



# a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

August 2006

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## Dangers of Cross Addiction by Patrick L.

It was around 11 years ago I was innocently sharing at another 12-step fellowship meeting populated by older men with many years of sobriety about how grateful I was that I could smoke pot to relieve me of the anxiety of not drinking. These men gently cross-talked the remainder of the meeting to the new guy (me) about being clean and sober meaning not consuming alcohol or any other mood and mind altering drugs, period. I am nearing my eleventh year of sobriety by the grace of God and our recovery fellowships. This means I have not consumed marijuana, alcohol, cocaine, speed, hallucinogens, and all other mood and mind altering chemicals. I learned this from you, my brothers and sisters in recovery. It bothers me when I hear newer people at MA meetings saying they quit pot but are still drinking alcohol in a controlled manner, and that this does not count against their sobriety date. I've also learned that we do not send the MA police and accuse them of a recovery crime. It is up to each of us to determine our sobriety date and admit if we have a relapse. Recognizing cross addiction is

sometimes subtle, in my opinion. Do I relapse if I take a combination of 2 or 3 prescription medications over a period of years, drugs to alter one's mood, emotions and anxiety levels? That is not for me to say about another person, only myself.

### **"It bothers me when I hear people at MA meetings saying they quit pot but are still drinking alcohol"**

We addicts need to be constantly looking at ourselves, those we sponsor and close friends in recovery, not to accuse, but to support each other and ask questions when appropriate. What about overeating compulsively? I know some of us go to Overeaters Anonymous. What about sex and promiscuity and paying for it, or being addicted to relationships? I know some of us who go to sex based 12-step groups. How about gambling? How about co-dependency? Singleness of purpose in MA does not offer any protection from the dangers of cross-addiction, and should not prevent us from talking about problems with other addictions at meetings. I support reading "The Dangers

of Cross Addiction" at our meetings. I believe it helps us to be aware of the fact that we are vulnerable to addictions in addition to marijuana. I was terribly cross-addicted to multiple substances and behaviors when I got to MA, and it took years to become free

one day at a time. There remain some addictive behaviors I struggle with like overwork and sex (or lack of it).

And yes, I have been able to let it go when I see one of our fellows pick up a chip even though I know the person was using some other drug along the path, because that really is not up to me to judge or publicly condemn. And I respect those among us who eventually change their sobriety date to reflect the fact that they realize it is the right thing to do. Thank You God for Marijuana Anonymous and all our members. ▲

## submit

share your experience, strength and hope! Submit your article to your Bureau Chief or see page 2 for contact information.



# 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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[www.marijuana-anonymous.org](http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org)  
and click on publications.

## How to Get Your Own Tax ID by Az A.

At the 2006 MAWS Conference, it was decided that prior to January 1, 2007, all districts whose annual income is under \$4,000.00 stop using the MAWS tax ID number. Please refer to the following guide on how an MA District can obtain their own Federal Tax ID number:

**1. Call the IRS small business division (877-829-5500)** to obtain a Federal Tax I.D. number. A member must give their name, social security number and street address (no P.O. Box) to set this up. A form is then sent in the mail verifying the Tax I.D. number.

**2. Obtain a Fictitious Business Name Statement** from your county recorder's office to be able to open a bank account. Name suggestion: "Marijuana Anonymous District #\_\_." One member needs to bring their personal information to the county, as well as the social security number, name and street address of a second member (though the second member does not need to go there personally). There is a small fee. Part of the process involves running a "dba" (doing business as) ad in your local paper for a month. This ad shows the main person's name in the classified (but not their address). You may receive a substantial amount of junk mail as a result of this filing.

**3. Open a bank account as a non-profit association (NOT a corpo-**

ration). Some bank managers are more familiar with 12 step groups and this procedure than others. If your current bank is uncooperative, try another branch of the same bank. Ask the bank about privacy so they do not sell your business name to junk mailers. The bank requires the following documents:

- Your local District's By-laws, Charter, or Mission Statement
- Federal Tax I.D. number form
- Fictitious Business Name Statement
- Listing of current Officers, with their titles and purpose, and Minutes from the District meeting authorizing an individual to open a bank account (it should be the same individual who got the Tax I.D. number and the fictitious business name). If you want two people to open the account as signers, both need to go to the bank in person with their ID.

It is recommended that you get a free checking account, rather than an interest-bearing account. The interest is minimal, and will make the treasurer's job of reconciliation that much more difficult.

You should close the existing bank account that uses the MAWS Tax I.D. number at the same time as you open your District's account. Your closing statement will be proof to MAWS that you closed this account (therefore, please send MAWS a copy). All transactions

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since the previous fiscal year began should be sent to the MAWS Treasurer as soon as this account is closed (so that MAWS has this information to file with their tax return at the next filing). Don't put this off to the last minute! Please do not wait until December 2006 to open this account – do it as soon as possible.

