



# a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

April 2011

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## ...But I Got In The Way

My name is Scott and I got sober on 12-24-05. I am 46 years old and I started smoking pot around 13. My drugs and alcohol use went out of control just about every time I got wasted, but I couldn't see that at the time.

I was living with my parents until I was about 23. They employed me in there construction company for the better part of my life. I made good money, this was the fuel that feed the fire of my addiction to pot. I couldn't see how my using was keeping me from the life I wanted to have. I put using off until I was done with work every day. After work it was on!

About 20 years ago I went to my first 12 step meeting with my friend and the seed of recovery from the fellowship was planted, but I got in the way. I couldn't let go of my will and that higher power stuff was just to much for me at

that time. I liked the M.A. meeting on Fridays in the round room in Reseda California. M.A. was very new so I went to some C.A. meetings where I got my first sponsor and he said that I should keep close to C.A.. I didn't feel as comfortable at C.A. as I did at M.A. My sponsor tried to carry the message to me, and again I got in the way and failed so I stopped going to all 12 step meetings.

In 1996 I moved to Las Vegas to open a new office for my job and I told any one I made friends with "I was a cocaine addict and don't bring coke around me," but "do you know where I could find some pot"? This is when I started smoking every day. At this point I was making more money than ever and I just couldn't see the powerlessness in my life.

One day I was signing a contract to be a subcontractor at a resort and the general contractor needed me to pass a drug test. I told them that I smoked pot and would stop, they let the drug test go and said we are looking for the cocaine and meth users anyway.

Later that day I went on vacation to Maui and my addiction got the best of me, by the time I got off the plane I knew where to score all the pot I could ever want.

My relationship with my parents/employer was getting rocky. They had enough of me.

I got a friend to go into business with me around 1999 and I moved back to L.A.. After a rough first year in Las Vegas.

My business partner got busted and was sentenced to 4 years in prison. He didn't care what I did after work, but when we were operating heavy equipment we made a deal that I wouldn't smoke pot on the job. When he left for prison I had no one watching me, so I started using 24-7, working on those crazy freeways of L.A. moving 50,000 lbs.of grading equipment.

Pot stopped working and I kept on smoking anyway. When I stopped using I got honest with my girlfriend about my addiction to pot and for the first time I let go of control and let something else take control of my life. I called the M.A. hot line and I got to a meeting on 12-26-05 at 7:30 AM and opened my mind up to a new way of life. I started to go to meetings every day, that was suggested to me if I wanted to get sober. I should put the same kind of effort into getting sober that I put into getting high. I got a sponsor in the first week and started working the 12 steps as he suggested and no matter what I thought, I stayed out of my way of doing things. I left my will in the hands of a power greater than myself and I felt free for the first time.

After 5 years 2 months and 28 days of sobriety. I stay close to my meetings and I am of service to M.A. I would not be alive with out you. M.A. saved my life and I have been told that I have done the same for others. Keep coming back no matter what happens.

Scott T. ▲

### ROVING REPORTER

#### Question for May

When and how did you have a "moment of clarity" about being powerless over marijuana?

#### Step Four

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

#### Tradition Four

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or MA as a whole.

Submit your answers to your Bureau Chief, or online, by March 17.

# 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 2011 Convention Roving Reporter Q & A

The New Leaf Roving Reporter attended the 2011 Convention. He asked attendees 5 questions, check out what they said!

**1) What fears or expectations did you bring to the Convention? Did they materialize?**

**2) Is there anything you would like to see more or less of in future Conventions?**

**3) What workshops did you enjoy and why?**

**4) What would you say to anyone thinking of attending next year's Convention?**

**5) Has your appreciation of service work changed after seeing what it took to put this Convention on?**

1) *I was looking forward to it but it exceeded my expectations.*

2) *Nope.*

3) *Both old timers panel and sobriety for older folks,. Why, probably because I am one. :o)*

4) *Go.*

5) *Indeed, NYC out did itself.*

*Anon*

1) *Expect to meet new friends and to recharge my recovery. This was realized for me.*

2) *More greeters.*

3) *I enjoyed the relationships workshop.*

4) *Open your mind and be prepared to have a profound experience.*

5) *The Saturday speaker really hit a nerve with me in terms of inspiring more service work and I did hear complaints about lack of relief at the merchandise table and check in table.*

*Anon.*

1) *I thought there would be more people.*

2) *No - excellent balance.*

3) *Age and recovery, men's meeting was excellent.*

4) *Come!*

5) *Yes. Well done!!!*

*Anon*

1) *Expected lots of fun with my recovery fellows and yes, lots of fun materialized.*

2) *This convention was great - another women's meeting on Friday would be nice.*

