



A NEW LEAF

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A Taste of Serenity by Charles

My name is Charles, and I'm a marijuana addict. I started smoking pot when I was 17 years old. I started my recovery at age 37. If I can stay a non-smoker for another 18 months I will have smoked pot for half my life. With my love for my children, my relationship with my higher power and my fellow addicts that work the steps, I truly hope I can stay a non smoker for the rest of my life.

My fellow addicts create rooms that help me learn coping skills in a safe place where I can share honestly about myself without feeling judged. My higher power gives me my feeling of knowing I don't have to do life on life's terms all by myself.

Marijuana was very instrumental in helping me live in my privately defined world. Even before I started smoking pot I was very defiant. I believe that being raised with unconditional love, being the middle of six kids and being an airforce brat that moved every four years enabled me to be a quitter. The last grade I finished in school was the eighth grade. I started to smoke pot in the 9th grade. I found something I could be good at, and it was easy; my love affair was started.

I was a janitor at night for a boss that smoked dope, and I had money for my own pot. I was well liked by my friends. My only goals were sex and being the best stoner I could be. I went from being a janitor to an alarm installer back to a janitor. I met the mother of my children and in five weeks we were married. We married each other for wrong reasons. Even though we fell out of love early and spent a good part of nine and a half years be-

ing sad, I'm very, very grateful for my two "helpers." My kids have always given me a sense of purpose, and they give me more pride than I've ever had.

My wife and I were looking at separating just before our daughter was born. Being the quitter that I was, I figured I would leave before my daughter got to know me. I made a serious attempt at suicide. Through all this sadness I knew I loved my kids more than life itself. I'm still able to love my kids, and this is why I call them my helpers. When the kids were six and nine we divorced. I know in my heart I will do everything I'm supposed to and as much as I can for them. I love them unconditionally.

Even though I got high almost every day of my affair with marijuana I always thought it wasn't a problem because I could wait until after work to get high. Now I can see just how many decisions in life pot made for me. My life revolved around smoking pot and staying high all the time. Even though I wouldn't get high before work, hours before I was off I was already thinking about getting high. If there was overtime to be had and I knew I had enough money for my smoke I would turn it down because that meant I would have to wait longer to get high. My only hobby was my kids, because I was able to get a buzz and play, play, play. When my ex wife had our kids it meant all I had to do was get high, have sex, get high again, eat, get high again and go to sleep.

I thought I had my kids fooled because I never got high in front of them. Four years into my next love experience she and I had a big fight in front of my kids about my marijuana usage. My kids told me they knew I smoked dope. I

Clean Time

by Mauz

I have been clean for one year, 5 months and 15 days.

That is 533 One Day At A Times. Once I opened up my heart and got honest, first with myself, I opened up to my family doctor. She is a very lovely lady who held no judgements against me, only listened and empathised, and it made me feel better about myself and my decision to open up to her. The desire to smoke no longer consumed my every thought.

I found MA online, learned that there are no face-to-face meetings anywhere in my home state, and relied on the online community and online meetings to keep my sanity and my strength. But most importantly I turned it over to my Higher power, whom I call God.

There were many times when I prayed to stop smoking pot. But when I prayed I was usually stoned, paranoid, and really not enjoying the stoned effect. I thought maybe I should try praying when I was straight, and I truly believe that it was my higher power guiding me to open up to my doctor, and it was she who helped me find MA online. It wasn't easy, but as I was told, it was simple: Just don't use today! With the support I received from so many others in the same situation as me, I was no longer alone in my addiction or my recovery.

I still share my life with an active user, but he keeps it away from me, and for that I am grateful. Knowing it is there is sometimes really hard for me, especially if I get a whiff of it. Sometimes when it smells really nice, my inner addict tries to overwhelm me, but I refuse to give up my clean time for one toke that I know will not be enough for this addict. I know other times,

both concluded on page two



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:
ANLP@marijuana-anonymous.org
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A New Leaf
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North Hollywood, CA 91617

A Taste of Serenity *concluded*

asked how and they said that they had found some of my pot, that they could smell it in the garage and that they overheard my friends talking about it. I felt so shameful that I promised them that I would quit and if I couldn't do it on my own I would get some help. I was able to stop for almost six months, but I started smoking again.

I found a good job through a job service center. I had only been clean for about nine days and thought that would be enough. I went all the way through the hiring process and was offered the job. I was so proud that I told everybody. The day I was supposed to start they told me my drug test was positive and that I could go take another test. I went down and took another one even though I knew I wouldn't pass because I got high to celebrate. I didn't have what it takes to tell them to their faces that I was a user. I had to tell my girlfriend and she gave me an ultimatum that I get some outside help like I promised or we couldn't stay together.

Well, it was hard, but I told everybody I didn't get the job and why. Then I found my way to my first MA meeting. I didn't share until my third meeting, and after my share the group let me know I was in the right place. It must have been the right time for me because I did and continue to feel I'm in the right place.

I am so thankful that I am getting a second chance on life. I have had a taste of serenity, and I love the flavor. I am getting much better at choosing my response. I can recognize my negative self talk and change it to looking for some good. I am on a mission to be the wholest person I can be. My relationship with my helpers is changing from seeking to be understood to seeking to understand. I am hoping I get to change something in the world to the better. I get alot of strength from saying the serenity prayer to myself. I am also hoping this letter helps someone figure out they don't have to do it alone.

Clean Time *concluded*

when I have tried to stop on my own, all it has taken is one hit, and before I knew it I was back to daily smoking, several times a day.

