



September 1998

Volume 8 - No. 9

# A NEW LEAF

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

## Restore Us To Sanity

By David H.; District 4

"Yesterday morning I did a little test to find out from one perspective just what are the effects on me of strong marijuana. I had been writing observations and free-writes (did Huxley call that mind-speak, or was that something else?) so I stopped to take a hit and record my reaction.

The moment the smoke filled my lungs I got sensations all over my body, pressure building up inside my head, a fuzzy sensation around my eyes, and I was stunned for several moments before I could write. I was hardly motivated at all to put words on paper. The task seemed overwhelming. I was confused and dizzy. Things didn't make a lot of sense and I was not able to clear my head and the sensations and giddiness were getting stronger.

So I declared that I must not get high no more, Brother, Amen!!! and went to shake it off.

I exercised, listened to music, ran, played music, con-

fronted myself in the mirror, did yoga, walked, took a shower and ate, and I could still feel the effects of the grass.

I wasn't able to sit and focus on even describing my experience of being stoned.

I know that I feel like tired and dull and don't have the energy to do stuff when I'm high. I want to sleep or play music and have it sound better than it does, or be able to write and have it be clear and clever and brilliant and once in a while it is and once in a while grass is a real treat but every waking hour to get high as soon as your straight enough to function is a big drag."

If you just read the last six paragraphs you can see some of the evidence that was in front of me regarding the insanity of my use of bud. I was struggling to justify and explain my habit by attempting to elevate it to some level of science, or art. It was self delusional non-

sense held within an effort to be honest with myself in my own journaling, while maintaining my smoking.

But, dear readers and fellow smoke-heads, what is remarkable about the above quoted journal entry is that it was originally written in May of 1981, a full fifteen years before I really admitted that I was powerless over marijuana and that my life had become unmanageable.

And that day in 1981 was not the first time I had sensed that there was something amiss in my use of the weed. I had known it was a problem eleven years earlier at the age of eighteen. I knew it was not the friend I thought it was. There were moments when I knew this truly, even back then.

This leaves me with one conclusion: It is not by knowledge that I have become free of the weed, but by grace and gratitude for a sober life.



Share A Spiritual Experience!! Write an article for  
*A NEW LEAF* about finding a Higher Power!!

Please send all articles to:

*A NEW LEAF* P.O. Box 4314 North Hollywood, CA 91617  
or e-mail to [ANULEAF@aol.com](mailto:ANULEAF@aol.com) or [CRZIFNGRS@aol.com](mailto:CRZIFNGRS@aol.com)



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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## 1998 MAWS Conference Report

by Carol Mc., District 6

The 1998 Marijuana Anonymous World Service (MAWS) Conference was held in Orange, California over Memorial Day Weekend.

The first order of business was a report by each of our eleven established districts. Most districts reported the opening of new meetings since last year's conference. They also reported on the activities of their Hospitals & Institutions and Public Information Committees.

Next were Trustee Reports. The Literature Trustee reported on the personal stories brought to the conference for consideration in the Second Edition of Life With Hope. The New Meeting Outreach Trustee reported that he had been in touch with many people who started "orphan" meetings, those meetings outside established districts. The Treasurer reported on the shaky start of the 1997 fiscal year. Donations were down in the first two quarters of last year, but the fellowship responded with increased donations for the second 2 quarters. Finally, the Treasurer gave suggestions to keep MAWS financially solid: gratitude month [Meetings pass the basket a second time every week for one month per year, and send that money directly to World Services.]; events which earmark funds raised for direct donation to World Services; and individual donations [An individual may contribute up to \$1500 per year, and it is tax deductible].

Next came reports from A New Leaf Publications and the Office Manager. A New Leaf Publications, the publishing arm of MA, reported on the making of the Second Edition of Life With Hope (including personal stories and a short history of MA along with the twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous) which will be ready sometime next year. The Office Manager, Ilene M, reported that close to 250,000 people have contacted us via cyberspace. New meetings started this year in Alaska, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, South Dakota and England. Ilene resigned at the conference, but she will continue maintaining our webpage. Terri R. was hired as the new Office Manager.

