



A NEW LEAF

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The Miracle Is Here

By Brett P., New Mexico

I remember so vividly that first meeting that I attended. I had been crying all day because a woman I thought I loved told me she just couldn't understand why anyone would choose to live the way I did. My life was in such a shambles. I couldn't seem to find that one aspect of my life that was going well that I could grasp a hold of and pull myself out of the hole I had dug for myself. I called the hotline to Marijuana Anonymous and spoke with a caring woman who told me where I could attend a meeting. I was 40 minutes late and snuck in and sat down in the back of a dark room (it was a candlelight meeting) on this tiny little chair made for a five-year-old.

I listened to some guy talk about my life, and it was some time before I realized he was talking about himself and not me. At the end of the meeting came a time for anyone with a burning desire to speak. I timidly raised my hand and said, "My life sucks, my family sucks, my relationship sucks, my job sucks, and I need help." There was one fellow that came up to me and asked me to speak to him after the meeting.

Talk we did. We didn't leave that parking lot until 3:00 in the morning. He told me some things

that I will never forget. He told me, "Just don't drink or use and the rest will fall into place." He told me, "Don't give up before the miracle." I really thought this guy was quite brilliant with all the things he was telling me, and I believed him. I still

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do. He described to me a process by which I could rid myself of the wreckage of my past and turn my life around. I read the promises from the Big Book, and I believed

that the miracle would happen if I just worked the 12 Steps. We began to work the steps, and I dug up all kinds of issues. One by one, I'm still working on them.

I've been working on these steps for some time now, and I

would like to proudly announce the arrival of the miracle. On June 24, a new life arrived in this world, and she will grow up to call me

daddy. Her mother and I named her Faith. Somehow, that seemed appropriate. I was there through the entire process of having this child.

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Step 12 By Mail

by Jerry P., District 3

There are many ways to carry our message to the addict who still suffers. We have also heard often that the newcomers are the life blood of the meetings. In District 3, we have found that the most effective way to get more newcomers to attend our MA meetings is by mailing out lots of meeting schedules. We are sensitive to the idea that we must use attraction, not promotion (11th Tradition). We continually find,

however, that there are marijuana addicts out there who have hit their bottom and are looking for support but are unaware of our local meetings.

As the public information officer for our district, I have held several informal volunteer sessions where our service-minded MA members have spent an hour or two stuffing envelopes or addressing mailing labels. We are very fortunate to

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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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How We Get By

By Lance D., District 6

While one of the ways I do service is as the Marijuana Anonymous World Services (MAWS) Treasurer, I am writing this as just a member of the MA. This article is kind of an information listing of where our money goes that we put into the basket. I know that at a meeting level, the rent, cookies, cake, coffee, chips, and so on must be paid. That is why I not only put in \$1 into the basket, but I also put in extra money to help carry the message to other marijuana addicts. I am also aware that at a district level, there are other important items that need to be paid to support the district as a whole, such as rent for the District Service Committee (DSC) meeting, post office box, postage for mailings, printing, bank charges, events, chips, and a few other items.

But since I have become Treasurer, I have found that MAWS also needs a certain amount of money if it is to continue to be able to carry the message. Which is my purpose today...to try and carry the message of recovery to the addict who still is suffering. Many members may not be aware of the costs of carrying the messages, just like myself—up until recently.

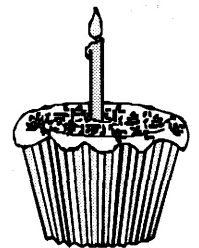
By reading some of the details below, MA members will know some of the expenses that MAWS has to pay. That can help you understand why it is so important for each district to forward some of the money that has been put into the basket by its members. Since there are only 11 districts, we all have to work in unity to make this possible.

Just to give you an idea, here are some of the expenses and how it works. Our accounting year ended on June 30. Since then, the current bank balance (on August 17) is \$1,279 less than it was at that time. In the month of July alone, our expenses were \$830 higher than what was contributed by the districts. Now with a slowing of 7th Tradition donations being sent in, carrying the message of recovery to the addict will become more difficult. This list gives you an idea as to some expenses and what is needed to carry the message based on what was spent from July 1996 to June 1997.

- MCI (800 number) cost \$3,446.05, or \$287.17 per month. Each district would need to contribute \$26.11 each month just for this alone.
- Voice mail was \$571.73, or \$47.64 per month. Each district's share would be \$4.33 monthly.

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Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!



District 2

Leah F. Aug 13 5 yrs
Steve E. Aug 14 9 yrs

District 6

Lance D. Aug 8 3 yrs
Mary S. Aug 8 3 yrs

District 8

Linda B. Jul 1 1 yr!

District 10

Bruce G. Jun 20 3 yrs
Bruce Jul 3 2 yrs
Bill H. Jul 17 5 yrs

Las Vegas

Vicki M. Aug 1 5 yrs

Step 12 By Mail

Continued from Page 1

have a local business owner as one of our members who donates the use of his offices, copier, envelopes, and postage meter for this purpose.

