



September 2018

Vol. 28, No. 9

## MA Online, aka District 13 has a Brand New Chatroom!

Come join us at [www.ma-online.org](http://www.ma-online.org) and check [www.ma-online.org/schedule.php](http://www.ma-online.org/schedule.php) to learn when our meetings are!

### What you can expect to find:

- 24/7 Chat
- Fellowship
- Online Meetings

### 3 Anonymous Short Stories:

Since 2012, MA Online has helped get me to get, and stay, sober. I live in Europe and there are no MA meetings in my country. The people at MA Online were helpful during the early days and months, when I felt crazy. Since then, I was able to find in-person meetings close by in other programs, get a sponsor, and work the Steps. But I still go to MA Online for my recovery, but also to give back. At MA Online I found understanding, acceptance, and good friends!

~by Anonymous

I heard about MA Online at my Home Meeting and thought I'd try it out. I've really enjoyed hanging out there, helping newcomers, being of service, and shooting the breeze with other recovering addicts.

~by Anonymous

It was the middle of the night and I was desperate when my Google searching led me to MA Online. For sure, it was my Higher Power who sent me there. The person there helped me find meetings near me and told me what to expect when quitting. Then, over the next few weeks, the people at MA Online "held my hand" through all of my difficult cravings. Because of MA Online, I got the help I needed right when I so desperately needed it!

~by Anonymous ▲

## An Interview with a Member in Service

**Beth:** What's your sobriety date? Was this your first attempt at recovery?

**LB:** September 20, 2005.

I came to MA because I was out of excuses about why my life was a total mess. I was financially bankrupt, unemployed, and totally isolated. With the exception of the few people I bought weed from or smoked with, I did the majority of my using alone.

I'm not sure I was ready to admit I was a marijuana addict when I first came to MA. I had had experience in another 12 Step program, so I wasn't a 12 Step novice when I went to my MA first meeting, but I was still

clinging to the idea that pot being my "solution" and not my problem.

**Beth:** Please share about your past attempts (how many, when, through what means/programs)? How is working the Steps of MA different than other programs if that has been your experience?

**LB:** There had been two times before I found MA that I had tried to go without pot, but neither was because I was trying to get sober. Once was because I was volunteering as a counselor for a weekend at a summer camp. That weekend I brought Klonopin that a doctor had prescribed me for panic

*Continued on page 2*

## Meditation: Faith

**"B**Y STARTING TO TRUST OUR Higher Power, we cleared the way for growth and recovery. Now we no longer have to rely on the weak force of self-will to solve our problems." (Step Three, *Life with Hope*, 3rd Ed., page 13)

Having faith requires believing in something without having proof that it exists. In recovery it is necessary to believe in something greater than ourselves. It is difficult to relinquish control, but it can be exhausting to swim against the current. The current is a force greater than myself and I am too weak to fight against the tide so I learn to surrender.

To let go and have the tide take over is the only way to let the force of what is greater than me, my Higher Power, work. I am focused on one tiny grain

of sand, but God, as I understand God, has a view of the entire beach. I may not understand now, but I trust that God knows what is best for me, for my growth, and for my recovery.



Today, I will have faith and accept that my will and desires are limited to the view of one tiny grain of sand, and HP sees the whole beach.

~Christine

## ANL's Purpose

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. MA is not affiliated with—and does not endorse or accept contributions from—any outside enterprise.

### District Bureau Chiefs

We are reaching out to districts to update the District Bureau Chief and birthday lists. Additionally, district representatives, including but not limited to those serving as Bureau Chief, are encouraged to stay in touch by emailing Thor H. at: [editor@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:editor@anewleafpublications.org)

### ANLP Staff

Chairperson:	Rick V.
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### Contact ANLP

Send articles/stories:  
[stories@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:stories@anewleafpublications.org)

### **Interview...**

*Continued from page 1*

attacks. I had never abused it, and hardly ever used it, but I took the Klonopen to get me through the weekend without pot. And, even though I had to formulate a plan to use prescription drugs to get through ONE WEEKEND without pot, it didn't occur to me that my marijuana use was a problem!

