



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

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THE LAST BAG

I had attended the Thanksgiving Meeting-A-Thon in Mar Vista at St. Bedes Church for my Thanksgiving Day. During one of the meetings I had raised my hand to share and was called upon. I talked about my using times and some sobriety things and acknowledged the presence of my "Eskimo" who was present in the room for that meeting.

When the meeting was over I was approached by my Eskimo and heard her say, "You forgot to talk about the last bag story!" Well, I told her that I am now 4 1/2 years clean and sober and said, I just don't think about "those" using times anymore. She replied that it was a critical turning point in my sobriety for me and I shouldn't forget it.

Well, for several days I thought about why I needed to remember the moment I went from a 30 year-using Marijuana addict to making a decision to turn my life over to a bunch of strangers (ex-drug-addicts) who had some words I was unfamiliar with and a program I knew nothing about.

Here's what I learned about day one 4 1/2 years later. The following Sunday I went to another of my regular meetings and was planning to just listen to others speak (you know, "suit up, show up & shut up").

After one fellow took a newcomer chip and talked about 26 years of abusing Marijuana and how scared he was for his life and how glad he was he had found MA, I was struck with the familiarity of the "last bag."

Then another took a one-year chip and again I was reminded of my own hard work and how important that one-year chip was to me and

again I was remembering the "last bag." As the meeting went on and several other people shared, I knew I had to raise my hand. I had to share about the "last bag" because at that time, 4 1/2 years ago, it was so important to my program. I now know how important it is to share with other addicts, especially the "newcomer."

Here's my story about the "last bag." I came to MA in March of 1996 after having tried sobriety through a hospital program and failed, and personal attempts and failed. I then took advantage of my work's medical insurance and went to an Outpatient Program.

***I had to destroy
my
"last great bag"***

After only one session, a stranger came up to me and we began to talk. He asked me if I was also going to the Tuesday Mar Vista meeting after this one. I told him I didn't know anything about it. He offered me directions and I followed him to my first MA meeting. It was comfortable; I heard things I liked hearing, the people seemed pretty cool. I was OK with it for now.

At the end of the meeting, I met my first Eskimo who did all the things addicts with time do for the newcomers. By the third or fourth week in the program, I met another person who actually became my second Eskimo.

Keep in mind one thing, when I came through those proverbial

doors for the first time I was desperate and beaten from long-term stupidity, marijuana abuse of the worst kind.

When my two Eskimos heard my beginner's shares and heard my story they 12-stepped me several times in several ways. "If you want to get and stay clean and sober you have to get rid of all your paraphernalia and pot in order to make a real commitment to yourself and the program."

Yeah! Right! OK! I was willing to toss my pipes (several) out of the car window as I was driving around town, beginning to think of my powerlessness over Marijuana and my desperation to get and stay clean and sober after 30 years.

I could toss the rolling papers, bong, roach clip holders and other stuff out the window and make a commitment to getting clean and sober.

When I returned to one of my now-regular meetings and met with my Eskimos (or they met with me) and was asked if I had gotten rid of all of my "stuff" I said yes. I felt good about that. All that money out the window, all in the name of getting clean and sober. Then one of my Eskimos asked me did you also get rid of that "bag" of pot I had just scored? "Ah...oh! Well, you see, I, well, I got rid of all my paraphernalia so I don't have any way to get high, besides, I just want to hold on to it a little bit longer. You know, just to smell once in awhile, you know?"

Then came my second 12th step. All the reasons why I had to let go absolutely; why I couldn't hold on to my old ways and ideas; why I had

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.

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Send all articles, inquiries and correspondence to:
anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org

A New Leaf
P.O. Box 6482
Torrance, CA 90504

or submit online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on the newsletter tab.

The Last Bag continued...

to get rid of everything including the "last bag" of pot. I heard what they were saying but they didn't understand what that "last bag" really meant to me. It was the Kush of green bud, I had spent a lot of money on it and I just wanted to hold on to it a little bit longer. They just didn't understand. Yeah, right.

I found out later through their own shares, that their addictions were equal to mine or even greater than mine but they just didn't understand. So, after one of the regular meetings I was asked to do one of two things. I could either go home and get rid of the "last bag" or to give it to some person who will give me the money for it and he will empty it or destroy it somewhere, somehow.

Yeah, right. I'm going to give a total stranger my "last bag" of dope to destroy for me. HA! So that night when I got home after the meeting, teary-eyed and angry with my Eskimos that I had to destroy my "last great bag" of pot, I went into the bathroom, raised the lid to the toilet and began a ceremony dedicated to that flush. One tear, then another bud, flush, and another and another and another. And then it was all gone and I was so totally spent from that experience I knew right then and there that my smoking and using and abusing days were over for good.

Today I have over 4 and 1/2 years of sobriety and there are some lessons from that time I would like to share with you.

First, to my good friend David, who took me from the hospital to MA and always told me that I would get what he could not, became true. Today, I have only his memory because he could not get rid of the "last bag." He could not give up the old ways and ideas of the past. For

him and countless others, I value my sobriety.

Second, this program is not easy but it is simple for those that want a better way of life for themselves and their families.

Third, I have learned that if you put your hand out in MA and ask for help, you will be amazed at how many hands will reach back and say, "Grab hold, everything will be ok." I do truly owe my life to MA and my two Eskimos, without them reaching out to me and saying, "grab hold, it will be ok" I would still be experimenting for you and would probably die thinking. "I too could not get it either." Here's to my Eskimos, thank you and God bless.

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Surrender Your Stories to The New Leaf!

ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

Where does hope come from?

(Please submit answers by March 17, 2012)

Tradition Two

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God whose expression may come through in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Step Two

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

FOR THE PROCRASTINATORS!
HURRY-HURRY-HURRY!
ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT TO "MASS RECOVERY!"

Registration Form
Annual MA Convention
February 17-19, 2012
Biltmore Hotel and Suites – Santa Clara, CA



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check here if you'd like an e-mail confirming your registration

Check here if you'd like a mailed confirmation (please send self-addressed stamped envelope)

	Cost	Amount Paid
Registration (complete*) before 12/31/11	\$95	
Registration (complete*) before 02/01/12	\$125	
Raffle Tickets	\$1 x ____ (qty)	
Scholarship Fund		

*Complete registration includes Friday Night Talent Show, Saturday Workshops & Lunch, Saturday Banquet and Dance, Sunday Brunch

*****NOTE: Walk-in Registration Price: \$165*****

Complete **one form per person** with a check or money order payable to **MA District 3**
 Mail to: MA District 3, C/O Convention Treasurer P.O. Box 551 Saratoga, CA 95071- 0551

Questions? E-mail: registration@maconvention2012.org
 Find the latest convention information at <http://madistrict3.org/maconvention2012/>

Please reserve your room today! Ask for the Marijuana Anonymous Convention rates.

Biltmore Hotel and Suites - Santa Clara, California

2151 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara, CA 95054
 Reservations: 800-255-9925

2 Room Tower Suite (King/Sofa Sleeper) \$79.00 Single/Double \$89.00 Triple \$99.00 Quad
 Garden Room (Queen/Queen) \$69.00 Single/Double \$79.00 Triple \$99.00 Quad

Room rates include a breakfast for each person. (Breakfast is only for registered hotel guests)
 Free transportation to and from airport provided by the hotel. Contact 408-988-8411 to make arrangements.
 Free parking available at the hotel.

A la carte registration for the following events will be available on the day of the event (prices TBD)
Friday Night Talent Show, Saturday Workshops & Lunch, Saturday Banquet & Dance, Sunday Brunch

marijuana anonymous worldwide

MA World Services

PO Box 7807 Torrance, CA90504 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

PO Box 20484 Oakland, CA 94620 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 No.

PO Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 818.759.9194

District 7 LA County So.

PO Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 323.943.9228

District 8 New York

PO Box 1244 Cooper Station New York, NY 10276 212.459.4423

District 10 LA County East

PO Box 94400 Pasadena, CA 91109 626.583.9582

District 11 Portland

PO Box 2012 Portland, OR 97208-2012 503.221.7007

District 12 North Bay, CA

PO Box 2842 Petaluma, CA 94952 415.419.3555 707.583.2326

District 13 MA Online

www.ma-online.org

District 14 London, England

07940.503438

District 15 Long Island, NY

www.ma-longisland.org 516-568-5883

District 16 Melbourne, Australia

24HR. info 0403 945 083 from overseas +61 403 945 083

District 17 Denmark

info@ma-kbh.dk

For a complete listing of all meetings visit www.marijuana-anonymous.org

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

MAWS is conducting an “Effectiveness Survey” to evaluate what the society of MA thinks about MAWS’ service to date, to Districts, meetings and members. We hope to collect a society-wide group conscience to give direction to the type of work in which MAWS should be engaged and help evaluate MAWS’ current ability and potential to serve MA’s needs as conveyed by that MA group conscience.

SHARE YOUR OPINION. This month we would like your, your groups’, and/or your Districts’ answers to the following questions:
 1. With “Principles Before Personalities” in mind, are we careful to preserve the anonymity of both MAWS members (Trustees, Delegates, and Paid Workers) and general MA members when sharing information that comes from any MAWS related communication

(meeting sessions, conference calls, yahoo groups, etc.)?
 2. (Tradition 2) Does MAWS do anything that misrepresents the conscience of the majority of the group?
 For more details, please go to the website forum.marijuana-anonymous.org. To submit your ideas and share your thoughts on these questions email us at mes@marijuana-anonymous.org.

Birthdays

Celebrating 247 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? 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.

District 1

Lori B. 1/11/02 10 yrs.
 Brian S. 1/13/07 5 yrs.

District 5

Hillary. 1/1/09 3 yrs.
 Tony R. 1/1/03 9 yrs.
 John S. 1/5/07 5 yrs.
 Jon C. 1/7/07 5 yrs.
 Jordon. 1/10/10 2 yrs.
 Melody. 1/16/89 23 yrs.
 Layne. 1/17/10 2 yrs.
 Lisa S. 12/07/93 19 yrs.
 Jaime. 12/07/06 6 yrs.
 Russel T. 12/12/08 4 yrs.

District 6

Loren N. 1/14/90 22 yrs.
 Scott T. 12/24/05 6 yrs.
 Judy S. 1/16/95 17 yrs.

District 7

Karen S. 12/28/07 4 yrs.
 Rob H. 12/30/00 11 yrs.
 Mike M. 1/3/10 2 yrs.
 Debra M. 1/3/95 17 yrs.
 Emily H. 1/5/10 2 yrs.
 Alicia F. 1/5/01 11 yrs.
 Mike LB. 1/10/87 25 yrs.

District 8

Ar. 12/31/08 3 yrs.

District 11

Holly D. 12/21/10 1 YEAR!
 Mike F. 12/28/98 13 yrs.
 John C. 1/1/99 13 yrs.
 Tommy S. 1/12/04 7 yrs.

KEEP COMING BACK!

