 818-994-3161 |
| Karie M . . . . .         | 818-884-1223 |
| Terri R . . . . .         | 818-563-6689 |
| Tina K . . . . .          | 818-564-1601 |
| Dave K . . . . .          | 818-348-3180 |
| Az A. . . . .             | 714-288-9139 |
| Fred M. . . . .           | 213-558-3864 |

*Remember, we are not alone - we are all here to help each other.*



## Happy Birthday!! Whoa, Cake City!!

- Susan G. January 2 Eight years**
- Harry T. January 14 One year**
- Rick B. February 1 Three years**
- Lisa February 1 One year**
- Tom M. February 1 One year**
- Gretchen D. February 2 Two years**
- Mike K. February 4 Four years**
- Kyung S. February 5 One year**
- Karn February 5 Three years**
- George B. February 6 Four years**
- Craig A. February 8 One year**
- Bill D. February 9 Two years**
- Christine S. February 13 Two years**
- Lorraine K. February 15 One year**
- Julie M. February 18 One year**
- Randy H. February 24 Two years**
- Margaret H. February 24 One year**
- Terry M. February 24 Four years**
- Matty D. February 29 Four years**

(Continued from page One) When you see a member's number in the newsletter Helpline, you can be sure that the editors are as sure as they can be that the member is Sober. That's for your protection, not a control issues. Those members also have a year or more Sobriety. That's for their protection. (Just wait till you get your first phone call from a loose cannon in free flight out there...you better have your head screwed on right.)

Our Hospital Panels represent MA and as such should portray the gifts and positive side of sobriety. If the Chair of Hospitals and Institutions knows that you're still drinking your name will be removed from the panel sign up list. Or, if you

usually do a forty-five minute drug-o-log instead of just qualifying, and don't share any strength and hope, you can be assured that your name will eventually be quietly pulled from the list. That's why we have an H & I Chair. Those patients need to have some believe that things are going to get better in sobriety and that they won't spend the rest of their lives thinking about how they used to drink or use. What you do and say on a panel affects their thoughts about MA, as a whole, for the rest of their lives.

These rules are not "control" issues. They are there for the good of our members - current ones, future ones, and even unborn ones. Anon



**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**FEBRUARY 14-16**

Call Mike L. B.  
**FEBRUARY 29**  
 DISTRICTS 5 & 6  
 Call DAVE K. (Dist. 6)  
**MARCH 21**  
 WATCH FOR FLYER

**CAMPOUT**  
**STONE CREEK, Idyllwild**  
 714-547-3693  
**SOBER SOFTBALL GAME**  
 818-348-3180  
**Hike**  
**CHANNY FLATS**

♪ **NOTES FROM DISTRICT 6** ♪

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THE YARD SALE! THE SALE NETTED \$956.00 FOR MA. KEEP UP THE good work!

District 6 is looking to put together two softball teams, a mens and a coed. So contact us if you're interested: Dave K., 818-348-3180 or George B., 818-771-0704, ASAP.

**GENERAL SERVICE MEETING**

Thursday, March 5, 1992 7:00 PM  
 9919 La Tuna Canyon, Sun Valley

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**HOSPITAL AND INSITUATIONS NEEDS  
 PANEL LEADERS! Contact Terry M. 818-  
 771-0125.**

## Sobriety - An Another View

Few issues in **MA** have been as controversial as the one concerning the definition of sobriety. When I first started attending meetings, which were **MSA**, the definition pertained to marijuana. After the unity conference and much dissention, a definition of sobriety as free from marijuana, alcohol and other mind altering substances was finally agreed upon. On the surface, this seems fairly reasonable, but there are problems with this that I would like to address.

First of all, does Alcoholics Anonymous, the program from which we get our cue in almost all matters, feel it necessary to tell its members that sobriety does not include marijuana, barbiturates, cocaine or other mind-altering substances? No. Do AA meetings end with everyone getting together around a bong or a couple of lines of coke as a result? Somehow, I think not. At the risk of sounding facetious, it seems to me that if the body that calls itself **MA** wants to address these other issues, they should call themselves Marijuana, Alcohol, and All Mind Altering Substances Anonymous.

Secondly, does this include caffeine and cigarettes? Why draw the line and not include these substances? Please don't tell me cigarettes are addicting. In every discussion of sobriety I have been involved in, this issue has always been skirted.

Before I go any further I think I should also qualify this with my own personal history: I had over eighteen months of "sobriety", before I changed my sobriety date to include marijuana, alcohol and all mind altering substances. I now have just over a year of sobriety under the new definition. My personal feeling was that, although quitting pot (by far, my drug of choice) was remarkable and worthy of affirmation, my true sobriety did not start until I had stopped everything. But, the important word here is **personal**. Ours is a spiritual program, with all of us making personal decisions concerning our inner lives on a daily basis. I can no sooner tell you what your own sobriety should be than tell you how to run your program or live your life. This, to me, would be taking your inventory. While the openness of **MA** meetings is wonderful (my "home" meeting talks about life more than drugs), it should not be forgotten that we are here to help the marijuana

addict who still suffers. There are other programs which are much better set up to address the particular effects of alcohol, cocaine, etc.

Finally, the definition as it now stands sets up a "two-tiered" hierarchy of members. It's like saying "Sure, you can come and contribute to our meeting, we just don't trust you being secretary or treasurer". This reminds me of some religious institutions that deny any prejudice, but yet keep women and minorities from attaining any position of power or trust. How can we talk of unconditional love without unconditional acceptance? I recall with sadness a meeting that had six or seven newcomers where the subject of sobriety was brought up. None of them ever returned and I can't help but think the resulting rancor and divisiveness that occurred may have, unfortunately, contributed to this.