The second time I went without pot was on a solo, 2-month cross-country road trip. I chose not to bring pot, and at first I wasn't anxious about being without it. About 2 hours into the drive I was antsy and uncomfortable. I bought my first pack of cigarettes because I had to have SOMETHING! I think I realized that I was feeling the effects of not being high, but I still didn't equate what I was feeling to being addicted to pot. Instead, I just added another addiction! Denial is an amazing thing!

**Beth:** How long have you been in service? What are some of the different roles in which you've been in service?

**LB:** I have been of service in MA since before I even got sober. It took

me some time to be "done" with pot, but in the meantime I volunteered for commitments at meetings that you can take when you don't have time. I did chips, I did literature, and I helped find a new meeting location for a meeting that had to move.

Once I got sober I got more involved. When I had almost 6 months I was nominated and elected Secretary of a meeting, and I volunteered for my first DSC commitment, the Chip Chair. Shortly after that I served as

*"Being of service has been integral to my sobriety. At the meeting level, having a commitment gets my butt in a chair so I can hear the message of recovery from a speaker, the literature, or my fellows—usually all three."*

Events Chair at the district level, and put together some parties, events, and fundraisers that I am still really proud of. Over the last 12 years I have held almost every meeting level commitment there is, except the coffee commitment because I'm sure I would screw it up! I've been a GSR, District Chair, an MA World Services Delegate. I've been the Chair or Co-Chair of many World Conferences, and the Chair of the 2014 MA Convention in Los Angeles. I've served at the World Services level as the Conferences and Conventions Trustee, Public Information Trustee, Treasurer, and now as President.

**Beth:** Why is being of service important to your recovery? How do you see newcomers being able to be of service?

**LB:** Being of service has been integral to my sobriety. At the meeting level, having a commitment gets my butt in a chair so I can hear the message of recovery from

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\*To work with ANLP, please send a note to [board@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:board@anewleafpublications.org)

a speaker, the literature, or my fellows—usually all three. Being of service has also been really important for me as far as making friends and personal connections in program. I'd much rather throw a party than go to a party so, as Events Chair I was able to feel more comfortable being around everyone because I was running the events, not just showing up and feeling awkward, or not showing up at all! My favorite part of being of service, specifically at World Services, is getting to meet fellows from all over the world. I know people from almost every district who have the same passion for service to our program as I do.

Newcomers are of service just by showing up to a meeting, but they have no idea how important they are or how they can help another addict. When the Chip Person asks if there are any newcomers who would like to take a chip, sometimes there is an awkward silence. Then one brave person will raise their hand and get a chip and a hug, which leads to another newcomer raising their hand, and so on. I usually tear up every time that happens.

**Beth:** Is there a quote from *Life with Hope* you would share with us?

**LB:** The quote I love from *Life with Hope* is, "We take these Steps for ourselves, not by ourselves. Others have gone before; others will follow. WE recover." [3rd Ed., Step 12, page 62. Italics and capitalization added for emphasis]

**Beth:** What is your mission or goals in your most recent service position as President? What kind of support do you need from the membership to achieve that?

**LB:** The most important thing we can do as a fellowship is to get the word out about MA to the marijuana addict that still suffers. As President, my job is to utilize all of my past service experience to support all of the Trustees who

are working toward this goal. There are countless people who need the help and support that I have been lucky enough to find in our fellowship, that have never ever heard of MA, and we need to find new ways to reach out to them.

World Services is reaching out to cities, states, and countries, where there are no MA meetings yet. Each MA member and District can help by doing outreach in their area to hospitals, rehabs, and sober livings so that that someone who needs us can find us. ▲

~Beth F. and LB.

**your your your  
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new...**

Please help our readers by sharing a bit of your recovery. Thank you!

stories@anewleafpublications.org

**YOUR recovery content**

send us an email to: stories@anewleafpublications.org

## THE ROVING REPORTER

Every month, our readers have **another opportunity** to reflect on their recovery and to help carry the message to the addict who still suffers. This issue presents certain questions/topics, the responses to which may be published in the October issue. In addition to questions/topics, the Step and the Tradition corresponding to the month of publication are offered as topics. For example, in this **September** issue we are requesting submissions related to **Step/Tradition Ten** for publication in **October**. The deadline is the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month. You need not write more than a couple paragraphs and the exercise may strengthen your own recovery. The action you take will certainly bring to life **Step Twelve** and **Tradition Five**. The Fellowship hopes to hear from you often. One of this month's topics is derived from a line within **Step Ten of Life with Hope** (3rd Ed., p. 50, 2nd para).

