



## A MA Pioneer's Story

I have been sober from all mind altering substances since May 16, 1987. I was living in Mar Vista, a part of Los Angeles, where I heard about this Marijuana Anonymous meeting near where I lived. It was being held in a psychologist's office, an office which held 4 chairs and a desk, really claustrophobic, and the psychologist was not an addict in any program. He just sensed that there were people who could use a 12 Step program for marijuana and he generously offered the office.

I was at the third meeting ever in LA, in the spring of 1987, was there for the fourth meeting in his office and it became obvious we needed more space immediately. That was the last meeting in his office. I helped find the space which was to be MA's home for the next several years. We called ourselves The Mar Vista Group. We met Tuesdays and Thursdays in a church meeting room and the group grew incredibly quickly. More meetings started to sprout as I was leaving California in mid-1989.

I do remember we felt we were special. We were not like NA or AA, we were potheads. At the time, I recall meetings of NA and AA in Los Angeles (I identify as a pothead and alcoholic or addict) and being a pothead was considered laughable, not a real problem. So I would shut up and listen to what the similarities were, rather than the differences.

Because I was a so called pioneer of MA, new people looked up to me and some thought I was their guru. Then I would go to AA and being with people with real time and real Experience Strength and Hope, and I



### HELP NEEDED

**Our fellowship needs a 2020 World Conference host!**

The annual MA World Services Conference is held in May each year, typically over Memorial Day weekend. On the calendar for *next* year that would be these four days: **May 22–25, 2020**. Please discuss the potential of hosting at your local districts. The Board of Trustees is hopeful that a district will come forward by this 2019 Conference, expressing a willingness to engage in this vital service. Please direct questions to our Conferences and Conventions Trustee: [cc@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:cc@marijuana-anonymous.org).

realized that at 9 months of sobriety, I was a newcomer. While it was an ego trip to have newbies look up to me, I knew that I knew very little.

At some point we tried to find if there were other groups out there. We did our research before internet, and therefore before

*...new people looked up to me and some thought I was their guru.*

Google too. We found one group existed in New York, and another in Europe somewhere. We heard about a meeting in Orange County, California. We reached out to Orange County and that connection was really cool. They came up to our meetings and at least one of us made it down there too.

As I left Los Angeles in the summer of 1989, there was talk of a meeting of all the groups, and then I came to read in the Life With Hope book that this convening actually

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## Outreach Help

**The purpose of the MA World Services Outreach Committee is** to insure that any meeting, group, district or individual who wishes can be linked to the MA service structure and receive services which promote our primary purpose to carry the message to the marijuana addict who wishes to recover. Some current projects of the committee are getting in touch with independent meetings to see if they need support, and to get them in contact with other independent meeting and/or districts in the same general area. We also want to offer support to new meetings and reach out to them on a regular basis. We want to work with Public Information to help independent, new, and international meetings to let people know that MA exists.

**The thing is:** other than the Outreach Trustee, the committee has no other members at this time. As Trustee I'm asking for help to let members know that here is an opportunity to be of service in MA. Please share this information with your districts and your meetings. Anyone can email me at [outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org), and I will include you in an invitation to the next Outreach Committee monthly meeting. Thank you, and...

Yours in service,

Susan C.  
Outreach Trustee  
[outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org)

## 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.

### District Bureau Chiefs

We are reaching out to districts to update the District Bureau Chief and birthday lists. Additionally, district representatives, including but not limited to those serving as Bureau Chief, are encouraged to stay in touch by emailing: [chiefs@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:chiefs@anewleafpublications.org)

### ANLP Staff

Chairperson: Rick V.  
 Treasurer: John L.  
 Secretary: Maurice R.  
 ANLP Admin: Thor H.  
 Managing Editor: Thor H.  
 Publishing Editor: \* **help!**

### Contact ANLP

Send articles/stories:  
[stories@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:stories@anewleafpublications.org)

### ...Pioneer's Story

*Continued from page 1*

happened in 1989. It makes my heart soar, seriously, to see how far and wide MA meetings and this program have gone.