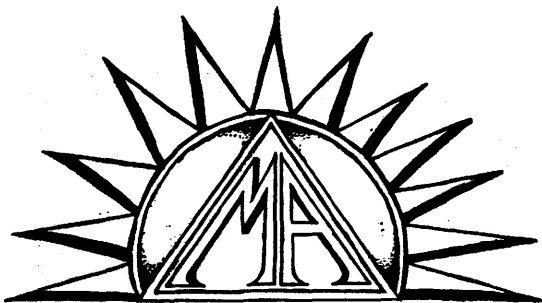
The Conference then broke into its four committees: P&P (Policies and Procedures), Literature, Finance, and H&I/PI (aka the "Hippie Committee"). Two sessions of committee meetings took place and then the General Session reconvened to consider recommendations and motions made in committee.

The Policies and Procedures Committee reported that the Service Manual will be updated this year. Also, a committee will be assembled to revise guidelines for the annual Convention: our gathering for fun, workshops, speaker meetings, and fellowship (The 1999 Convention will be hosted by District 6, Los Angeles County North, at the Burbank Airport Hilton in Burbank, California).

The Hippie Committee reported next. A video Public Service Announcement will be created this year by Carl P., the H&I/PI Trustee.

The Finance Committee reported that they recommend each district donate \$45 per delegate to the hosting district of the 1999 Conference, which will be District 11, Portland, Oregon. [This money would help offset food costs that the hosting district usually incurs during the conference.]





**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Marijuana Anonymous Convention  
"Stepping Into The Light"  
January 15-16-17, 1999  
Burbank, California**

**Tentative Agenda**

(Specific starting times subject to change)

**Friday January 15**  
Registration opens-4pm  
Dinner on your own  
Opening meeting-7pm  
Meet and Greet Event-9pm  
Late Night meeting-11pm

**Saturday January 16**  
Early meeting-7am  
Breakfast-8:30am  
Workshops and Meetings  
Banquet Dinner-6pm  
Speaker meeting-7:30pm  
Surprise entertainment-8:30pm  
Dance-10pm  
Late Night meeting-11pm

**Sunday January 17**  
Early meeting-7am  
Breakfast-8:30am  
Workshops and Meetings  
Closing Ceremonies-11:30am  
Raffle

**Hotel Registration**

(Hotel is not included in registration costs-you must book your room separately)

**Burbank Airport Hilton 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, California (800) HILTONS** (Hotel is across the street from Burbank Airport)  
Room Rates: \$99.00 per night plus tax-1 to 2 people per room. Add \$10.00 per night for each additional person up to 4 people per room.  
(\$119 per night plus tax for 4 people in a room)  
Reservations must be made by December 15, 1998 to guarantee this rate.  
*You must say that you are with the MA Convention to receive this rate.*  
(You may stay Sunday night at the Convention rate if you wish!)

+++++  
**Convention Registration Order Form**

<b>Full Packages</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b># of tickets</b>	<b>Total</b>
Before December 15-All events and food	\$70	_____	\$_____
After December 15-All events and food	\$80	_____	\$_____
At the Door-All events and food	\$90	_____	\$_____
<b>Individual Events</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b># of tickets</b>	<b>Total</b>
Friday-Opening meeting and Meet & Greet Event	FREE	_____	_____
Saturday-Workshops, Banquet, Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance	\$50	_____	\$_____
Saturday-Workshops, Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance (NO FOOD)	\$15	_____	\$_____
Saturday-Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance Only (NO WORKSHOPS OR FOOD)	\$10	_____	\$_____
Sunday-Workshops and Closing Ceremonies (NO FOOD)	FREE	_____	_____

Send order form and check for total amount payable to:

Total Registration Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MA Convention Fund**  
P.O. Box 2912  
Van Nuys, Ca 91404

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E mail address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

(Your anonymity will be protected on all materials)

Banquet Dinner Choice: Chicken (quantity) \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Lasagne (quantity) \_\_\_\_\_  
Will you need shuttle service from Burbank Airport? \_\_\_\_\_