If your District's income is less than \$5,000.00 per year, you are not required to file a tax return with the federal government. As this is a federal Tax I.D. number, we are not required to file anything with the state.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact

the MAWS Treasurer. He can be reached through the MAWS Office Manager at [office@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:office@marijuana-anonymous.org)

Thank you in advance for all of the Districts' cooperation with this request. The final outcome will be rewarding to all involved. ▲

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## the roving reporter

**"What have your sponsees taught you about life in sobriety?"**

How many times have we answered a call from a newcomer only to find ourselves saying just what we needed to hear? That's because 12th step work expands when we give it away.

The main thing I have learned in working with others is how to listen. Listening to the feelings behind what is being said.

In listening to others

come to understand their own powerlessness, I understand my powerlessness too. Surrender is a very personal experience, and allowing another to share their experience, with me, helps me just as much as them. When I was being sponsored by others, I heard myself admit to my innermost self, truths which helped me accept my circumstances, truths which led me to believe in a Power Greater than myself. Recovery is about knowing we have choices and giving our-

selves freedom to choose. I may not always feel like I'm sponsoring someone the correct way. But I look at it as if we are on the same road together not knowing our final destination, or when we will arrive, but knowing we are at least traveling in the right direction. We can encourage oth-

**"The main thing I have learned in working with others is how to listen."**

ers to stay on course. When people are serving, life is no longer meaningless...keep on trudging the road of happy destiny.

-Anonymous

One of my sponsees, Brian B., had this to say about God testing us: He said, "God does not test us, life tests us, and God gives us the strength to face those tests..." I now share that with other sponsees, and others in the program. Heck, I even used it on my sponsor when he was going through

some pretty rough life on life's terms issues recently.

Not to tell his story for him, BUT Brian has also taught me a great lesson about the 3rd Tradition. Brian has been around for almost 2 years. He used to come to our meeting and share about

how he had a joint waiting in the car and that he knew he was gonna smoke. Often he did, sometimes he didn't, but no matter what he kept coming back to

the meeting. He now has about 6 months of good solid recovery. He had the desire to stop so he was always welcomed back.

-Rich C.

Next month's question:

**"Do you still wear tie-dye? Why?"**



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## birthdays

Are you celebrating a birthday in the next few months? Or have you celebrated one in the last 30 days and not seen it in A New Leaf? If you live in a District area of MA, let your Bureau Chief know about it. If not, tell us! For contact information, see the box on page 2.

### District 2

Chris M.	6/00	6 yrs
Michelle	6/05	1 yr!
Nina	6/85	21 yrs
Tom S.	7/1/02	4 yrs
Ari	7/3/96	10 yrs
Quentin	7/12/01	5 yrs
Anomymous	7/14/89	17 yrs
Sheila F.	7/20/88	18 yrs
Kevin V.	7/23/85	21 yrs

### District 3

Jerry P.	6/27/93	13 yrs
Kristen C.	6/24/04	2 yrs
Michelle K.	6/04/05	1 yr!
Pam L.	6/23/01	5 yrs
Will J.	6/09/03	3 yrs
Davy G.	7/04/97	9 yrs
Jeff B.	7/23/98	8 yrs
Mary S.	7/01/90	6 yrs
Steve S.	7/04/97	9 yrs
Mike G.	8/05/00	6 yrs
Pam M.	8/12/96	10 yrs
Julie F.	8/18/96	10 yrs
Tristan	8/24/96	10 yrs

### District 5

Lisa T.	8/21/90	16 yrs
Coleman	8/13/92	14 yrs
Chris M.	8/10/02	4 yrs
Anthony	8/7/04	2 yrs

### District 7

Barry	6/20/05	1 yr!
Doug 'Farmer'	6/11/99	7 yrs
Alex L.	6/23/88	19 yrs
Sue	7/98	7 yrs
Bhavato	7/12/02	5 yrs

### District 8

Adam B.	6/30/03	3 yrs
Missy F.	6/25/99	7 yrs

### District 12

Austin	7/19/05	1 yr!
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### Philly

Gina A.	6/4/04	2 yrs
Steve K.	7/15/00	6 yrs
Rich C.	7/23/02	4 yrs
Rich M.	7/23/94	12 yrs
Leon R.	7/26/05	1 yr!

### Fresno, CA

Heather W.	6/19/05	1 yr!
Junior H.	6/19/05	1 yr!
Rhonda B.	7/8/02	4 yrs

### Misc.

Kimberly Anne	7/11/06	1 yr!
Ray H.	8/1/01	5 yrs

### Note from the Editor:

We have updated the look of A New Leaf. What do you think about it? We'd love to hear from you. Your feedback is encouraged and always welcome.