It's a cunning thing, the addict within, but with constant vigilance, support, and prayer it can be contained.

Being of service has also helped considerably in keeping me clean, as it keeps me accountable of my clean time.

Taking up interests in other areas that keep me away from pot and help me to enjoy my life as I should not just living an illusion but really living life on life's terms has also helped me keep clean.

Thanks to all of you for your part in keeping me clean.

Thank You District 4!

A big special thanks to all the folks in District 4 for their hard work and dedication in putting on a fantastic "Smokeless in Seattle" convention. The meetings, workshops, and speakers were all great, the fellowship was inspiring, and a good time was had by some 100 recovering potheads. There was even an Elvis sighting! Thank you Seattle, and thank you MA!

LWH2: Apologies and a Correction...cont'd

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 the errata page of page iv 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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Step Five	21
Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.	
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Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.	
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Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.	
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Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.	
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Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.	
Step Eleven	55
Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, <i>as we understood</i> <i>God</i> , praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.	

From the Trustees

Following are some items from the Trustees meeting of August 25 we were asked to include in this issue.

- Bean L. and the Trustees are continuing to work on updates to the webpage.
- The Office Manager has been working on the project of compiling a record of the passed Conference motions to date.
- David V.B. and Delegate Mike H. are working on the consolidation of the suggested meeting format for the Service Manual.
- Alan B. and David V.B. have been working on revising the 3rd Legacy Procedure, for corrections to the grammar and clarity of the document, which will be an agenda item for the 2002 Conference.
- A kind MA member donated a lap top computer for the Office Manager.
- Ron H. is working on the creation of a P.I. Information Sheet
- Alan B. is progressing on the production of the PSA
- The Trustees and the ANLP Board have been working on the e-publishing of the Conference-approved pamphlets

A Note of Thanks... and of Welcome

ANLP would like to extend its sincere gratitude for all the hard work and time Debra C. has put in over the last year as the Managing Editor of A New Leaf. Fortunately, Debra will not be leaving ANLP, but will be stepping in as the Secretary on the executive board of ANLP. ANLP would also like to welcome Paul G. from Portland who is the new Managing Editor of A New Leaf.

MA WORLDWIDE

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

email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

MA World Service Office

PO Box 2912
Van Nuys, CA 91404
800-766-6779

San Francisco (Dist. 1)

PO Box 460024
San Francisco, CA
94146-0025
415.522.7373

East Bay (District 2)

PO Box 8354
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.287.8873

South Bay (District 3)

408.450.0796

Seattle (District 4)

POB #17323
Seattle, WA 98107-1023
206.548.9034

Orange County (District 5) (Includes San Diego)

PMB #215
358 S. Main
Orange, CA 92868-3834
714.999.9409
619.685.2808

LA County No. (District 6)

PO Box 2433
Van Nuys, CA 91404
818.759.9194

LA County So. (District 7)

PO Box 3012
Culver City, CA 90231
323.964.2370

New York (District 8)

PO Box 1244
Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10276
212.459.4423

Santa Cruz (District 9)

PO Box 3003
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
831.427.4088

LA County East (District 10)

PO Box 94400
Pasadena, CA 91109
626.583.9582

Portland (District 11)

PO Box 2012
Portland, OR 97208-2012
503.221.7007

North Bay, CA (District 12)

PO Box 1001
Petaluma, CA 94952
707-583-2326

Austin, TX

higherground_austin@yahoo.com

Chester Co., PA Chapter

PO Box 194
Sadsburyville, PA 19362
610.622.9243

Chicago

Ma_chicago@hotmail.com

Colorado

303.607.7516

Idaho

208.602.2997

Ithaca, NY

ma_ithaca@yahoo.com

Australia

MA Australia
PO Box 202
Hindmarsh, 5007
South Australia
0.500.502.654
maaustralia@yahoo.com.au

Rogue Valley, OR Chapter

541.941.2995

London, England Chapter

07940.503438

New Zealand

MA Service Centre
PO Box 74-386
Market Road, Auckland 3
New Zealand
649.846.6822



District 2 (1 Correction)

Robin	3/29/99
Tim V.	3/1/94
Jerri	3/9/97
Don C.	3/31/97
Ethan	3/28/01
Kurt A.	10/6/00

District 3

Roger W.	3/9/92	10 Years
Ken G.	3/18/96	6 Years
Shirleen N.	3/17/99	3 Years
Jonh F.	3/12/00	2 Years

District 5

Jenet R.	3/17/88	14 Yersars
Steve M.	3/27/89	13 Years
Gary D.	3/19/93	9 Years
Diana	3/28/95	7 Years
John P.	3/27/98	4 Years

District 7

Bruce	3/24/90	12 Years
Michael C.	3/25/93	9 Years

District 7 (cont'd)

Eugene	3/17/94	8 Years
Richard D.	3/1/96	6 Years
Noelle	3/21/96	6 Years
Ron H.	3/21/99	3 Years
Caimin	3/28/99	3 Years
Christopher	3/5/00	2 Years
Charles	3/17/00	2 Years
Greg A.	3/17/00	2 Years
Jeff	3/28/00	2 Years
David L.	3/??/00	2 Years

District 8

Eric R.	3/15/98	4 Years
Carol K.	3/7/00	2 Years

District 11

Maria S.	3/15/97	5 Years
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Idaho

Sara J.	3/12/99	3 Years
Leanne LeBerg	3/6/00	2 Years
Chris Jones	3/16/00	2 Years

Celebrating 177 Years of Sobriety in This Issue!