



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

September 2011

Vol. 21, No. 9

His View On The 12 Traditions

In the forward to "Life with Hope", it explains, "The 12 Traditions are the guidelines for the fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous and the basic ideas which unify our groups."

Unfortunately, that's about the only pre-explanation of why we need the 12 Traditions in the book. For the real understanding, you have got to research them yourself.

For those who are not familiar with them, here they are in short form.

#1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon M.A. unity.

#2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God whose expression may come through in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

#3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using marijuana.

#4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or M.A. as a whole.

#5. Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the marijuana addict who still suffers.

#6. M.A. groups ought never endorse, finance or lend the M.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

#7. Every M.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

#8. Marijuana Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

#9. M.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

#10. Marijuana Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues: hence the M.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

#11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion: we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow M.A. members.

#12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Here is my understanding of what they represent. These are MY opinions and, unless otherwise noted, do not represent the view of the group or M.A. as a whole.

#1 States that our unity as addicts has to come first. We may disagree, but we MUST stick together.

#2 Declares that no ONE addict can rise above another and rule a group as a dictatorship. God is the ultimate authority and a group conscience should determine the direction of any group.

#3 Says that no one who wants to quit will be turned away. No matter what.

#4 Means that every group has the right to self-control, except where

M.A. as a whole is affected.

#5 That there is ONE primary reason for our group - to help those who are still suffering.

#6 Says that we shall not be attached to any outside enterprises, in case it diverts us from our primary purpose.

#7 Means that if we take care of ourselves, there won't be problems of outside influence or control. It's important to note here that this doesn't just mean putting a buck in the basket at a meeting. It also means that it takes a lot of people taking commitments to keep the meetings, the district and MAWS running. Without people giving back, we can fail on this Tradition.

#8 We are not about making money. We are just addicts helping other addicts. However, we might need to hire someone to do the administrative duties that a volunteer might not be able to commit to.

#9 Straight out of the book, "Tradition nine defines true fellowship: a group without organization, guided by a loving God and driven only by the spirit of service."

#10 We do not take sides on issues that don't concern M.A. as a whole. Individuals can do as they wish, but M.A. does not enter into any public controversies.

#11 Pretty self explanatory: we can use the public media to promote the program of MA, but we MUST protect the identities of our individual

#12 From the book, "Putting principles before personalities
(continued on page two)

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 reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

District Bureau Chiefs

- District 1: Lori B.
- District 2: Chris M.
- District 3: Mark S.
- District 4: Eric N.
- District 5: John S.
- District 6: Rick
- District 7: Karen S.
- District 8: Al M.
- District 10: Carlos M.
- District 11: Lynne McG.
- District 12: Jim B.
- District 13: OPEN
- District 15: Gary K.

ANLP Staff

- Office Manager: Tom W.
- Field Editor: **OPEN**
- Publishing Editor: Mark I.
- Secretary: Susan C.
- Treasurer: Terry H.
- Chairperson: John McC.

Send all articles, inquiries and correspondence to:
anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org

A New Leaf
P.O. Box 6482
Torrance, CA 90504

or submit online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on the newsletter tab.

A View Of The 12 Traditions

(continued from page one)

means that we listen to God’s will for us and do what is right no matter who is involved. We practice the spiritual principles of honesty, humility, compassion, tolerance and patience with everyone, whether we like them or not.”

I have heard many people refer to a specific Tradition as a basis for backing up a particular opinion that they might have for making the group better. But we should really remember, that these Traditions are not laws. They are not enforced as rules. (Trad. 9, pg.91)

They are mostly suggestions, based on experience, about how to keep things running orderly. The decision of all M.A matters is entirely up to the group.

To quote another fellowship, “Our Traditions protect us from the internal and external forces that could destroy us.” Simply put, That’s MY understanding of them, at least, but I’m very open to hearing what others have gotten out of researching the 12 Traditions. If you haven’t already, I strongly encourage you to research these Traditions yourself and take an active part in this fellowship and your recovery.

If I have offended anyone with any of my viewpoints, I apologize. That was not my intention. These are all just my opinions and should be treated as such.