Perhaps you have someone in your district who is in a position to make a similar donation. (Think of how much money we used to spend for pot!) There are other creative ways that you could use to get the word out to those who are looking for meetings. You can have a brainstorming session to come up with ideas that are appropriate for your area.

We have sent out a few hundred MA meeting schedules to counselors, drug rehabilitation centers, hospitals, schools, churches, lawyers, courts, judges, newspapers, radio and television stations, and more. This activity has boosted attendance at our local MA meetings and brought in many newcomers who were looking for support in their recovery.

We have also recently been contacted by the host of a weekly radio show who wants to interview a couple of our members for a community service program. This may lead to other opportunities to spread our message such as MAWS-approved public service announcements (PSA, a 30 second MA message which gives our local phone number).

We have tried to keep it simple. We got most of the addresses we use from the local yellow pages. We have found that by using first class mail, we can use addresses without Zip Codes (most yellow pages listings in our area do not include the Zip Code). We usually put two to four copies (one ounce or less total weight) of the meeting schedule in each envelope. This is so that

the recipient can give one away to someone who needs it—without having to go and make a copy of it first—and still have one left.

You may want to send out one of the MA approved pamphlets also. In District 3 we have focused mainly on sending out the schedules and we leave the literature for those who make it to a meeting. If you would like to have more newcomers at the MA meetings in your district, you might want to try what we have done and send meeting schedules to hospitals, institutions, counselors, and legal professionals. ☉

The Miracle Is Here

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I cut the cord. I held her in my arms. I cried. On August 9, her mother and I met in a thicket of pine trees in southern Colorado, surrounded by our closest friends, in the presence of God, and pledged our lives to each other. That fellow who asked me to speak with him after the meeting 2 years 7 months and 19 days ago (not that I'm counting) stood there beside me as we made our vows. Now I'm wearing a cool ring on *that* finger. Once again, I cried.

I have had one heck of a summer. I could have never been there for it, had I not taken up this thing called recovery. I am so grateful that the hand of MA was there when this addict reached the point of incomprehensible demoralization. I am so grateful to all the people that have helped me on this journey. So many times I questioned this path and almost returned to my self-destructive ways. I never knew there was this much love to be had in life. I just didn't know it was there. ☉

Lethal Resentments

By Anonymous, District 8

After 16 years of daily use, I came to MA and found a way to stop smoking pot. And I stayed clean for two years and eight months. Yet after the first year or so, I drifted away from the program, and began a slow but steady slide back.

I began to judge the people I had met in the rooms, began to believe that as long as I wasn't smoking, the addiction was behind me. I returned to my collection of resentments, perversely enjoying them, embellishing and hiding behind them, until the self-pity they generated felt as necessary and habitual as breathing.

From the self-pity came despair, and from there it was the easiest thing in the world to call my friend the dealer. One week after picking up, I once again found myself stoned round-the-clock and deeply depressed.

Today, 55 days clean and sober (again), I see how lethal those resentments are. I can recognize, for today, that putting down the pipe is only the beginning. It is a hard truth I am enormously grateful to see. ☉

We want your story for the Second Edition of *Life With Hope*. Stories should be 5-8 typed, double-spaced pages. All stories will be reviewed, and 12 will be approved at the 1998 MAWS Conference.

Send stories to Marijuana Anonymous, District 11, P.O. Box 14125, Portland, OR 97293-0125. For more info, contact Susan B. at (503) 771-8662.

How We Get By

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- Phone call reimbursements were \$367.53, making each district's monthly share \$2.78.
- MAWS bank charges were \$72.00, or \$0.55 per month per district.
- The MAWS accountant cost \$1,170.02, or \$8.86 monthly per district.
- Office manager salary was \$1,800.00, which totals \$13.63 per district per month.
- Office expenses (supplies, postage, copying, and so on) were \$1,537.44, a monthly cost of \$11.65 per district.
- Miscellaneous expenses, such as web domain, workers' comp insurance, conference travel, sales tax, and other expenses totaled \$1,381.27, or \$10.46 per district for each month.

So, if we add up what each district would need to send to MAWS, just to cover these expenses, that amount would be \$78.37 every month. And, for the districts that simply cannot afford to send in this amount, the rest of the districts have to work in unity to make up the difference. Also keep in mind that we gave the MAWS secretary a raise of \$50 a month or \$4.55 per district, and our MCI bill is averaging a 20 percent increase.

So the next time you put money into the basket, think about this. And when your Group Service Representative, who represents your vote at the district level, goes to the DSC meeting, ask how much was donated to MA World Services. Because, if you are like me (and some of you might be), wouldn't you like to know how much of your money went to help carry the message of recovery to addicts all over the world? 🌐

Quote of the Month

We made amends even to those who had harmed us more than we had harmed them, regardless of whether they reciprocated. It was not our business to take their moral inventory. It was our business to clear up our side of the ledger, not to force others to admit how they had wronged us. Concern about consequences did not excuse us from making amends unless others would be harmed in the process.

—Life With Hope, Step Nine [page 46–47]

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