



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

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A Commitment to You by Tristan H.

I'm guilty. I'm guilty of doing what I said I would never do. I'm guilty of what I criticized others of doing. And I'm sorry. I'm sorry for being judgmental, I'm sorry for criticizing them in the first place, and I'm sorry for doing exactly what I criticized others of doing.

Hi, my name is Tristan H., I am a Marijuana Addict. I'm in my 8th year of recovery, and I haven't been to a meeting in weeks. Before going to that meeting I hadn't been to a meeting in weeks. Before that meeting, I hadn't been to...well, you get the idea, right?

I've always been really critical of people in recovery who, after getting a few solid years under their belt, stopped showing up. Or at least stopped showing up every week to the meetings they usually went to. Or at least stopped showing up every week to the meetings I usually went to. I told myself a story of how they were betraying those of us with less time, and being selfish, acting like superstars in recovery who didn't need to give anything back.

But enough about them, let's talk about me. That story was actually a lie I told myself to al-

low myself to not be accountable and justify doing what my addict wanted me to do: "If so-and-so doesn't go to meetings, I don't have to do my 9th step because I don't have the inspiration I need from them to do it."

"I'm in my 8th year of recovery, and I haven't been to a meeting in weeks."

And a funny thing has happened over the last few years in my recovery. First, as I've continued to work with my sponsor through the steps and deepen my recovery, the need to go to meetings has lessened considerably. The cravings have disappeared, and using dreams only occur once a year instead of once a week or once a month. And additionally, an even stranger thing has occurred. I've begun to participate in life! My days are very full, and as I've continued to build my relationships, finish my college degree, establish myself in my career, and plan trips around the world, I've put the most sacred act a recovering addict can take on the backburner: carrying the message to the newcomer.

The impact on me has been that I feel an aching disconnectedness. I feel disconnected from the program. I feel disconnected from my own recovery. I feel disconnected from my people: you. The impact on you all is that you don't get 7+ years of experience, strength & hope I share with the message I carry when I speak, either in front of the group, or one-on-one with the person who's just come into one of their first few meetings.

So here's my commitment. My commitment is to come once per week to an MA meeting, to share my experience, strength and hope. My commitment is to freely sponsor as many people who ask. And ultimately, my commitment is to bring the focus in my own recovery back to the newcomer. To solidify this commitment, and (continued on page 2)

submit

Share your experience, strength and hope! Submit your article to your Bureau Chief or see page 2 for contact information.



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 & 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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www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on publications.

A Commitment to You continued

make amends, I am committing to bringing forth in our district a 12 hour convention, on Saturday, November 18th of this year, with the theme "Carry the Message." It will be an opportunity to celebrate, an opportunity to give, an opportunity to receive and an opportunity to love and give thanks for this wonderful gift of recovery we've all been blessed with. We'll have workshops, a

meeting, a birthday countdown, gifts for newcomers, food, music, and most importantly, each other. And I am inviting all of you in MA, worldwide to come celebrate with us in Seattle. Stay tuned for more details, which will be distributed through your district's delegate. I love you all.

Peace,
Tristan H.

The 7th by Anonymous

When I came into Marijuana Anonymous, some years ago now, I was following everyone else's lead by putting a dollar in the basket — and I was grateful to do it. As time went by I started dropping a second buck in the basket as it went around. As more time passed I began to reflect on just how much money I used to go through when I was getting high. The amounts were staggering! By now, I had a real job, a regular paycheck, and a roof over my head. None of which would have been possible if not for Marijuana Anonymous. I realized I was in a position to be a little bit more generous to the program that saved my life. I figured I could start putting five dollars in the basket as it went around. I go to three meetings a week so that comes out to about sixty dollars a month. I was easily spending ten times that a month on dope. I then went through a period of unemployment and had to reduce my donations to be able to survive. But I'm back to work now and am able to increase my donations again.