3) *I thought it was great that the trustees brought the draft for the next conference.*

4) *What would be your reason not to come?*

5) *I am always in awe of those who do the extraordinary work that it takes to put on a convention.*

*Anon*

1) *Fears of feeling out of place.*

2) *More "spirituality" & why it is in the 12th Step, the purpose of God.*

3) *Old timers & Art class and 2nd speaker and the dance.*

4) *Come - its fun & enlightening.*

5) *Its rewarding to see others step up besides me.*

*Anon*

1) *No fear. I was excited to come and it was better than I could have imagined.*

2) *It was just the right mix of meeting and workshops.*

3) *People, places and things, group interaction, Steps 1 2 3 very organized - great foundation.*

4) *Do it! It will bring your recovery connection to the program to a new and deeper level.*

5) *Of course. I am so grateful for your hard work and dedication.*

*Anon*

**The 2011 Convention Roving Reporter Q & A**

- 1) Never was at a MA convention.
- 2) Food on Sunday morning, history of MA.
- 3) Old timers and Drawing, Mature MA solutions and Creativity - personal insights into "Liberty".

Anon

1) Fear that I would isolate myself and not participate. I stepped out of my comfort zone and made myself talk to strangers. I expected more deadheads from the west coast.

3) Men's meeting because its easier to speak about male issues. Relapse and Recovery, recently relapsed and helped a lot, Coping Skills I can always use more tools for recovery.

4) Come and realize you are not alone.

5) Yes, thanks to District 8 for putting on a great convention

Warren E Boston

1) I came to this convention in a dark place and a part of me expected to leave in the same mindset. After being here less than two hours, my whole mindset started to shift.

2) The drum circle was one of the most healing things I've done in my past year of recovery.

3) The mental health in recovery was a key feature of this entire function. Some of us found each other and to put it simply - something clicked.

4) Unless you have tickets for the first civilian flight to the moon, you've got no reason not to be at the 2012 convention.

5) Absolutely, I am extremely grateful for the people that sacrificed their workshops and meetings to keep this thing running.

Pyro Dave

1) No real fears, just hopes to find a sponsor and to get clearer about my using and to get clear in going to any lengths.

2) Option for topic specific groups at odd time if wanted.

3) I missed the LGBT meeting which I heard was wonderful.

4) Come/go and find your people.

5) It looks intimidating however satisfying.

Anon

1)A. Just my quiver of fears of one hundred different forms tied up in a bag of hope wrapped in courage. Only concern prior was not knowing how to log in to the event, Turns out it was easy.

B. Expected my recovery to get a boost, to be energized by communal prayer, to revel in hearing others speak of the program for recovery, their recovery and how it happened.

Also, to learn more about myself, the Steps, my disease, and the program. To know of others in other places that faced the same problems I did. All were met.

2) More seminars such as the one Craig J did on the first three steps. More broadcasts from D-13, which was awesome, so that those of us that couldn't fly to New Jersey could virtually attend. Recordings of the seminar. Get the kinks out of the sound broadcasting. Shares from men and women.

3) The Steps 1,2,3 as it was well presented in an understandable manner. I am just beginning to sponsor and it helped me with that.

It was tough to have to chose seminars online as they were broadcast simultaneously. The problem with the sound in one seminar made that choice obvious.

4) I would say..."Go to it. Start saving now. You'll see old friends and make new ones. Your recovery will get a boost."

5) Yes. I volunteered at the 2008 convention in L.A. and have seen first hand how much effort it takes to put on. Volunteering was a great experience.

Anon

1) I did have expectations but they did not occur. I figured God had other plans for me and went along with it.

2) More meetings, maybe just have one room where meetings could be held during the entire convention, during workshops, speaker meetings, the dance give the attendees a place to go if they didn't want to follow the agenda.

3) I got a real kick out of the speaker meetings.

4) If you have never attended a convention, remember-contempt prior to investigation.

5) No, I watched so many people walk around with that look in there eye of is there any thing that needs to be done, what more can I do or the one I enjoyed seeing, I can't believe we are pulling this off. The volunteers did a fabulous job and I wish to thank them. They gave of themselves and the results were grand.

Anon◀

**New Meetings Start-Up  
All The Time.  
Check your local districts  
website for updated  
information!**

Get listed on the  
MAWS website  
contact:  
[office@marijuana\\_anonymous.org](mailto:office@marijuana_anonymous.org)

## The 2011 Convention Roving Reporter Q & A

1) I feared that I would not get anything out of the experience, I expected to meet new people. I received and met a lot.  
2) I would like to see more ... more!  
3) Steps 1,2,3 relapse relationships.  
4) It will be everything you expect and nothing like you expect.  
5) Yes! I did help though.