I travel an awful lot and in-person MA meetings have been difficult to connect with, but I really reconnected a few months ago in Evanston, Illinois, where there are two great meetings a week. Last summer in meetings in Evanston I saw that the story of the LA psychologist was in our Life with Hope book. That was a WOW moment.

I live in the New York City area and am happy to say that I am doing service via the MA-phone groups for newcomers who are reaching out to MA. Today, with 31 years sobriety, I am grateful to be able to do my part in being responsible whenever someone reaches out to Marijuana Anonymous. ▲

~by Barry

### Purchase Books & Subscriptions

[www.anewleafpublications.org](http://www.anewleafpublications.org)  
 or subscribe by sending your name, address and a \$15 check (\$20 non-US) to:

**A New Leaf Publications**  
 340 S Lemon Ave # 9420  
 Walnut CA 91789-2706

Other inquiries and correspondence:  
[info@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:info@anewleafpublications.org)

## Steps 1-3, A Daily Prayer

Great Spirit: Guide me each day to surrender to my powerlessness (over my lack of willpower) with marijuana, as well as any other mind-altering substances, including Alcohol.

Great Spirit: Guide me in my recovery today, and in all of my affairs. Give me strength and sound mind if I am tempted or unexpectedly exposed to marijuana and/or other mind-altering substances, including alcohol.

I Surrender deeper into the knowledge, experience, and feeling in my heart which is in alignment with my true nature and desire to continue to stay clean and sober.

Through the Grace of Spirit, I am free from the insanity of active addiction, free from the mental obsession to use marijuana morning, noon and night.

Free, by the Grace of Spirit, from the physical impulsive and compulsive and uncontrollable behavior to use Marijuana beyond my truest desires and intentions.

Through Great Spirit's Grace, I am free from both this mental obsession and physical compulsion.

Through my experiences: I came to (and continue to) believe in a power greater than myself, which I call Great Spirit or simply Goddess.

Each new day I am continuously restored from the insanity of active addiction. In sobriety's grace and freedom, I continue each day, these next 12-24 hours, to turn my life and my will over to the tender, loving care of this Great Spirit.

I trust this spiritual Force to continue to guide me in my recovery.

May I be kind all of my affairs. May my words be gentle and loving. Through my shortcomings, as a human being, may I have the ability to pause and withhold my tongue, yet not compromise my authentic voice. May my actions and behavior be loving, kind and gentle with me, all other human beings, and all living creatures.

My Goddess-centered intuition is shown and demonstrated easily and without effort. Thus, which affords peace, love, and serenity. May I remain humble in thy grace! May I remain teachable and a sincere humble worker among workers for the great of all humanity and unity. Relieve me from my ego, my arrogance and allow me to walk in thy Grace, in thy peace and in thy way of life. May I do thy will today, and always: thy will be done, not mine. ▲

~by Antonia, District 3, Santa Cruz CA

## Meditation: Community

SOME SAY THAT RECOVERY ISN'T SOBRIETY, but that recovery is community. Fellow recovering addicts restore my faith that I can stay sober. They help me, sometimes because I ask, and sometimes without knowing it. To experience these things though, I must be with others.

When using I isolated. All I could see was myself and that was the last thing I wanted to look at. Today when I'm with others I have the chance to be of service and I give them the opportunity to be of service. When I listen, I swear I can hear God speaking, and when I'm hugged, I can feel God's arms.