Thanks for letting me share.
Kevin

Just Add Water

How to help your friend who slipped: Focus on Tradition 3, “The only requirement for membership in Marijuana Anonymous is a desire to stop using marijuana.” Your friend is STILL a full-fledged member. The remorse over the slip is proof of the desire to stop using, which is all that is required. If one could slip and feel no sadness or disappointment, then perhaps the desire to stop has gone away; but this is not the case for your friend.

Your friend still belongs and remains a member, because the requirement is fulfilled... the desire to stop. I remember when the Betty Crocker company experienced falling sales of their new cake mix back in the fifties (“Just Add Water!”).

Sales rocketed back up because they changed the recipe: after adding water, add an egg and beat it into the mix. Because people could not accept the cake as real – too easy! Too simple! Just add water? What’s the catch? Surely it takes more than that to make a REAL cake. Well...it doesn’t. The desire to stop. That’s all your friend needs. Ask your friend to come back like the true member (s) he is. And (s)he can leave the eggs at home.
Lucas H.

ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

The Question for September...

How did you feel after making amends?

(Please submit answers by October 17)



DRUGS AND ROCK & ROLL

I always had many reasons to get high, besides the day ending in Y. One of the more important ones for me was listening to music. How could you enjoy Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, or even the Beatles without being high? Listen to Jimmy Buffet sober? What was the point?

I used to start my weekends off on Friday afternoons when a local radio station would play a certain series of songs, "Bang the drum" by Todd Rundgren, followed by the song "I Smoke two Joints" by The Toyes. I always tried to be high by the time they would play those songs. Not that hard, I was always high.

Then came sobriety. I failed a drug test at my job and my continued employment was contingent on staying clean and sober. It wasn't an easy decision. I was miserable. "I hated my life, hated my job and hated my wife. I wanted to go to Party Town" to paraphrase the song, "Party Town," by Glenn Frey. I felt the pot was the only thing keeping me going but I had no choice. I had to give it up, at least for a little while was what I told myself.

When I got sober I had to stop listening to that station, at least on Friday afternoons. Music was a trigger for me. Just like sunny days, rainy days and 'any day that ended in Y.' I turned to other stations, other types of music. Who knew there were so many jazz and blues songs about getting high, especially ones by Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, or George Thorogood.

Then something happened as I was being of service at the fundraisers for MA and other sober events. I began to have fun. I met many members of MA, and other 12 Step programs who played music. They would play and I

would listen and enjoy. I began to see the songs for what they really were, someones experience, strength or not, and hope or not: "Last dance with Mary Jane" by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers is more about having problems with pot than pot; "Margaritaville" was about problems with booze and "Amphetamine Anne" by Canned Heat was about, well as the refrain says "Speed Kills." There will always be songs like "I smoke two joints" or "illegal smile" by John Prine but I think of them now, as I do the fun memories of using, all the way through.

We all had fun smoking or we wouldn't have done it, but I think the joint, or bong hit all the way through. I think about the bad times that came with the fun times. I think of songs like, "Oh that smell" by Lynyrd Skynyrd, "The Needle and the Damage Done" by Neil Young and the ending of "Life in the Fast Lane" by The Eagles. Then I remember how grateful I am for sobriety and the songs that make me feel that way: "Spirit in the Sky" by Normal Greenbaum, "The Long Run" by The Eagles and my favorite, "Amazing" by Aerosmith.

Jeff M.

Step Ten
Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

Tradition Ten
Marijuana Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the M.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

MAWS is conducting an "Effectiveness Survey" to evaluate what the society of MA thinks about MAWS' service to date to: Districts, meetings and members. We hope to collect a society-wide group conscience to give direction to the type of work in which MAWS should be engaged and to help evaluate MAWS' current ability and potential to serve MA's needs as conveyed by that MA group conscience.

SHARE YOUR OPINION. This month we would like you, your groups, and/or your Districts answers to the following questions:

1. *Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility, do we have an environment that allows us to choose our Trustees, Delegates and Paid Workers with care? Do we have so few people willing to serve that the only criteria is availability? Are elections viewed as popularity contests?*

2. *(Tradition 9) Does MAWS or any governing individual or exclusive group authority dictate organization to the society of MA?*

For more details, please go to the website forum.marijuana-anonymous.org. To submit your ideas and share your thoughts on these questions email us at mes@marijuana-anonymous.org.

