



# A NEW LEAF

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## At The MA World Service Conference...

by **The Roving Reporter**

First of all, many thanks to the hosts of this year's conference—Los Angeles, South (District 7)—who put it all together superbly. The facilities were great, and area members warmly gave several Delegates and Trustees places to stay. A number of members not obliged to work on the various committees did a huge amount of service all weekend. They can't be thanked enough for their hard work and fine example of selfless service. The weekend was a symphony of people working together in different roles for a common good and a common purpose: to make sure that MA continues to "carry the message" into the coming year.

Our Trustees actually started the night before the Conference began, preparing recommendations to reorganize the various Trustee positions (each Trustee has a special area of concern). As a result of this work, MA now has some entirely new and updated job descriptions for the Trustees.

When the Conference was called to order, Trustee/President Libby G. began with an inspiring talk about why we were there, the seriousness of what we were doing, and the spirit of service as stated in Tradition Nine. We (all of us) are MAWS, she noted.

Then Ilene M., our World Services office manager, reported on the continued growth of our fellowship, including the huge success of our year-old venture into cyberspace. Over 100,000 people have visited our Web site, and a huge amount of email has resulted

and Canada. And MA has a new district. The Conference voted and approved the admission of Portland, Oregon as District 11.

Our Trustee/Treasurer, Jonathan R., told us that financially, MAWS is just as it should be...getting by. He also reminded us that perhaps our biggest financial concern is that District treasurers stay current and complete with monthly reports. When those reports

*The Conference began with an inspiring talk about why we were there. "All of us are MAWS."*

from those visits. We have contacted new potential members in 46 states and 13 countries. New meetings started in places such as Michigan, Colorado, Texas, Nevada,

are behind, or badly done, our entire fellowship is in danger of losing its status as a non-profit corporation. The repercussions

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## Service Blessings

by **Joe D., District 8**

During my almost two and a half years of sobriety, I've attended many of the regular monthly meetings of the District 8 Service Committee, where I've witnessed the growth of District 8 itself as well as my own personal growth.

I got involved in service during my first months of sobriety, and I vividly recall my second District 8 meeting...which had a total attendance of two. Last week's meeting

had 13 people—all devoting time to contribute to the growth and stability of Marijuana Anonymous in New York City. How far we've come!

Ideally every District meeting has representatives from the various MA meetings. Through this network, MA literature, chips, and copies of *Life With Hope* get distributed. And, as in most business meetings, we deal with money: How can we raise more and how can we

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**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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# Roving Reporter

by **Mary M., District 4**

## How did you find out about MA?

**Wes E. (11 months)**

The yellow pages.

**Ryan B. (2 years, 9 months)**

I found out about MA from my grandma. Her friend's son had gone before. I wasn't interested at first, but when she said she was going to a meeting to see what it was like, I thought I better go too.

**Baiba L. (2 years, 2 months)**

After/during my personal low, I had gone to an outpatient clinic where there was a requirement to go to two 12 Step meetings a week. I first tried NA but felt a little overwhelmed. Then at one meeting my eyes wandered to a sign that said "Marijuana Addicts" on the top. That meeting was the next Monday. I haven't stopped going yet, and that was two years ago.

**Steve W. (2 months)**

I am in outpatient treatment, and they have an MA schedule posted on the bulletin board.

**Bill (8 years, 11 months)**

I was approached after an AA meeting by an MA member.

**Diane B. (9 months)**

Through my "chemical abuse treatment program."

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## Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!



### District 2

Carol May 1 1 yr  
Iver J. May 1 1 yr

### District 3

Peter M. Mar 24 5 yrs  
Tony C. Apr 28 2 yrs  
Margee W. Apr 29 1 yr  
Bob E. May 17 1 yr  
Lily E. May 17 1 yr

### District 4

Jim D. May 1 3 yrs

### District 5

David D. Apr 1 1 yr  
Chris Apr 1 7 yrs  
Anna M. Apr 4 1 yr  
David M. Apr 5 4 yrs  
Brenda S. Apr 8 8 yrs  
Barb H. Apr 10 5 yrs  
Tom W. Apr 12 6 yrs  
Tom Apr 15 1 yr  
Adam G. Apr 17 1 yr  
Jeff Y. Apr 23 1 yr  
Evan B. Apr 28 8 yrs  
Mark S. May 2 3 yrs  
Mark Y. May 2 5 yrs

Jeff B. May 5 6 yrs  
Charlotte M. May 6 8 yrs  
John R. May 7 10 yrs  
Shannon May 15 2 yrs  
Travis May 15 2 yrs  
Hope P. May 18 5 yrs  
Seth P. May 20 7 yrs  
Norm B. May 30 14 yrs

### District 6

Abdol May 18 12 yrs  
John H. May 28 7 yrs  
Sandy L. May 29 3 yrs  
Alice K. Jun 1 1 yr  
Allison O. Jun 1 2 yrs

### District 7

Peter N. May 9 2 yrs

### District 8

Vis May 2 2 yrs  
Machanda W. May 17 2 yrs  
Diana C. May 27 2 yrs  
Lynne E. May 28 1 yr

# MA World Service Conference

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could be devastating, and we must guard against them.

Patricia G., our Merchandise Trustee, related that World Services merchandise, though still in its infancy, is in the black. Some new merchandise is being considered for the coming year. At present, there are about 50 mugs and 20 tee-shirts in the inventory that will find their way to the next Convention.