Now I realize I am very fortunate to have a job, a paycheck, and a roof over my head. I also realize many of us are not quite so lucky. Some are only able to put spare change into the basket, and some — nothing at all — and that is alright, after all there are no dues or fees for membership. Many of us are unemployed or on fixed incomes. And some of us have huge expenses as a result of the "wreckage of our past." I have heard an addict or two say they needed the money for "other things" (cigarettes maybe?). (Things more important than to throw a couple of bucks in the basket for the program that saved their lives?) Would we have "other things" if it weren't for Marijuana Anonymous? But the point is, however, many of us are able to do so much more for the program that made our recovery possible, for the program which returned our lives to us. I'd be willing to bet a good many of us can put a fiver in every basket that goes around now that our drug budgets are things

(continued on back)

**Registration Form
13th Annual MA Convention
February 16-18, 2007
Crowne Plaza, Concord, CA**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- Check here if you'd like an e-mail confirming your registration
- Check here if you'd like a mailed confirmation (please send self-addressed stamped envelope)

	Cost	Amount Due
Registration (includes workshops and 2 breakfasts)	\$40 before 12/31/06 \$45 after 1/1/07	
Banquet (Beef / Fish / Vegan) **circle one**	\$40	
Dance	\$5	

Package Deal (Registration, Banquet, and Dance)	\$80 before 12/31/06 \$85 after 1/1/07	
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Opportunity drawing tickets	\$1	
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Total Amount Due:	
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Mail one form per person and check or money order payable to M.A. District 2 to:
Raquel S. 24825 Willimet Way, Hayward, CA 94544. For questions, e-mail: maregistrar07@yahoo.com

Crowne Plaza Hotel:

Please reserve your room early. Register at Crowne Plaza's MA Convention site:
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/cwshome/DPRD-6MFV8T/CCRJG/website>
Or call the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 925-825-7700 to make room reservations. Ask for Marijuana Anonymous Convention to get the group rate. Room rates are: \$79 single or double occupancy; \$89 Triple; \$99 Quad.

Transportation information is available at <http://ma2007.com>

marijuana anonymous worldwide

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The 7th continued

of the past. I think it is important we do this not just at Conference time or Convention time but all of the time.

We uphold the Seventh Tradition at this meeting. Please remember that while MA has no dues

or fees for membership, we are totally self-supporting through our own contributions. New-comers are not asked to contribute; others are privileged to do so. If this sounds familiar, and if you are financially able, dig a

bit deeper! After all, it is "for the Addict" who still suffers as well as for ourselves. ▲

birthdays

Are you celebrating a birthday in the next few months? If you live in a District area of MA, let your Bureau Chief know about it. If not, tell us! For contact information, see the box on page 2.

District 2

Chris K 8/12/96 10 yrs.
 Kirsten 8/26/04 2 yrs.
 Kathleen 8/28/01 5 yrs.
 Carmit 9/3/00 6 yrs.
 Tura 9/10/98 8 yrs.
 Mark S. 9/15/04 2 yrs.
 Hilary 9/16/03 3 yrs.
 Sally W. 9/17/04 2 yrs.
 Jonathan M. 9/26/01 5 yrs.
 Mariska 9/30/85 19 yrs.
 Kurt A. 10/6/00 6 yrs.

Doug F. 10/15/97 9 yrs.
 Mel G. 10/31/87 17 yrs.
 Steve Mc. 10/04/93 12 yrs.
District 5
 Tom G. 10/17/93 13 yrs.
 Jason 10/29/93 13 yrs.
 'Jackhammer' James 10/29/98 8 yrs.
 Michael L. 10/29/90 16 yrs.

Misc.
 Max G. 9/1/88 18 yrs
 Wes H. 8/10/05 1 yr!
 Louise 9/25/05 1 Yr!
 Eileen 10/8/05 1 Yr!

District 6

Taylor 9/7/05 1 yr!

District 3

Thomas B. 10/04/02 4 yrs.
 Judy F. 10/10/93 12 yrs.

District 11

Jan D. 10/13/03 3 yrs.
 Susan B. 10/9/86 20 yrs.