Anon

1) I was worried about enough money on my debit card to cover the room. They did not materialize, got cash for it :o)  
2) The convention host committee could wear color coordinated T-shirts.  
3) The LGBT, made me feel accepted  
4) Give it a chance, you might be surprised at how much fun you have.  
5) Yes! Gave me great pride to see all of our hard work come to life in an amazing way.

Anon

1) I would not fit in, they did not materialize.  
2) More veggies!  
3) Late night meetings, LGBT honesty!  
4) Go!  
5) Yes and no.

Anon

1) That there would be no leaders of color at the meetings, didn't materialize.  
2) Hope another convention will be done annually here, CNS/Ny Hyatt just the way this was.  
3) Portia, the speaker, she was able to reach masses of people with humor and she is of color, which shows role modeling! Just like women need to see women speakers, so do folks of color.  
5) Yes, thanks for being so willing and getting the convention to happen Everything was so beautifully orchestrated.

Anon

1) Expected lots of fun with my recovery fellows and yes, lots of fun materialized.  
2) This convention was great - another women's meeting on Friday would be nice.  
3) I thought it was great that the trustees brought the draft for the next conference.  
4) What would be your reason be not to come?  
5) I am always in awe of those who do the extraordinary work that it takes to put on a convention.

Anon

1) No fears - more than I expected.  
2) 45 minute speakers, sleep a little later, start at 9:30 or 10:00 small bottles of water - to be recycled of course!  
3) Mental Health - I could be honest. Relapse - hearing others that also relapsed.  
4) Go for it. do service - it helps you feel more connected.  
5) Yes - next time I'm getting more involved.

Anon

1) No fears, I just expected to go with the flow and I have.  
2) We need, in my humble opinion, more meetings in the daytime and a women's meeting on Friday.  
4) Go!

Anon

1) My expectations were that everything and every moment would be GREAT. They weren't, there were small "hiccups" so it was a lesson for me in truly keeping an open mind to anything, going with the flow and trusting my HP.  
2) More women's meeting! How about at least one every day? So on Friday evening, one of the late meetings could

be women. A workshop on Saturday afternoon or a breakfast session could be a women's meeting. And then the big meeting on Sunday morning.  
3) I enjoyed the relationship workshop - good to have two old timers with lots of experience facilitating. Good to have actual written exercises.  
4) Please come - You'll have a great time! You'll understand the "we" of this program.  
5) Yes, very much so! I do a moderate amount of service in DC that takes up much of my free time - can't imagine the hours put in by District 8 Thanks so much.

Anon

1) I expected to meet wonderful people. Yes, not only did that materialize but it renewed my own commitment to MA and it's importance around the world.  
2) More focus on being MA's largest fundraiser and less on comfort and tourism. but everything was really great. Thanks NY!  
3) Enjoyed 'older people in recovery'. The women's meeting was exceptional.  
4) Remember how much it means to The MA fellowship strengthening members recovery commitment as well as fundraising and the need to support MA's future are all important.  
5) Yes, so many people feel the pride the work in the work creating a great experience for other addicts.

Anon

1) No fear. I was excited to come and I'm so glad I did. It was better than I could have imagined.  
2) It was just the right mix of meeting and workshops.  
3) People, places and things, group interaction, Steps 1, 2, 3 very organized - great foundation.

## The 2011 Convention Roving Reporter Q & A

4) Do it! It will bring your recovery connection to the program to a new and deeper level.

5) Of course. Kudos to Colleen and the NYC MA. I am so grateful for your hard work and dedication.

Anon

1) My expectations with respect to the Convention were all me! I was very much looking forward to spending time with old friends, meeting new ones and exploring a world class city.

2) I believe that it may be beneficial to have a mar a non panel and promote that the spouses of recovering pot heads are welcome to attend.

3) Old timers & service keeps you sober were my favorite panels. Also enjoyed the large keynote speaker meetings as it is not possible to attend those types of MA meetings in my city.

4) Just come and keep coming back.

5) No No, not in the least. I am, however, thankful and grateful for the efforts of everyone involved as well as all of those who attended.