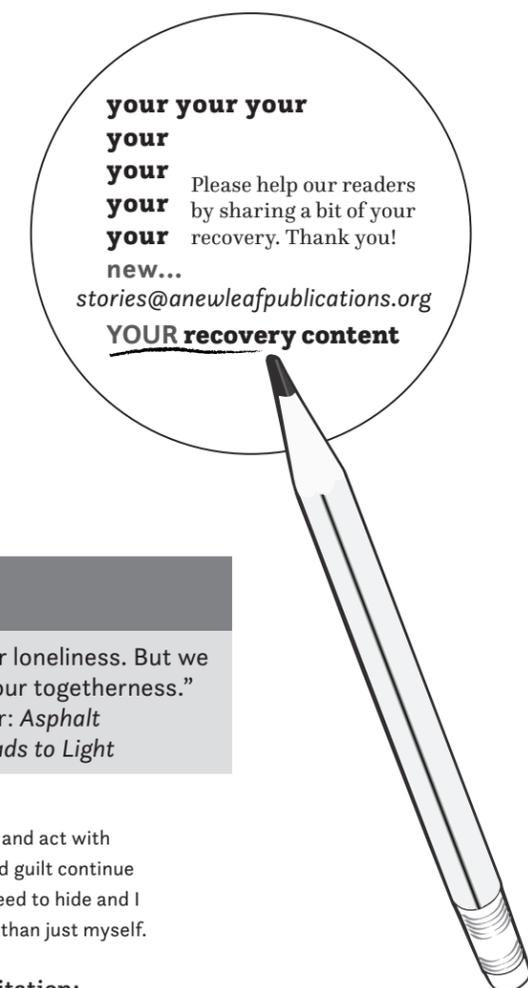


HELP NEEDED  
 Designer, with *InDesign chops!*

Excited by Panel Icons?  
 Let's chat!

ANLP is in need of a Publishing Editor. The role requires InDesign CC, a comfort with such things as Text Frame Options, Character and Paragraph Styles, *how they're used in customized layout*, and willingness to serve on a small team, understanding content decisions are sometimes a group process. It's a 1-year commitment, with an optional second.

Experience suggests that the best way to elicit support is asking directly, and we hope our readers will do just that. Specifically, we encourage you to not **only** announce this in meetings, but to learn who in your area might have skill with Adobe InDesign and discuss this service opportunity with them directly. Thank You! ~ANLP Board  
 Contact: [board@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:board@anewleafpublications.org)



**your your your  
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Please help our readers by sharing a bit of your recovery. Thank you!

[stories@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:stories@anewleafpublications.org)

**YOUR recovery content**

"God knows us in our loneliness. But we know God better in our togetherness."  
 Steve Theme, Author: *Asphalt Asylum, the Dark Roads to Light*

When I share honestly and act with integrity my shame and guilt continue to melt away. I don't need to hide and I can see so much more than just myself.

### Affirmation/Meditation:

*With sobriety I have the ability to act like a polished lens, fully transparent, to magnify God's love so that others may see it more clearly.*

~ Steve T.

\*To work with ANLP, please send a note to [board@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:board@anewleafpublications.org)

# Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

For a complete listing of all meetings visit  
[WWW.MARIJUANA-ANONYMOUS.ORG](http://WWW.MARIJUANA-ANONYMOUS.ORG)

**MA World Services** 340 S Lemon Ave # 9420, Walnut CA 91789-2706  
[www.marijuana-anonymous.org](http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org) ▲ [info@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:info@marijuana-anonymous.org) ▲ +1.800.766.6779