Rob M., the Chairperson of A New Leaf Publications, spoke on the "State of the Leaf." The newsletter is now being edited, designed, and typeset by David H. in New York (District 8). Judy S. in Los Angeles, North (District 6) prints and ships 1,500 copies monthly. New Bureau Chiefs are always being sought to report birthdays and solicit articles for publication. Sales of our book, *Life With Hope*, are exceeding all expectations, with 3,500 copies now in print. We ship over 100 copies per month. The book is now also being sold in Recovery Shops all over the nation.

Other committees reporting included Policy & Procedures, which recommended that Conference business agendas be distributed to the districts 90 days prior to the Conference. That motion passed. The Hospitals & Institutions/Public Information Committee passed a motion dividing up responsibility for answering and responding to the 800-line among the districts.

The Literature Committee was particularly busy. Several new pamphlets have been Conference approved: MA's Service Structure, The Dangers of Cross Addiction, and a Spanish language translation of For the Newcomer. Further, as a result of recommendations by the Trustees and the reorganization of Trustee duties, a motion was passed

to dissolve the elected position of World Services Publications Coordinator.

The entire conference took time out to recognize and give a standing ovation to Carol Mc for her unmatched and tireless work as World Services Publications Coordinator for the past eight years!

The Finance & Convention Committee recommended that district treasurers stay in regular contact with the MAWS Treasurer. It was also stressed that the MAWS Treasurer take special care in working with our accountant to make sure our tax situation (especially with regards to merchandise) is current and in compliance with the law. A motion passed to hold next year's Conference in Orange County (District 5), contingent upon district approval. Also our newest district—Portland, Oregon (District 11)—was approved to host the 1999 Conference.

The last bit of business was Trustee selection for the coming year. All of MA thanks the outgoing Trustees for their hard work and dedication to service: Neil L., Larry W., Patricia G., and Mike LB. Selected to continue additional terms were Libby G. (President) and Jonathan R. (Merchandise and Co-Treasurer). Trustees continuing their first two-year terms are Kurt S. (Policies & Procedures), Todd E. (Public Information), and Bill H. (Outreach). And the newly chosen Trustees are Bill D. (Online Correspondence), Rob M. (Secretary), Lance D. (Treasurer), and Susan B. (Literature).

If you'd like to know more about what happened at the Conference, talk to the Delegate(s) from your district. Not only were they there, they will also have the

minutes from the Conference in a couple of weeks. Read them for further information.

A lot of good work was done, and even more work remains for the coming year. All the Conference attendees left with a spirit of pride, excitement, and enthusiasm for MA. Let us all keep that spirit alive. ☼

## Roving Reporter

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**Courtney M. (2 years, 8 months)**

I was going to AA meetings and saw a sign for the MA meeting. I knew marijuana was my drug of choice, so I checked it out. After my first meeting, I knew I was home.

**Tahnya B. (2 years, 7 months)**

My counselor in treatment told me about MA because she noticed that marijuana was indeed my drug of choice. She told me to call the alcohol/drug help line to get the info, and I took it from there.

**Carsten P. (10 months)**

Via my counselor at my treatment center.

**Dave M. (5 months)**

From my recovery center.

**Lee S. (10 months)**

Went to drug treatment after testing positive on a UA at work. Went to NA for 16 months but couldn't relate to the "needle in the arm." MA makes a lot more sense, since pot is my drug of choice. I looked up MA in the phone book.

**David (6 months)**

A friend in recovery shared it.

**Sheri G. (5 months)**

Through treatment.

**Steve M. (1 month)**

A friend.

**Ben H. (1 month)**

A friend went to a meeting, told me about it, and then invited me to one. Here I am. ☼

## Service Blessings

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best spend what we have to help MA as a whole.

We also plan events to build fellowship and to foster sobriety. Because gatherings other than MA meetings cannot bear the MA name, we have taken to calling our picnics, dinners, hikes, and other social occasions "Keep Off the Grass" events. Recently, several members have begun to sponsor more focused events such as a women's brunch and a Step One Workshop.

The 12 Traditions are woven into the fabric of almost every discussion, and often become important guideposts. For example, when do our efforts cross over from carrying the message of sobriety to promoting MA? And how can we keep from lending MA's name to any outside cause while also encouraging newcomers who work nights (when most of our MA meetings take place) to make 90 meetings in 90 days? We've learned to keep a copy of *Life With Hope* and the MA service manual readily at hand.

Through the course of these service meetings, we also get a chance to know each other and ourselves better. People whose lives have once been out of control because of addiction now have the opportunity to find structure and order. We can learn things as simple as how to speak on topic, or as subtle as how to share your experience at doing a particular service job while allowing a newcomer to find his or her own way of doing it.

I have learned much from my involvement in District 8. Besides helping other addicts, my participation gives me practice at how to have patience, how to give supportive feedback, and when to step back and let the process take its own course. ☉

## Quote of the Month

*We must also not forget the problems associated with money, property, and prestige. Yes, money can do lots of good, but it also causes a lot of unnecessary problems. If we are too concerned about money, we may concentrate less on our primary purpose. MA's existence is not wholly dependent on raising money or becoming wealthy. The purpose of Tradition Six is to truly separate the spiritual from the material.*

—Life With Hope, Tradition Six (page 86)

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