



Finding My Purpose: A MAWS Trustee Report

Four and a half years ago there was nothing and no one in my life more important than getting high. Actually, there was nothing and no one in my life, period. Now, I'm sober and you people are *everywhere* - in my house, on my phone, at my meals, in my car, and not to mention my meetings and my overtaxed email inbox. I'm surrounded. And I like it.

I have been of Service to Marijuana Anonymous since I first got here. I have had, at one time or another, every commitment at the meeting level. I have had several different commitments at the District level, I have been a Delegate at the World Service Conference and I

have been on the MAWS Board of Trustees for the past two years. Lord help me, I love a good business meeting! Being of Service to my fellowship keeps me tethered, keeps me sober.

However a strong Fellowship and a strong Service ethic do not necessarily equal a strong Program.

I was feeling very stuck. I hadn't been making progress in my life, but I hadn't been smoking pot either, and armed with that fact (and my uncanny ability to bend reality to suit me) I had cozied up to my complacency. Then, at a Convention, I chose to go to a morning Big Book workshop. I figured it couldn't hurt. I ended

up staying for all eight hours of that three-part workshop. I sat, eyes wide, heart open, as the Big Book was laid out for me in a way I had never heard it before. One of my Fellows with long-term sobriety was reading aloud from the first 164 pages. Line by line, he dissected. He shared how he'd used this roadmap for recovery to save his own life. I was spell bound. Afterwards, I told my friends that the Big Book had never before seemed so "flesh and blood" to me. I felt the Promises within reach, if I just did what he, and so many others, had done. If I just did the work, I could save my *own* life. I welled up with hope and with gratitude.

(Continued on page 2)

Rediscovery

By the time I finally got clean there was little in my life that I enjoyed. The hopeless and depressed feelings brought on by years of marijuana abuse had left me with very little joy in my life. I never thought there were things I would enjoy again after sobriety. In fact, it was just the opposite. For years I had tried therapy, anti-depressants, new jobs, exercise, etc to reconnect with some joy in my life. It was only after years of trying all these things while still using marijuana

that I slowly came to the realization that addiction was my problem. Since I've been sober and free from marijuana, I have rediscovered many of the activities that used to give me joy prior to my over 25 years of marijuana abuse and addiction. I am rediscovering the beauty of reality.

~Anonymous



Newfound Freedom

I started smoking weed at 11 years old. Today I am 40 and in recovery. I thought for a long

time that I couldn't survive one day without weed. My mind didn't see a way out of the addiction. By the grace of God I have surrendered all to him and I have recognized that I am powerless over weed. It's sad to say that weed controlled my very existence for quite some time. I have been clean for about 6 months now and it feels very good. Everything has changed, including my awareness about people places and things. I love my newfound freedom.

~ Patricia H.



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.

District Bureau Chiefs

- District 1: Lewis B.
- District 2: Hollis H.
- District 3: Mark S.
- District 4: Tad V.P.
- District 5: John S.
- District 6: Kevin B.
- District 7: Rob H.
- District 8: Larry L.
- District 9: Rockin' Rob
- District 10: Dan K.
- District 11: Lisa C.
- District 12: Jim B.
- District 13: Susie K.
- District 15: Gary K.

ANLP Staff

- Office Manager: Tom W.
- Field Editor: Sean F.
- Publishing Editor: Kathy B.
- Secretary: Susan B.
- Treasurer: Terry H.
- Chairperson: John McC.

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 publications

Love by Peggy S.

Just wanted to submit a poem that I wrote and I wanted to share with all the Moms out there:

Destruction with a view is what I see;
Trying to teach them all they could be

A Mother's love is not enough;
For they'd rather stumble and have it rough

They won't give up their precious weed;
For this is their Mother they think that they need

They say I can quit anytime that I choose;
Believing weed's lies, surely they'll lose

It's hard to watch evil turn good into bad;
I taught them my best, with all that I had

All I can do is sit back and pray;
Hoping my love will bring them back some day



Finding My Purpose

(Continued from page 1)

However, my gratitude did not stop with the Leader of this workshop, or with the Alcoholics who wrote the Big Book and helped build the Twelve Step program. Remember, I'm a Service Junkie. I knew that several of my Fellows had been working hard for months before hand to organize this convention. They had given their time and had scoured their resources to put this major event together. Someone had researched and booked the hotel. Someone had gathered Speakers and Workshop Leaders from near and far to share their experiences in recovery. Someone had designed a program for the event that I casually looked over while I

decided where I'd spend the first couple hours on that Saturday morning. All this, and so much more, had been lovingly put in place by a volunteer committee of addicts, so that I was able to walk in, take a seat, and be blind sided by hope.

Through my own Service work I have gotten to meet MA Fellows from all over the United States as well as from Canada, Australia and London. I have gotten to explore the history of my Fellowship and to be part of shaping it's future. I have had the satisfaction and feeling of accomplishment that comes from seeing a project through From start to finish, whether it was planning a safe and sober New Year's Eve party, or helping to plan a World Service Conference.

(Continued on page 3)

District 5 and MA WORLD Yahoo Groups Site

As Marijuana Anonymous grows it's as if we are becoming further apart. Marijuana Anonymous meetings are now in 38 States and 9 different Countries (and who knows how many orphans or orphan meetings there are). There seems to be very little contact between the individual Groups or Districts.

In District 5, we are able to communicate online via a Yahoo Groups site that was set up for use by our District members. All of the members of our District are welcome to join; in fact we have many members from neighboring Districts as a part of our Group site. We use the group site to post our monthly DSC minutes and quorum counts, various District business, as well as our District's and neighboring District's events.

