



April 2020

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Life's an Ocean

"Hello I'm Chris, and I'm a marijuana addict. It's nice to be here at a meeting. It's been a while since I've been to one but when your secretary asked me to speak it was like divine intervention. I see some familiar faces and some unfamiliar faces, both of those things make me happy. I'm happy that those of you I know, have continued your sobriety. And while I'm not happy about the circumstances that brought you newcomers into this room, I'm incredibly happy that you found it and are getting help.

When I got the call it was like my higher power calling out one of my major deficiencies. For the past few years there has been a complacency growing within me like a tumor of the most malignant sort. I've been taking my sobriety for granted, as if I didn't struggle tooth and nail for it, as if I didn't change my entire life to attain it. I've been treating it as if it's always been there and always will be there, like it's some kind of inalienable right. Well it's not, we all think our rock bottoms are behind us, not giving a care to the future. Regardless of how long you've had it, sobriety is something that is tenuously held on to.

My grip has been slipping without me knowing it. It's felt like I haven't had to work on it and so I haven't. I haven't worked at it in ages. The only reason I haven't smoked is because fate has treated me kindly these last few years. It hasn't always treated me well and I know it will treat me badly in the future. That's just how life is.

See the events of your life are but flotsam and jetsam on a deep

and unknowable sea. That sea is influenced by things outside our control like the sun. We are absolutely nothing in the face of these things. Sometimes (like now) it seems they conspire in our favor and beautiful days are produced. Sometimes it seems they conspire against us to rain hell down upon us. This is why even on beautiful days we need to stay vigilant. We must sharpen our skills and sight while we can to be able to survive the inclement weather that we know will come eventually. This is why I say with the heaviest of hearts that I have been negligent in my preparation.

*What can we do
against the vagaries
of fate? How can
we stand tall in the
midst of a category-5
hurricane?*

What can we do against the vagaries of fate? How can we stand tall in the midst of a category-5 hurricane? Well I'll tell you. There are many things we can do. We can remain in constant contact with the one who watches over us: our higher powers that we met in Step 2 and gave our lives to in Step 3. They can guide our hands and plot us a course to more beautiful days than we can imagine, and they can see us through the storms to come. We all admitted that we were

powerless over weed. If you need more convincing, then listen to this.

We've talked over our metaphor of the sun and the ocean conspiring against us. When you give in it's like you are holding a giant magnifying glass up to the sun. The lens concentrates the sun on you and heats up the water much faster. It makes more and more clouds. Larger and larger storms and magnifies every problem in your life.

No job? Now you can't pass a drug test. No money? Of course not. You're spending it all on weed and food. Is your mental health poor? Well now your medications are less effective. Cascading problems, a veritable tsunami of them will come at you and your magnifying glass only makes things worse. Now you are unable to cope with even normal problems, your life begins to grow unmanageable. Your vessel is taking on water, but you sold your pump for dope. You are sinking. I was sinking. But then I saw a light.

There was another boat coming to help. That was MA. Nobody paid them to save you. They are devoted to saving the marijuana addict who still suffers. They welcome you into their numbers and give you some hot coffee and a warm bed for the night. You feel safe with them especially when you discover that many, if not all of them came from the exact same place of desperation that you did.

As time goes on you ask to become a member in earnest,

Continued on page 2

ANL's Purpose

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. MA is not affiliated with—and does not endorse or accept contributions from—any outside enterprise.

We are reaching out to districts to update the ANLP Liaisons and birthday lists. Additionally, district/group service representatives, including but not limited to those serving as ANLP Liaisons, are encouraged to stay in touch: chiefs@anewleafpublications.org

ANLP Staff

Chairperson:	Rick V.
Treasurer:	John L.
Secretary:	Maurice R.
ANLP Admin:	Thor H.
Managing Editor:	Thor H.
Publishing Editor:	Ron H.

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Life's an Ocean (continued)

one who works the Steps. You find a sponsor. They take you through the Steps. Life is still hard at times but you can manage it. The tsunami that crashed down on you before is much diminished, and you are stronger.

Eventually time moves on and you sponsor someone yourself, passing down the accumulated wisdom of those who have come before you. Soon years have passed. Storms have come and gone but you are prepared. You are vigilant.

You have spent years on this boat. It wasn't plan A; hell, it wasn't even plan Z. You had no idea life would be like this, but you are happy with it. This happiness and the skills to navigate the storms ahead are what I wish for all of you, and when you achieve it do not rest on your laurels. Stay connected, stay sober, and stay working on it. Keep coming back, it works if you work it, and it sucks if you don't." ▲

~ by Yellow D. Jacket

Service Opportunities at ANLP!

There are three ANLP executive directors whose service terms are coming to an end in May: the ANLP Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. These positions are appointed by the MA World Services Board. The Managing and Publishing Editor roles, as well as the ANLP Office Manager, a paid "special worker", are all appointed by the ANLP Board.

Huge Thanks to Rick V. who served as Chairperson for the past two years, (following two years in the ANLP Secretary position), Maurice R. who served as Secretary this past year, John L. who served as Treasurer for two years, and Thor H. who, while already having served two consecutive one-year terms in the Managing Editor position, continues as interim Managing Editor as well as temporary Office Manager. Ron H. recently joined the team and will continue on as Publishing Editor.

The ANLP Director roles are filled by vote of the MA World Services Board, and each is a two-year service term. A Directors minimum qualifications listed in the ANLP Charter are:

"...must be clean and sober from marijuana, alcohol and all other mind

altering substances for two years AND must satisfy at least one (1) of the three (3) following requirements:
(i) Has been a managing director for at least one (1) year [in other words, has served on the ANLP Board].
(ii) Has been a MA World Services Trustee for at least one (1) year.
(iii) Has been a MA World Services Delegate for at least one (1) year."

