



A NEW LEAF

A PUBLICATION OF MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

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Humility Defined by Loren N.

Humility is to know one's place. This applies to our relationship with God as well. The higher a person becomes spiritually, the more humble he becomes. As we get closer to God, we become more realistic about our own limitations, vulnerability and mortality. We internalize the reality that every human's position is tenable and only God is eternal. Anything else precludes room for God to fit in.

The biggest personalities are usually the most arrogant. Picture the scene: A movie star walks into a party- strutting, cocky, head raised. His mannerisms shout: "I am great and I don't need you or anybody else." The room is silent with awe. Charisma! This is actually counterfeit charisma.

In our own lives, it is "feeling slighted" that most often gets us into trouble. When I am treated with less honor than I feel I deserve, my self esteem is bruised. So I compensate by telling myself I'm really much better than that. With my ego falsely inflated, my sense of reality is distorted - leading to a new cycle of disappointment, resentment,

stress, anger and frustration. If I were more objective and realistic about my proper place, I would be spared all that hurt.

Because true humility means living with the reality that nothing matters except doing the right thing. The humble person is not dependent on the opinion of others. Because sometimes doing the right thing is popular (and consistent with one's ego needs), and sometimes it's not. But the humble person can set his ego aside, if need be, in order to consistently do the right thing.

An arrogant person, on the other hand, is not concerned about right and wrong - only about himself and how well things will turn out for him. He can appear to be smooth on the surface, but he's really just manipulating everything around him to suit his self-centered needs.

"Arrogance" = I'm all that counts.

"Humility" = What's greater than me is what counts.

In actuality, it is humility which guarantees charisma!

The humble person has the ability to rise above his self-contained narcissistic envelope and embrace those around him. Since he confidently knows his place, he can leave space for others without having an ego crisis. He honors others and helps them find their place, too. Isn't that true charisma?!

Humility is the ability to be objective about one's own position vis-a-vis everyone else. If I am in the position to lead, then I should lead. And if not, I should defer. I must know where I stand, and not take undo liberties. If I am in the presence of someone more knowledgeable, I should think twice before speaking.

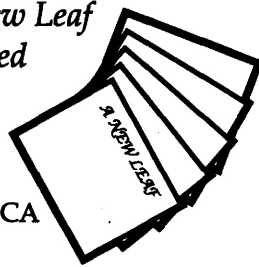
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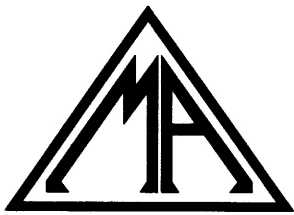
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A NEW LEAF

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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 & 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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Dear Using Buddies by Anonymous

"Dear, Using Buddies,

I am writing this letter to say good bye and to say thanks for the good memories. I regret that we couldn't have become friends under different circumstances with different common interests. Even if we did, because of the transient nature of life, I would probably still have to had to say good bye to you all by now. Though I enjoyed the times we spent together very much and I consider you all to be my friends, now is time to say good bye. I wish you all the best of everything.

It is time for me to get on with my life and to let go of my attachment to our common past.

Though I will welcome contact you may wish to make, I don't plan to initiate any kind of regular contact anymore.

My life is completely different now. I haven't smoked pot now for almost five years and I no longer like to party with drugs and alcohol. Though I love you each as friends, you also are a threat to my new life and recovery because you link me to the past that I do not want to return to.

If you want to begin a new as a clean and sober friend, I am very excited for you. I am glad to support you. I cannot however for my own survival maintain a relationship with you while drug using is part of our common bond. I am an addict. I cannot be around drugs without using them eventually. I have to take care of my self and the people who depend on me today.

Sincerely,

Gratefully Anonymous"

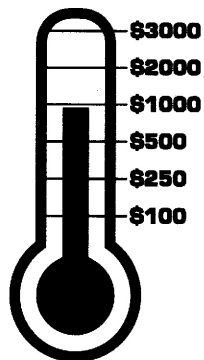
1999 MAWS Conference

The 1999 Marijuana Anonymous World Service (MAWS) Conference was held in Portland, Oregon over

Memorial Day Weekend. The following is a very brief synopsis of the issues, reports, and motions.

YOUR PENNY JARS ARE ADDING UP!

Thanks to you, our Pennies from Heaven drive is closer towards reaching our goal of \$3000 to help with early expenses for Convention 2000 in Santa Clara this January. To donate your penny jar contact your local delegate or Kevin G. convention chairperson at (408) 249-9865.



1999 MAWS Conference continued

District Reports: Delegates from all eleven established districts gave 5 - 7 minute reports of the past year in their respective areas. One district has begun ordering 15 day chips. Most districts noted trouble in generating interest in Hospitals and Institutions. (The committees that send small groups of recovering MA addicts to talk to patients or inmates in hospitals and institutions about their own personal stories.) Most districts were able to contribute money to MAWS this year, and many have had new meetings start up in the past year. Districts 3 and 9 (South Bay, CA and Santa Cruz, CA) have been busy preparing for Convention 2000 in January and District 1 (San Francisco) has already begun preparation to host Conference 2000 next May.