I know almost everyone in my District but really very few people in the neighboring Districts. And I'd be willing to bet that's true throughout most of the Fellowship. So this is where MA World comes in. This is a group site open to the entire Fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous; where ALL members from ALL Districts of the Marijuana Anonymous Fellowship world-wide can come together and meet one another, get to know one another and to share about themselves, their Districts and Meetings and, above all, their recovery.

MA World is a place where members can all reach out to one another, post information regarding events from the various MA Districts and Meetings, post photos from those events held by the Groups, and where member can discuss interests. MA World is a place where members can begin to get to know one another.

MA World is also a place where members can discuss the goings-on at Marijuana Anonymous World Services and A New Leaf Publications. A New Leaf is always looking for articles and stories. This might be a place where members of the Fellowship from opposite sides of the planet can work together on a story of recovery. Issues concerning the Fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous can be discussed year-round; ideas for Conference agenda items can be hatched and worked on prior to Conferences. The idea is to create a forum for ALL members of Marijuana Anonymous, worldwide, to have a place to share and to be heard.

This Group Site is in no way affiliated with MAWS or ANLP but with the Fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole, started by a member of the Fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous. This Group Site is open to ALL MA members. Anyone heckling, advocating drug or alcohol use or violating the intent of this site will be removed from the site at the founder's discretion.

Here's the link: <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/maworld/>
Please pass this site along to all of your Fellow MA Members.
Enjoy the day! ~ Ron L., District 5

Finding My Purpose

(Continued from page 2)

To those who may roll their eyes, yes, Service work can be time consuming, frustrating, and stressful, but it always gives me a sense of purpose. And a sense of purpose is not something I had four and a half years ago.

It is very true that one can be of service simply by showing up to a meeting. Sharing your story (which is often my story as well) makes the difference between my being alone in my disease and my being with you in the Solution. For every three-minute pitch I have heard, I am grateful. To those who show up early to open the doors or to extend a loving welcome to an uncertain new comer, I am grateful. To those who have long term sobriety and stay to share it, to those who have written our literature, crafted our service structure, I am grateful. And to those who will continue to do all of these things so that our Program can grow and expand until the Marijuana addict who still suffers can find us in their city or town, I am grateful.

Our Program is a living thing. It needs to be tended. If it seems like the same few people in your District are always stepping up to be of service, be one of them. Many hands make light work. And it works if you work it.

LB, MAWS Conference and Convention Trustee

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

Effective April 1, 2010

The price of Life With Hope will be increased to \$9.50 each.

This increase is the result of a new superglue binding, selected to provide you with a more durable book.

marijuana anonymous worldwide

MA World Services

PO Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 800.766.6779
 www.marijuana-anonymous.org
 email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

District 1 San Francisco

PO Box 460024 San Francisco, CA 94146 415.325.4785

District 2 East Bay

PO Box 20484 Oakland, CA 94620 510.287.8873

District 3 South SF Bay Area

P.O. Box 551 Saratoga, CA 95071 408.450.0796

District 4 Western Washington

PO Box 17323 Seattle, WA 98107 206.548.9034

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 323.964.2370

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

WE'RE INTERESTED

Please keep an open ear at the meetings you attend, share a copy of A New Leaf and perhaps suggest members submit their stories. It may be that some members are shy or don't think their story is worth sharing... an encouraging word could make all the difference.



ROVING REPORTER Question

for May

How do you stay in the moment?

Step Five

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Fifth Tradition

Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the marijuana addict who still suffers.

birthdays - Celebrating 332 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL 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

John M. 3/1/01 9 yrs.
 Eric M. 3/6/06 4 yrs.
 Dave W. 3/8/03 7 yrs.
 Steve K. 3/12/07 3 yrs.

District 2

Chris F. 2/11/88 22 yrs.
 Jeff K. 2/18/03 7 yrs.
 Carrie 2/21/03 7 yrs.
Laurie 3/2/09 1 year!
Paula 3/14/09 1 year!

District 3

Cheryl L. 2/1/09 1 year!
 Alex M. 2/29/08 2 yrs.
 Joe S. 3/15/06 4 yrs.
 Monty K. 3/16/07 3 yrs.
 Dan A. 3/17/08 2 yrs.
 Ken G. 3/18/96 14 yrs.

District 4

Erik J. 2/21/97 13 yrs.
 Dave L. 2/27/99 11 yrs.
 John G. 3/3/83 27 yrs.
 Roland J. 3/7/08 2 yrs.
 Matt B. 3/14/05 5 yrs.
Mike S. 3/14/09 1 year!
 Tim L. 3/15/04 6 yrs.
 Krista D. 3/17/04 6 yrs.
 Morgan F. 3/17/05 5 yrs.

District 5

Peter S. 2/17/99 11 yrs.
 Hal N. 2/26/91 19 yrs.
Russ T. 3/4/09 1 year!
 Ernest F. 3/9/95 15 yrs.

District 7

Ernie C. 3/5/05 5 yrs.

District 8

Leo W. 2/3/03 7 yrs.
 Elldee 2/11/96 14 yrs.
 Darin D. 3/15/99 11 yrs.

District 10

Michael B. 2/12/08 2 yrs.

District 11

Dave C. 2/22/02 8 yrs.
 Paul G. 2/26/00 10 yrs.
 Steve M. 3/1/99 11 yrs.
 Donovan H. 3/6/03 7 yrs.
 Edward Z. 3/6/87 23 yrs.

District 13

Jordan O. 2/1/09 1 year!
 Eddie Z. 3/6/87 23 yrs.

District 14

Michael S. 3/14/09 1 year!