



A NEW LEAF

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From the Pipeline by Cindy

This article comes from the Recovery Pipeline. for more information about the Pipeline and other on-line MA meetings, check out our website at www.marijuana-anonymous.org.

I'm Cindy, and I'm an addict in recovery.

Well, even though the 3rd tradition indicates that I can count my sobriety from the date of my last toke (Dec. 23, 1978), I count mine from the day after my last attempt to try better living through chemistry—in my case alcohol. That would be August 26, 1989.

So I've got 11 years today.

It's been an interesting ride. When I first came into recovery, I did all the things I was supposed to do—went to 90 meetings in 90 days, got a sponsor, called other people in recovery, worked the steps. And it helped me stay sober, and helped me get however much more sane I am today than I was then.

Since this is MA, what I can say about my pot smoking is that it was my drug of choice. I used every day, 24/7. I mixed it with other chemicals, like acid, coke, and alcohol. My combinations started driving me insane at the age of 21, when I decided one day that I was a mutant link in the chain of evolution to a higher state of being. I was living in delusions

of grandeur, couldn't stop getting high for 5 minutes, and got desperate enough to start selling my instruments in order to get high.

God got me clean without a program, when I got desperate enough to pray really hard and really sincerely. Unfortunately, I took my will and my life back into my own hands about 6 years later and the addict in me started manifesting itself in all sorts of ways. I desperately wanted to get high, which I knew wasn't an option. So I eventually got drunk instead. And I quickly realized that my addiction was across-the-board. So I got sober in another recovery program. I found MA three years later.

Recovery has taken me in a lot of interesting directions. In the past few years, I've worked at reconciling what I hear in the program with what I believe spiritually. Often I hear things that contradict my spiritual beliefs, and that makes me sometimes want to just chuck the program and focus on my spirituality. At the same time, I realize that the contradictory things are just people's opinions, and that there's absolutely nothing in the 12 steps proper that contradicts what I believe.

Anyway, regardless of all that, I feel most comfortable in

the presence of other addicts. One thing I learned early on in recovery is that other addicts reveal me to myself. They show me what it's possible for addicts to be—both good and bad. They also unveil all the varieties of my crazy and delusional thinking. They show me what's going on in my brain. And anyway, the 12 steps really work. I find today that, when I know I've done something that directly hurts another, I'm generally pretty quick with the amends. Astounding.

In the long run, I can't really imagine life cut off from recovery. Needless to say, as a result I dutifully went to a meeting this evening and took a chip. After all, I was always told that even if I'm not interested in the chip or in sharing or in any of that, it's my

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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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Pipeline continued

responsibility to the newcomer to show that the program works. It's not about ourselves. It's about letting OTHERS know that there is hope.

So here I am, at about midnight, letting y'all know that recovery works. But it works only to the extent that I'm committed to it. There has not come one moment in the past 11 years that I was more committed to whatever brand of

insanity I was involved in than I was to the desire—NO MATTER WHAT—to stay clean and sober. I pray that, even when I'm not in my best recovery mode, I will never lose that fundamental commitment, one day at a time, to remain free of marijuana (and, for me, all mood and mind-altering chemicals).

Well, that's all from me. Thanks for letting me share.



Convention Call 2001 Convention Committee

2001 MA Convention Planning is in full swing and we need your help !!

The 2001 MA Convention will be held on January 19-21, 2001 in Orange County, California at the Wyndam Garden Hotel in Costa Mesa. The Wyndam Garden is located for easy access, via a free shuttle, from the Orange County Airport, near the South Coast Plaza Mall and the Orange County Performing Arts Center.

The theme of next year's Convention will "2001 An MA Odyssey."

WORKSHOP LEADERS ARE NEEDED!

The Workshop/Meeting Subcommittee will need MA members to lead workshops and meetings at next year's event. If you would like to participate in the recovery of fellow MA members by providing

a recovery or personal growth related workshop, we would like to hear from you. Please submit a brief (couple of paragraphs) summary of your workshop including an estimated time length and materials or equipment needed.

TALENT CALL!

The Entertainment Subcommittee needs volunteers to perform their talents on Friday night on our Coffee House stage. The informal atmosphere begs musicians, poets, comedians or any stage act worthy of viewing to reveal their talents to a hip, laid back, latte-sipping crowd. We are looking for acts between ten to fifteen minutes of length to fill a limited number of time slots. Show time begins at 9:00 PM and ends at Midnight.

