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8th Step Blessings

I know people, even some of my sponsees, who hated to make amends. When I first approached this Step I didn't think it would be that hard. After all I was just a pothead who hadn't done that much wrong: I smoked pot, sat on my couch and vegged. After revisiting my 4th Step, several times, and discussing it with my Big Book Thumping sponsor I took it a bit more seriously.

I had always held a job, so I didn't owe a lot of money, but I did donate where I could. I wrote letters then burned them, releasing their intent to the universe. These were letters to the people I had harmed that were no longer with us, and to the few who, if they had known of my transgressions against them, would have caused them undue harm.

I made both real and living amends to my daughter for I know growing up with a Pothead Dad was not easy; Doing the same to her husband, my son-in-law, for as a practicing addict I had been very judgmental. Fortunately my grandkids never knew me that way. And just as the Promises said, this has brought untold blessings to my life over these years of being sober.

Out of all the amends I did, the ones that surprised me the most were the ones I made to my Dad. He was 89 by the time I got sober and worked up to my 8th Step. I really don't think he understood what I was trying to do. He knew of the alcoholic fellowship, my uncle by marriage had belonged to it and passed away in his 80's still sober. He knew I had smoked and grown

pot so he understood I was no longer do that because I failed a drug test at my job, he just didn't understand why I was making amends. I had been really good at hiding my extreme usage from him and my job.



I was happy letting him know I was remorseful for my using and the harm it had done to him and Mom, she had passed a few years earlier. I was happy to leave it at that, but my sponsor wasn't. When I had told him that I had made amends to my Dad he asked me, "Did you hug him?"

"What? Hug my Dad? Are you outta your mind? My Dad was NEVER a hugger, I don't think he has ever hugged me? He was born in 1910. That generation doesn't hug."

"You didn't answer my question?"

My sponsor can be so stubborn at times. "No."

So next time you see him, hug him and see what happens. So a week

later when I saw him I hugged him and to my surprise he hugged me back. A few weeks later I saw my sponsor again and told him. "Good, did you tell him you love him?"

"What? Tell my Dad that I love him? Are you outta your mind? My Dad NEVER came out directly told me he loved me. He was born in 1910. That generation doesn't say I Love You."

"You didn't answer my question?"

My sponsor can be so stubborn at times. "No."

So next time you see him, tell him you love him and see what happens. So a week later when I saw him I hugged him and told him I loved him, to my surprise he hugged me and said "I love you too."

A few weeks later I saw my sponsor again and told him. I told him that I had hugged my Dad and he hugged me back. I told him that I told my Dad I loved him and he told me he loved me too. I even told him about the time several weeks after this when I was in a hurry and I was getting ready to leave my Dad asked me, "Arn't you forgetting something?" holding out his arms for a hug. I did, he did and we told each we loved one another.

This happened about a year and a half before he passed away. Because of this program and doing a good and thorough the 8th Step I got the chance to hug and tell my Dad within hours of his passing that I loved him. Another untold blessing in my life of being sober. ▲

~Jeff M.

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 will be reaching out to districts soon to update the District Bureau Chief list. Additionally district representatives, including but not limited to those serving as Bureau Chief are encouraged to stay in touch: editor@anewleafpublications.org

ANLP Staff

Chairperson:	Alan B.
Treasurer:	John L.
Secretary:	Rick V.
ANLP Admin:	volunteer*
Managing Editor:	volunteer*
Publishing Editor:	volunteer*

Contact ANLP

Send articles/stories:
stories@anewleafpublications.org

Or they may be submitted online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org/story

We need YOU!

IN STEP TWELVE, we take action to carry the message of recovery to the marijuana addict who still suffers. Listed below are a number of opportunities for you to participate in your own recovery while helping others. Please volunteer today!

► An ANLP Managing Editor

Maintain relationships with district Bureau Chiefs, encourage participation in ANL community, collect articles, birthdays, etc. Please get in touch!
board@anewleafpublications.org

► An ANLP Publishing Editor

Produce the monthly ANL newsletter using Adobe InDesign and other tools. Use your design skills!
board@anewleafpublications.org

► An ANLP Administrator

Respond to incoming mail & email. Processes, packs & ships orders.

This is a paid position.
board@anewleafpublications.org

Purchase Books & Subscriptions

www.anewleafpublications.org
or subscribe by sending your name, address and a \$15 check (\$20 non-US) to:

A New Leaf Publications
340 S Lemon Ave # 9420
Walnut CA 91789-2706

Other inquiries and correspondence:
info@anewleafpublications.org

12 Questions to Consider:

1. Does your life have purpose?
2. Did you ever smoke pot on Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday or Saturday night?
3. Would you like an opportunity to carry the message to the still suffering marijuana addict?
4. Is it important to you to give back what was so freely given to you?
5. Tired of watching NetFlix, or Game Of Thrones over and over?
6. Are you craving fellowship?
7. Are you looking for a sponsor?
8. Are you willing to listen to the experience, strength and hope with others?
9. Does one hour of your time seem like a good investment for your continued freedom from active addiction?
10. Do you have a current service position?
11. Are these questions getting annoying?
12. Are you practicing the 12th Step to its fullest?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions you may want to be of service or at least come to an MA meeting. Give it a try, have a little fun and put that much more distance between you and active addiction and be helping another person.