<b>DIST. 2 San Francisco &amp; East Bay</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict2.org">www.madistrict2.org</a>	+1.510.957.8390	<b>DIST. 14 London, England</b> <a href="http://www.marijuana-anonymous.co.uk">www.marijuana-anonymous.co.uk</a>	+44.300.124.0373
<b>DIST. 3 South SF Bay Area</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict3.org">www.madistrict3.org</a>	+1.408.450.0796	<b>DIST. 15 Long Island, NY</b> <a href="http://www.ma-longisland.org">www.ma-longisland.org</a>	+1.631.647.0768
<b>DIST. 4 Western Washington</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict4.org">www.madistrict4.org</a>	+1.206.414.9270	<b>DIST. 16 Melbourne, Australia</b> <a href="http://www.marijuana-anonymous.com">www.marijuana-anonymous.com</a>	+61.403.945.083
<b>DIST. 5 Orange County</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict5.org">www.madistrict5.org</a>	+1.714.999.9409	<b>DIST. 17 Denmark</b> <a href="http://www.ma-danmark.dk">www.ma-danmark.dk</a>	
<b>DIST. 6 LA County North</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict6.org">www.madistrict6.org</a>	+1.818.759.9194	<b>DIST. 18 Sacramento, CA</b> <a href="http://www.sacramentoma.org">www.sacramentoma.org</a>	+1.916.341.9469
<b>DIST. 7 LA County South</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict7.org">www.madistrict7.org</a>	+1.310.494.0189	<b>DIST. 19 Toronto, Canada</b> +1.647.201.9161/+1.416.999.2244 <a href="http://www.matoronto.org">www.matoronto.org</a>	
<b>DIST. 8 New York</b> <a href="http://www.ma-newyork.org">www.ma-newyork.org</a>		<b>DIST. 20 San Diego, CA</b> <a href="http://www.ma-sandiego.org">www.ma-sandiego.org</a>	
<b>DIST. 11 Oregon</b> <a href="http://www.madistrict11.org">www.madistrict11.org</a>	+1.503.567.9892	<b>DIST. 21 Colorado</b> <a href="http://www.ma-colorado.org">www.ma-colorado.org</a>	+1.303.607.7516
<b>DIST. 12 North Bay, CA</b> +1.415.419.3555/+1.707.583.2326 <a href="http://www.madistrict12.org">www.madistrict12.org</a>		<b>DIST. 22 New England</b> <a href="http://www.newenglandma.org">www.newenglandma.org</a>	
<b>DIST. 13 MA Online</b> <a href="http://www.ma-online.org">www.ma-online.org</a>		<b>PHONE MA Phone Meetings: 4 Distinct Groups</b> <a href="http://www.ma-phone.org">www.ma-phone.org</a>	

## Celebrating 163 Years of Sobriety!

### District 2

Bill B.	4/9/1988	31 yrs
Lee K.	3/19/1999	20 Yrs
<b>Matt</b>	<b>3/26/2018</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
Meredith H.	3/23/1997	22 yrs

### District 4

<b>Jerry H.</b>	<b>3/31/2018</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
Julia H.	3/26/2018	1yr



### District 5

Eric B.	4/3/2006	13 yrs
Gary W.	4/9/2012	7 yrs
Mike C.	3/25/1993	26 yrs
Paloma	4/8/2012	7 yrs
Reinhard	4/11/2009	10 yrs
Sasha	4/12/2013	6 yrs

### District 21

<b>Ben W.</b>	<b>4/1/2018</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
Leo D.	3/18/2015	4 yrs

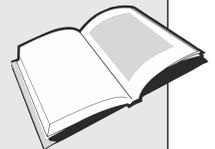
### Ann Arbor & Birmingham MI Groups

Maurice R.	4/17/2006	13 yrs
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*From Life with Hope*

### Step Five

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



### Tradition Five

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

### GOT A YEAR? ALLOW US TO PUBLISH YOUR ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE!!!

Provide your sobriety date to your local GSR to be forwarded to your Bureau Chief, or e-mail your details to [chiefs@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:chiefs@anewleafpublications.org)

**Members / GSRs / Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that...**

- 1) HAVE OCCURRED,**
- 2) HAVE NOT been published recently,**
- 3) and ARE NOT OLDER THAN 45 days.**

### MA Online – District 13

Has smoking pot stopped being fun? Is it hard for you to imagine a life without marijuana? Do you smoke marijuana to avoid dealing with your problems?



**Who we are:** Fun Fellowship of Recovering Pot Addicts

**What we do:** 24/7 Chatroom and Twelve Step Meetings

**When we do it:** Now—join us!

**[www.ma-online.org](http://www.ma-online.org)**  
 Please let your members know we're here