ANLP Editor roles are filled by vote of the ANLP Board, and each is a one-year service term. An Editor's' minimum qualifications listed in the ANLP Charter are:

"...must be clean and sober from marijuana, alcohol and all other mind altering substances for two years."

Ensuring that these roles are filled is vital to the healthy functioning of ANLP. We have made great strides in the last several years to improve our systems (e-commerce and accounting, most notably) to allow for greater clarity and transparency, as well as continuing to deliver quality content through MA's books, pamphlets, and the *A New Leaf* newsletter. If you are interested in how you can help continue this important work, please reach out to us directly at board@anewleafpublications.org. ▲

~ ANLP Board

Maintaining Our Life with Hope: A message from the MA Board of Trustees

Fellows,

We hope that you are all safe and healthy during this very difficult and strange time. With many of us isolating ourselves and practicing social distancing, Marijuana Anonymous Fellows, Groups, and Districts have acted swiftly, with ingenuity and creativity, to transition dozens of in-person MA Meetings to phone and online meetings. Those of us attending these meetings are able to connect, share, and get the comfort from our Fellows that we have come to rely on.

If you have transitioned a meeting we can add a note to your meeting information on our MAWS website. Please submit meeting change information online using our MA Meeting Information Form (marijuana-anonymous.org/maws-meetings/list-or-update-meeting) or email: directory@marijuana-anonymous.org.

In consideration of our Fellowship's safety, and in compliance with the requirements of a non-profit, the Board of Trustees voted at our last meeting to move this year's Marijuana Anonymous World Service Annual Business Conference to an entirely remote meeting.

A few key points:

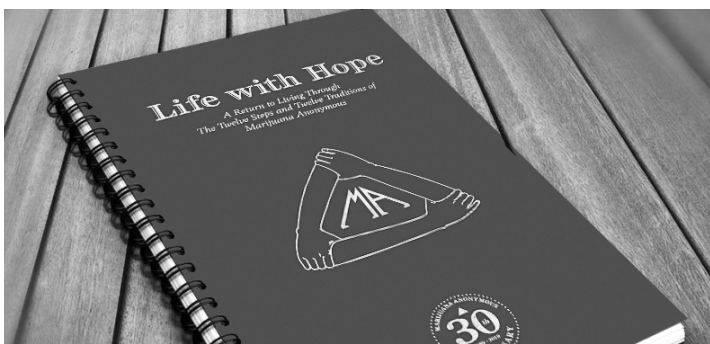
- The remote Conference will be developed with an ad hoc committee. Once details are finalized, we will disseminate information to you such as platform (WebEx, Zoom, etc.) and what to expect.
- The dates for the conference (Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25) have not changed.
- We will have multiple trainings that are important for those attending, in order to best prepare.
- GSRs should continue to get a group conscience on agenda items for Delegates.
- All registration fees already paid will be refunded
- A new lower registration fee will be announced in the coming weeks. The fee will support Marijuana Anonymous World Services, including videoconference costs, money lost on venue cancellation and, if possible, to help cover Conference related losses incurred by Districts and Delegates.

- Observers will be allowed to attend this year's Conference, and will have a registration process including fees and deadline.
- Everyone must attend the trainings.

The world is evolving and changing around us, and our plan is in process. At the end of the day, we want to do right by our fellowship, advance the work of MA, and continue to carry the message of recovery as best we can. Please stay safe, calm, and connected.

Sincerely,

**Marijuana Anonymous Board
of Trustees**



Life with Hope **Special 30th Anniversary Edition**

To help celebrate MA's 30th anniversary, a very special reproduction of the original Life with Hope book has been printed with a loving dedication to the founders of our program.

Available for a MAWS donation of \$30 or more at the ANLP website: www.anewleafpublications.org

Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

For a complete listing of all meetings visit
WWW.MARIJUANA-ANONYMOUS.ORG

MA World Services

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		PHONE MA Phone Meetings www.ma-phone.org	

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 M.A. as a whole.

Celebrating 201 Years of Sobriety!

District 2

Alex C.	1/22/2016	4 yrs
Audry W.	2/20/2001	19 yrs.
Edwin A.	3/17/2016	4 yrs.
Meredith	3/23/1997	23 yrs.
Richard D.	3/20/2019	1 yr.
Tim	3/1/1994	26 yrs.

District 4

Ken B.	3/15/2018	2 yrs.
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District 5

Aime	3/17/2016	4 yrs.
Alejandro H.	3/12/2018	2 yrs.
Alex M.	3/3/2019	1 yr.
Annie Z.	3/17/2019	1 yr.
Christian	3/17/2014	6 yrs.
Ernest F.	3/9/1995	25 yrs

Joe M.	3/7/2011	9 yrs.
Kelly	3/17/2007	13 yrs.
Kristen	2/21/2017	3 yrs.
Lisa L.	2/22/2004	16 yrs.
Russel	2/28/2014	6 yrs.
Steve C.	2/16/2016	4 yrs.

District 21

Nick D.	3/3/2005	15 yrs.
Paul H.	2/27/2017	3 yrs.

District 24

Bruce A.	3/15/2015	5 yrs.
Jason R.	4/1/2018	2 yrs.
Margaret A.	3/15/2015	5 yrs.
Sol M.	4/1/2019	1 yr.

MA Chicago

David F.	3/5/2019	1 yr.
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See your sobriety date here.

Allow us to publish your anniversary to celebrate!
Provide your sobriety date to your local GSR, ANLP Liaison, or e-mail to:
chiefs@anewleafpublications.org