Trustee Reports: Policies and Procedures reported that Service Manual updates are

available. New Meeting Outreach reported good progress with our 29 orphan meetings (meetings outside of established districts). The Treasurer reported that donations were down approximately \$6000 from last year and that more help will be given to district treasurers to help them submit timely and accurate monthly reports. Online Services reports growth with the Online Penpal Service, and a great interest for online meetings outside ones on AOL currently available.

A New Leaf Report: Asked that Bureau Chiefs of each district be more active in gathering stories for the Monthly newsletter. The editors have been having a very difficult time getting enough input for each issue.

Office Manger Report: Stepping down this month, but a new OM has been selected to start in June. Twenty

new orphan meetings started over the last year. Reminded everyone that the International Directory is updated quarterly.

The Conference then broke into it's four committees: P&P (Policies and Procedures), Literature, Finance, and H&I/PI (Hospitals and Institutions / Public Information) for two long sessions of Committee meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

The General Session reconvened again later on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

Finance stressed the importance of timely district reports. It was noted many orphan meetings regularly donate to MAWS and that individual donations are also up.

H&I/PI recommended the creation of an online meeting format. Anyone interested in starting an online meeting outside of AOL should contact the

★
★ **Congratulations to Our Members** ★
★ **Celebrating their Sober Birthdays!** ★



District 1
Mikki K. 6/1/91 8 yrs.

District 3
Jill K. 6/8/88 11 yrs.
Mary S. 7/1/90 9 yrs.
Pam J. 7/8/97 2 yrs.
Teddee C. 7/17/96 3 yrs.

Dean V. 6/11/90 9 yrs.
Doug K. 6/10/90 9 yrs.
Jerry P. 6/27/93 6 yrs.

Ken S. 7/3/88 11 yrs.
Robert S. 6/1/97 2 yrs.
Ron A. 6/15/95 4 yrs.
Steve S. 7/4/97 2 yrs.

District 4
Mary M. 5-29-95 4 yrs.
Kevin C. 5-5-98 1 year!

District 6
Alice K. 6/1/96 3 yrs.
Carol Mc. 6/23/88 11 yrs.

Andrea P. 7/25/93 6 yrs.
Craig H. 7/28/89 10 yrs.
Peter G. 7/21/97 2 yrs.
Brad M. 7/27/91 8 yrs.
Robert C. 7/10/94 5 yrs.
'Morning' Jon 7/23/96 3 yrs.

Columbus, GA
Clara U 6/6/96 3 yrs.
Putney, VT
Sheryl C 5/16/97 2 yrs.

MAWS continued

Online Services trustee. The Committee also approved a handbook to help with answering the 800 phone line, a new PI Manual, and a new video PSA that is available for distribution through the PI trustee.

P&P approved a document called Convention Guidelines, to assist districts in holding future conventions.

Literature approved Spanish translations of two more previously approved MA pamphlets which will be distributed when they are completed. The second edition of Life With Hope is still being worked on. A brief history of MA has been written for it and fifteen personal stories will be included.

Trustee elections were held. Trustees and their positions are: President: Jay C, Treasurer: Ilene, Secretary: Mariska, Policies & Procedures: Aziz, On-line: Rocco, Meeting Outreach: Brandon, 800#: Erin, Literature: John Mc, Public Information: James S.

To get in touch with any of these trustees, contact the MA office manager at: World Services Office Manager, P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 or e-mail: info@marijuana-anonymous.org.

The Roving Reporter

Do You have friends that still use?

Erin O. Dist.5 13 years

Yes. The people I know who smoke pot are very respectful of my sobriety or they eventually

cease to be my friend. I used to have a fear that I would be rejected, so I stayed in places when pot was around. Now I remove myself, but more often the people around me who use remove themselves, so that I won't be uncomfortable. Those are the ones who really love and care about me.

Terry H. Dist. 5 2 years

Yes. We spend a lot less time together, but I am still good friends with one of them.

Bonnie Dist. 6 6 years

No, but I have friends who drink and they don't get it. They still offer me drinks. But, that's easier to say "No, thanks" to than if I had friends who still used.

Terri R. Dist. 6 8.5 years

No. When I got sober, all my friends had dropped away at least 1 year earlier. I choose not to hang out with anyone who smokes pot.

Kevin V. Dist. 2 13 years

I have a co-worker who was also my dealer. Fortunately, we have other things in common besides getting high. He knows I'm in recovery and we rarely bring up the subject. I see him getting sicker and sicker, but I don't wag my finger at him.

Trisa A. Dist. 11 3 years

I find 'those friends' feel either threatened or spiteful of my recovery. I have noticed that their lives are not going anywhere while my growth moves along to enrich my life.



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2 color design
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