(continued on back page)



7th ANNUAL MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS CONVENTION JANUARY 19, 20 & 21, 2001 COSTA MESA, CA

TENTATIVE AGENDA

— Specific starting times subject to change —

Friday, January 19

4 PM - 9 PM: Registration
Dinner on your own
(Hospitality Suite Available)
6 PM: Meet & Greet
7 PM: Announcements
7:30 PM: Speaker Meeting
9 PM - Midnight:
Coffee House Entertainment

Saturday, January 20

7:30 AM: Breakfast on your own*
9 AM - 5 PM: Registration
8:30 - 11:45 AM: Workshops
11:45 AM - 1:45 PM: Lunch on your own
1:15 - 4:30 PM: Workshops
6 - 9 PM: Banquet Dinner
Keynote Speaker Meeting
9 PM - 2 AM: Dance

Sunday, January 21

7:30 AM: Breakfast on your own*
8:30 - 10 AM: Workshops
10:00 - 11:00 AM: Checkout
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM:
Closing Meeting:
Speakers
Raffle
Birthday Countdown

HOTEL REGISTRATION

— Hotel is not included; you must book your room registration separately —

WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL • 3350 Avenue of the Arts • Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 751-5100 • (800) WYNDHAM

You must say you are with the M.A. Convention to receive the following rates

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 3, 2001, to guarantee the Convention rate

Our guarantee of a minimum of 45 rooms booked per night ensure out receiving use of meeting rooms and hospitality room free of charge; PLEASE RESERVE EARLY!

Single Room: \$92.00 per night (includes 1 Breakfast Buffets per day)

Double Room: \$92.00 per night (includes 2 Breakfast Buffets per day)

Executive Suite: \$102.00 per night (includes 1 or 2 Breakfast Buffets per day)

Suite: \$127.00 per night (includes 1 or 2 Breakfast Buffets per day)

**(All rooms will accomodate up to four persons; but the price of each room includes only two complimentary breakfast buffets.
Additional Breakfast Buffets are available for purchase from the hotel for \$12.00 per person)*

FREE SHUTTLE FROM ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT

CONVENTION REGISTRATION ORDER FORM

REGISTRATION	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Before December 1st	\$25.00	_____	\$ _____
After December 1st	\$35.00	_____	\$ _____
BANQUET/SPEAKER MEETING/DANCE	\$30.00	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST		_____	\$ _____

Banquet Dinner Choice: Beef (QTY) _____ Chicken (Qty) _____ Vegetarian (Qty) _____

Any person attending the Banquet will be eligible for the Banquet Raffle

Please mail Registration Form and check for total amount payable to:
M.A. Convention • 2485 Newport Blvd. • PMB 149 • Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Your anonymity will be protected for all mailing purposes

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Convention Call continued

(continued from page 2)

The Raffle Subcommittee is looking for generous spirits willing to donate any items (new or homemade), services, or cash to purchase prizes for the BIG RAFFLE on Sunday. Please help make the donations of all M.A. members who purchase raffle tickets a memorable one. It could be YOU whose lucky number is called to win the GRAND PRIZE. Remember, M.A. is self-supporting and requests all donations come from M.A. members. If anyone is interested in leading a workshop, entertaining on Friday night at the Coffee

House, or donating for the BIG RAFFLE on Sunday, please contact the Convention planning committee. If you have any questions needing answers or have any input/suggestions that will help make this week-end of fellowship, personal /spiritual growth and fun, a more pleasant experience for all that attend: please e-mail MA2001CONVENTION@AOL.COM or mail to:

2485 Newport Blvd.,
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The 2001 MA Convention



<http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>
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LA County So. (Dist. 7) PO Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 323.459.4423	Australia MA Australia P.O. Box 202 Hindmarsh, 5007 South Australia
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MA Birthdays!

District 2

Nicole	10/2/98	2 yrs.
Jim F	10/14/96	4 yrs.
Elizabeth	10/27/90	10 yrs.
Mariska	9/30/87	13 yrs.

District 3

Connie G.	10/12/97	3 yrs.
Judy F.	10/10/93	7 yrs.
Mel G.	10/31/87	13 yrs.
Ron M.	10/22/89	11 yrs.
Steve Mc.	10/04/93	7 yrs.
Richard H.	10/08/97	3 yrs.

District 5

Pirate	9/30/86	14 yrs.
Randi	10/5/99	1 yrs.
Alyson M.	10/8/99	1 yrs.
Tom G.	10/17/93	7 yrs.
Jason	10/29/93	7 yrs.
James V.	10/29/98	2 yrs.

District 6

Brian	10/16/87	13 yrs
Kim B	10/15/95	5 yrs.
Joanne M	10/2/88	12 yrs.
Raymond J	10/5/99	1 yr.
Tomaso	10/7/91	9 yrs.

Debra R	10/9/97	9 yrs.
Rob M	10/15/93	7 yrs.
Marc A	10/15/94	6 yrs.
Kathy B	10/21/86	14 yrs.
Randy F	10/25/87	13 yrs.
John C	10/30/94	6 yrs.

District 7

Michael	8/19/86	14 yrs.
Sandy L	8/94	6 yrs.
Michael W	8/9	19 yrs.
Ari	7/3/96	4 yrs.
Tod	1993	7 yrs.
Jon	3/5/95	5 yrs
Bobby	8/29/88	12 yrs
Cynthia	9/1/98	2yrs
Eecetra	9/8/99	1 year!
Susan	9/8/99	1 year!
Tony	7/30/97	3 yrs
Tommy O	9/12/96	4 yrs
Johnny	9/11/87	13 yrs.
Kari	9/15/98	2 yrs.
Al	9/15/95	5 yrs.

District 8

Hans S.	8/31/98	2 yrs.
Jeff S.	9/1/99	1 year! ▲
Reah B.	9/9/96	4 yrs.

submit.
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is accepting articles.
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