I would ask you all to search your hearts and see if this definition stands up to a very simple test. Does this definition come from love or fear?

Steve E.

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*When trudging our individual road of recovery, the path sometimes gets so narrow and so bumpy, that the vision of our goals and dreams are lost. It is during these times the Principles of our Program need to be remembered, practiced and thought of often. The principles such as LETTING GO ABSOLUTELY; TRUSTING IN GOD, REMEMBERING WE ARE POWERLESS; BELIEVING OTHERS BELIEVE IN US WHEN WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN OURSELVES; REACHING OUT TO OTHERS; KNOWING IT WILL GET BETTER; and remembering that change is the one constant thing in life.*

*It is throughout these hard times the Principles are most important, yet the hardest to remember and to practice. A famous quote states:*

**"PAIN IS SIMPLY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IS**

**AND WHAT I WANT IT TO BE".**

*We need to remember that what we want "it" to be, and what God has in His plans may not always be the same. Faith is the key in believing that His plan is more wonderful and more glorious than we can ever imagine. God loves us in a way that is so incredible, and because of that love, He knows what is best and what will make us happy, loving people. LETTING GO ABSOLUTELY and TRUSTING IN GOD, is without a doubt, my most important key to peace of mind and serenity in my sobriety. Anon*



# Southern California Marijuana Anonymous Schedule of Meetings

Updated 2-6-92



## SUNDAY

4:30 PM Hollywood - Book Study  
Fountain and Fairfax

5:30 PM Glendale - Discussion \*(25/C4)  
225-D N. Maryland Ave.  
(Positive Directions Activity Center)

7:00 PM Newport Bah - Open Panel \*(33/C4,O.C) H/A  
301 Newport Blvd. (Patient Lounge)  
(Hoag Hospital Chemical Dependency Unit)

## MONDAY

7:30 PM Orange - Participation \*(17/B4,O.C.) H/A  
1100 W. Stewart  
(Sister Elizabeth Recovery Center)

8:00 PM North Hollywood - Participatn. \*(16/A5) H/A  
6455 Coldwater Canyon Blvd.  
(Life Plus Institute)

8:30 PM W. Hllywd "Rastamaa Vibrations" \*(33/D5)  
8939-1/2 Santa Monica Blvd., Upstairs  
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alkohol Center)

## TUESDAY

7:30 PM Orange - Women's Stag \*(17/E2)  
(At the end of Oakmont Ave,  
behind school grounds in trailer)

8:00 PM Mar Vista - Participation \*(49/F2) H/A  
3590 Grandview Blvd.  
(2 blk N. Venice - 1 blk E. Centinela)  
(St. Bede's Episcopal Church)

7:30 PM Orange - "Roach Motel"  
401 S. Tustin Ave.  
(OC Comm. Hospital Cafeteria)

8:30 PM Woodland Hills - Participation \*(13/D1)H/A  
20969 Ventura Blvd. #19  
(French Quarter Building)

## WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM Lancaster - Step Study/Partcpm \*(160/B5)  
44743 Yucca Avenue  
(Old Skating Rink)

7:00 PM Pasadena \*(27/F4)  
2900 East Del Mar Blvd.  
(Las Encinas Hospital)

7:30 PM Culver City - Beginner's Meeting \*(42/C6)  
3853 Dunn Dr.  
(1 blk E. of Clarington - N. of Washington  
(Cornerstone House)

8:00 PM Costa Mesa - Big Bk Stdy \*(31/C1,O.C.) H/A  
661 Hamilton, Room 640  
(REA Community Center)

8:00 PM North Hollywood - Discussion \*(15/F5)  
6323 Woodman Ave (1/2 blk S. of Victory)  
(Crossroads Hospital)

8:00 PM Van Nuys - Book & Step Study \*(15/C4)  
15220 Vanowen Blvd.  
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)

8:15 PM Los Angeles - Participation \*(34/B4)  
1213 N. Highland Ave  
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Services Center  
All Welcome

## THURSDAY

8:00 PM Mar Vista \*(49/F2) H/A  
3590 Grandview Blvd.  
(2 blk N. Venice - 1 blk E. Centinela)  
(St. Bede's Episcopal Church)

8:00 PM Mission Viejo - Stp Stdy "Last Connection"  
23228 Madero, Conference Room  
Mission Viejo Charter Hospital

## FRIDAY

6:30 PM Pasadena \*(27/B3) H/A  
131 N. El Molino, #320  
(Pasadena Cnd on Alcoholism/Drug Dep.)

7:30 PM Orange "TGIF" Step Study\*(17/B4,O.C.) H/A  
812 Town and Country  
(Ground Floor, Room 13)

8:00 PM Northridge - Participation \*(14/C1) H/A  
18420 Roscoe (at Reseda Blvd)  
(Pavilion Plaza)

8:30 PM West Hollywood \*(33/D5)  
"Resin Resisters" - Step Study  
8939-1/2 Santa Monica Blvd. Upstairs  
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alkohol Center)

## SATURDAY

10:30 AM Los Angeles - Speaker Meeting. \*(34/B4)  
1213 N. Highland Ave  
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Services Center  
All Welcome

12:00 Noon Woodland Hills - Spkr Meeting \*(12/E5)  
6201 Winnetka Avenue, Room #0362  
(Pierce College Campus Center)

12:00 Noon Whittier - Participation  
Room #N  
122200 Washington Blvd.

6:00 PM San Diego, "Weed Whackers"  
9184 Gramercy Dr. (Von's Shopping Center)  
(Serenity Shop - Back Room)

## LEGEND

\* - Thomas Guide Coordinates  
H/A - Handicapped Accessible

For Information on Meetings  
in Other Areas, Call  
1-800-766-6779

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