This issue is packed with Tradition! **MI**

marijuana anonymous worldwide

MA World Services

PO Box 7807 Torrance, CA90504 800.766.6779
 www.marijuana-anonymous.org
 email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

District 1 San Francisco

www.ma-sf.org 415.325.4785

District 2 East Bay

PO Box 20484 Oakland, CA 94620 510.287.8873

District 3 South SF Bay Area

PO Box 551 Saratoga, CA 95071 408.450.0796

District 4 Western Washington

PO Box 17452 Seattle, WA 98107 206.414.9270

District 5 Orange County

1439 W. Chapman Av. PMB#215 Orange, CA 92868 714.999.9409

District 6 LA County No.

PO Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 818.759.9194

District 7 LA County So.

PO Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 323.943.9228

District 8 New York

PO Box 1244 Cooper Station New York, NY 10276 212.459.4423

District 10 LA County East

PO Box 94400 Pasadena, CA 91109 626.583.9582

District 11 Portland

PO Box 2012 Portland, OR 97208-2012 503.221.7007

District 12 North Bay, CA

PO Box 2842 Petaluma, CA 94952 415.419.3555 707.583.2326

District 13 MA Online

www.ma-online.org

District 14 London, England

07940.503438

District 15 Long Island, NY

www.ma-longisland.org 516-568-5883

District 16 Melbourne, Australia

24HR. info 0403 945 083 from overseas +61 403 945 083

District 17 Denmark

info@ma-kbh.dk

For a complete listing of all meetings visit www.marijuana-anonymous.org

SPECIAL NOTICE!

This is to inform everyone that the OFFICIAL ADDRESS of MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS has changed as of DECEMBER 7, 2010.

Every effort has been made to account for all the business names that can be used for our address; but please be careful in future to use the address below as the address for ALL official correspondence, including 7th Traditions:

**MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES
 PO BOX 7807
 TORRANCE, CA 90504**

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! Tell your local meetings, tell your DSC meetings, and especially tell your Treasury and Literature chairs!

This notice will appear on the website, and will be carried in the New Leaf, for a period of a year. Thanks in advance for helping to make the transition a smooth one!

HELP WANTED

(It's time to step up!)

FIELD EDITOR NEEDED

(I really need the help)

INTERESTED ADDICTS

(Being of service, helps one stay sober)

EMAIL

THE ANLP BOARD.

anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org

birthdays

Celebrating 186 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL contact information on page 2. Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that, a) HAVE occurred, b) HAVE NOT been published and, c) are not older than 45 days.

District 2

Ray H. 8/1/05 6yrs.
 Clif R. 8/9/10 1YEAR!
 Chris K. 8/12/99 12yrs.
 Greg B. 8/15/10 1YEAR!
 Kevin V. 7/23/85 26yrs.
 Monica R. 7/27/09 2yrs.

District 5

Monica 8/10/10 1YEAR!
 Lisa T. 8/21/90 21yrs.
 Coleman G. 8/13/92 19yrs.

District 6

Josh B. 7/21/06 5yrs.
 Samantha R. 8/1/10 1YEAR!
 Judd M. 8/3/10 1YEAR!
 Lauren H. 8/7/08 3yrs.

District 7

Ganga Gary. 8/5/07 4yrs.
 Michael F. 8/10/09 2yrs.
 Vince F. 7/25/06 5yrs.

District 8

Joseph C. 7/4/04 7yrs.
 Amy H. 7/10/04 7yrs.
 Yoni F. 7/19/09 2yrs.
 Allison F. 7/21/09 2yrs.
 Al M. 7/27/09 2yrs.

District 11

Lynne M. 8/25/10 1YEAR!
 Frank R. 8/28/07 4yrs.
 Marvin H. 9/9/84 27yrs.
 Stefan H. 9/15/03 8yrs.

District 13

Susie K. WI 7/28/05 6yrs

Other Locations

Ian H. FL 12/1/07 3yrs.
 Milinda T. NC 7/30/10 1YEAR!
 Carolyn M. MN 7/25/07 4yrs.
 Eileen C. OH 7/31/07 4yrs.



KEEP COMING BACK!