First, to quote: "The point of the Tenth Step is to be willing to look at our own behavior and what needs to be changed

in us, not what needs to be changed in others. It is through this process that we begin to develop acceptance. And, in turn, we begin to forgive."

So for those who relate, who have experienced this, please give an account of... **a Tenth Step experience where you've recognized an opportunity to focus on yourself, and having done so, found acceptance, and/or forgiveness.**

And/or you may wish to respond to a different topic. First, read Step Ten then... **Briefly describe an experience of your process of continued personal inventory, having done Steps One through Nine already, that brought you a deeper sense of insight about yourself and/or put you in a position to make prompt amends.**

One final suggested topic, related to Tenth Tradition:

**How do you practice this Tradition, personally? How do you encourage it at the meeting level? At District? At MA World Services?**

Please submit to: stories@anewleafpublications.org with Subject: "10/2018 Roving Reporter"

# Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

For a complete listing of all meetings visit  
WWW.MARIJUANA-ANONYMOUS.ORG

**MA World Services** 340 S Lemon Ave # 9420, Walnut CA 91789-2706  
www.marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ info@marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ +1.800.766.6779

<b>DIST. 2 San Francisco &amp; East Bay</b> www.madistrict2.org	+1.510.957.8390	<b>DIST. 14 London, England</b> www.marijuana-anonymous.co.uk	+44.300.124.0373
<b>DIST. 3 South SF Bay Area</b> www.madistrict3.org	+1.408.450.0796	<b>DIST. 15 Long Island, NY</b> www.ma-longisland.org	+1.631.647.0768
<b>DIST. 4 Western Washington</b> www.madistrict4.org	+1.206.414.9270	<b>DIST. 16 Melbourne, Australia</b> www.marijuana-anonymous.com	+61.403.945.083
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<b>DIST. 13 MA Online</b> www.ma-online.org		<b>PHONE MA Phone Meetings: 4 Distinct Groups</b> www.ma-phone.org	

## Thank you to Beth! & We need a graphic designer, aka Publishing Editor to join the team!

You may have noticed in the sidebar on page 2 that we are in need of *both* a paid Administrator, and a volunteer Publishing Editor. Regarding the latter, this volunteer service opportunity requires someone with skills in Adobe InDesign, a grasp of Character and Paragraph Styles, e.g. how they're used in a style tree, and a willingness to be of service on a team (remotely).

Per the ANLP Charter, it is a 1-year commitment with optional second, filled by a member who ideally has 2 years clean and sober. We've found

that the best way to elicit support is to ask directly, and we hope our readers will do just that. Specifically, we encourage you to not only announce the need in meetings, but to learn who in your area might have the design chops and discuss this service opportunity with them directly.

Beth has done a fine job the last few months and we'd like to thank her, and find someone to fill her shoes pronto! Thank you, Beth!

~ANLP Board

## Celebrating 49 Years of Sobriety!

### District 5

Allan	8/6/2014	4 yrs.
Coleman G.	8/13/1992	26 yrs.

### District 7

Manny F.	7/24/2014	4 yrs.
Mark W.	7/2/2012	6 yrs.

Zhuba G.	7/17/2014	4 yrs.
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### District 21

Russell	7/18/2011	7 yrs.
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### GOT A YEAR? ALLOW US TO PUBLISH YOUR ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE!!!

Provide your sobriety date to your local GSR to be forwarded to your Bureau Chief,  
**or** e-mail your details to [chiefs@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:chiefs@anewleafpublications.org)  
**or** submit them online at [tiny.cc/mabday](http://tiny.cc/mabday).

**Members / GSRs / Bureau Chiefs**  
are encouraged to submit  
Birthdays that...

- 1) **HAVE OCCURRED,**
- 2) **HAVE NOT been published recently,**
- 3) **and ARE NOT OLDER THAN 45 days.**

## From Life with Hope

### Step Nine

*Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*

### Tradition Nine

*MA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.*