Anon

1) After having attended the first eight conventions, maybe eleven conventions all together, and having missed the last three or so, I wasn't sure what to expect. Because being online is not like being there, prior to hearing the Friday night speaker, I imagined I was there meeting and greeting my fellow potheads by the bushel full. My vision from past convention experiences did fully materialize. Even online, I felt the electric environment, the anticipation of sharing experiences as the convention went from Friday, to Saturday events, and on to the Sunday agenda, ending with the countdown. My

spine tingled when I would hear the voices of my dear friends, like John McC. (I proudly informed the online folks he was at my first meeting), Jonathan C., Carol McD., Craig J., Dan L., Bob H., John L., and a host of others. It was so cool to be able to chat online with people I knew or just met and not disturb the speaker at the convention. I even hooked up with Kevin V. online during the Friday night speaker. If it hasn't happened to you already, I hope you sort of get a sense of how my horizons have opened up because of MA. I've got MA friends up and down the state of California and now coast to coast. And it won't be long before I've got friends from far flung regions of the world because of MA Online. Sure beats sitting on the bed smoking my marijuana wishing things were different but not doing a thing about it. Once the convention was over I felt the kind of exhaustion as if I had been there.

2) While I applaud MA for making the audio available from the convention, my not having been there sort of restrains me from any comments about what I want to see more or less of. I kind of miss the idea of a pity pot location to go to just in case I get an attack of the poor me. Lol. I believe I first encountered a pity pot at the Oakland convention in the late 90's.

3) Didn't have the time to listen to any of the workshops in their entirety. I liked the Foundation Workshop by Craig J. because I like to teach the 12 steps. It's teaching or participating in something I have direct experience with that gives me the best feeling of being of service.

4) I would encourage everyone to

make an early commitment (the dreaded "C" word) and concerted effort to attend next year's convention. Before the social media phenomenon, conventions were the only way I would keep in touch with people not in my local area on at least a yearly basis. I've attended conventions in the Bay Area like Oakland and Santa Clara in the late 90's and the turn of the century, then attended the convention in South San Francisco or Concord later on in the decade and either people tell me they remember me or I tell them I remember them from previous conventions. I get a charge out of that.

5) My only comment on service work at the convention is that I need to be of service to the convention early on in the planning stage as well as in the execution stage to get the best appreciation of what it takes to put on a convention. I would like to thank John McC for allowing me to tag along with him to the San Jose 1994 Conference committee meeting that talked specifically about having an MA convention. If I remember the dream correctly, it was an attempt to meet as a significant gathering of potheads from everywhere for a second time during the year. The only time at the time that would happen was at the yearly MAWS conference. And I'd like to offer my special thanks for being of service to the other committee members B.W., George B., Patricia R., and my advance apologies for the others of service on that committee I can't remember. Who knew at the time what a wonderful event The MA Convention would evolve into being.

Mike C.▲

# 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.madistrict1.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 323.964.2370

**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](http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org)

**SPECIAL NOTICE!**

This is to inform everyone that the OFFICIAL ADDRESS of MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS has changed as of DECEMBER 7, 2010.

Every effort has been made to account for all the business names that can be used for our address; but please be careful in future to use the address below as the address for ALL official correspondence, including 7th Traditions:

**MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES  
 PO BOX 7807  
 TORRANCE, CA 90504**

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! Tell your local meetings, tell your DSC meetings, and especially tell your Treasury and Literature chairs!

This notice will appear on the website, and will be carried in the New Leaf, for a period of a year. Thanks in advance for helping to make the transition a smooth one!

**HELP WANTED**

FIELD EDITOR NEEDED  
 TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION  
 PLEASE EMAIL  
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[anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org)  
 Generous Salary!  
 Health Benefits!  
 Matching 401k!  
 Car and Gas allowance!  
 (Just kidding.)



## birthdays

Celebrating 148 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.

<b>District 1</b>			Leo W.	02/03/03	8 yrs.
Pam L.	02/04/03	8 yrs	Padma S.	02/04/08	3 yrs.
			Paul V.	02/19/08	3 yrs.
<b>District 2.</b>			Terry F.	02/26/09	2 yrs.
<b>Danny</b>	<b>02/12/10</b>	<b>1 Year!</b>			
Tim V.	03/01/94	17 yrs	<b>District 10</b>		
Laurie S.	03/02/09	2 yrs	Kel B.	03/14/07	4 yrs
<b>Dale</b>	<b>03/03/10</b>	<b>1 Year!</b>	<b>District 11</b>		
Mary R.	03/04/09	2 yrs	Dave C.	02/22/02	9 yrs
<b>District 6</b>			Paul G.	02/26/00	11 yrs
Mike S.	03/17/05	6 yrs	Steve M.	03/01/99	12 yrs
<b>District 7</b>			Donovan H.	03/06/03	8 yrs
Richard D.	03/01/96	15 yrs	Eddie Z.	03/06/87	24 yrs
<b>District 8</b>			<b>District 13</b>		
Jarrold G.	02/20/01	10 yrs.	New Jersey		
			Veronica A.	03/29/09	2 yrs