Keep Coming Back.....
It's Working. (If you work it) ▲

~Marshall T.

*To volunteer at ANLP send a note to board@anewleafpublications.org

Outreach Board

New Meeting Support Program:

The Outreach Committee invites *you* to engage in service by supporting new and independent meetings by participating in the New Meeting Support Program.

Did you know that thousands of marijuana addicts have no local access to in-person meetings?

Luckily, new meetings are starting up all over to increase access to the fellowship. As MA continues to grow around the world we find that many new meetings face challenges as they begin to build their foundation. In addition, many meetings operate without service sponsorship or other types of support because they are located in geographic areas that don't fall within an MA district.

We want to reduce the isolation by connecting these meetings with volunteers who can share their experience, strength, hope and service experiences. Volunteers are paired with a new meeting and provide correspondence (email or phone) with a contact person to discuss service topics, challenges and successes the new meeting is experiencing.

The Outreach Committee has set a goal of each District having 2 members joining the New Meeting Support Program. Please spread the word about this program so we can better serve and support MA's new and independent meetings. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Aime or Drift at outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org

Correspondence Committee:

The newly formed Correspondence Committee is looking for volunteers!

We are seeking additional volunteers with service experience and a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous to respond to support requests received through the MA 800 helpline and email inquiries. Volunteers will respond to calls that come in on the voicemail line with a goal of returning calls within 48 hours.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact office@marijuana-anonymous.org

Are you fluent in another language?

Many people across North America and the UK contact MA looking for help. However, the long-term goal of Marijuana Anonymous is to become a truly global support network, able to provide resources to suffering addicts in countries all over the world. In taking steps to reach this goal the Outreach Committee is looking to create a database of members who are fluent in languages other than English who would be able to help us bridge the communication gap. We are especially looking for Spanish speakers, as well as European language speakers. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Outreach at outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org

Women's Town Hall:

The Outreach Committee is currently researching and developing an online Town Hall for MA's female-identified members. The Project Lead is seeking input, guidance and volunteers to develop this remote Town Hall for the fellowship worldwide. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Lana or Drift at outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org

Motions Log Blurb

The MA World Policies and Procedures Committee is seeking volunteers to work on the MA World Conference Motions Archive Project. This is a wonderful opportunity for members of our Fellowship to delve into our fellowship's 28 year history stemming back to the 1989 Unity Conference. An archive is more than a log of data and dates. Every item has its own story. Archives unlock doors to the past, and with your help this history can be made available to future generations of MA'ers. What a gift it is to take a peek into the work of those who came before, who graciously devoted their service to developing the bedrock of Marijuana Anonymous. Volunteers can take on as much or as little service work as they wish. Interested volunteers can get in touch by emailing ppcom@marijuana-anonymous.org.

Mar-Anon:

Mar-Anon is growing! Private chat meetings are held Mondays at 12pm Central Time. To request access, please email outreach@mar-anon.com and provide your first name, last initial, and your preferred email address. You will receive an email with login information. visit www.mar-anon.com for more information.

Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

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

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www.marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ info@marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ +1.800.766.6779

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DIST. 8 New York www.ma-newyork.org		DIST. 20 San Diego, CA www.ma-sandiego.org	
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DIST. 12 North Bay, CA www.madistrict12.org	+1.415.419.3555/+1.707.583.2326	DIST. 22 New England www.newenglandma.org	
DIST. 13 MA Online www.ma-online.org			

Celebrating 120 Years of Sobriety!

District 5

Allan	8/16/14	3 yrs
Coleman	8/13/92	25 yrs

District 7

Brad	8/21/97	20 yrs
Coleman	8/13/92	25 yrs
Gary K.	8/5/07	10 yrs
Megan J.	9/3/16	1 yr

District 8

Scott P.	8/17/04	13 yrs
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District 22

John C.	8/1/95	22 yrs
Val	8/15/16	1 yr

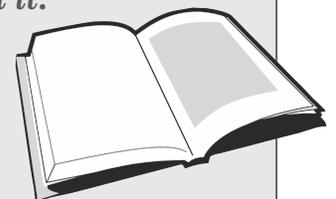
GOT A YEAR? ALLOW US TO PUBLISH YOUR ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE!!!

Provide your sobriety date to your local GSR to be forwarded to your Bureau Chief, or e-mail your details to chiefs@anewleafpublications.org or submit them online at 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.

Please format birthday submissions in this manner: Name <tab> Date <tab> #yrs



From Life with Hope

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 MA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

2018 MA World Convention

District 4 – Western Washington MA will proudly host the World Convention in Seattle, February 16-18, 2018!

Reduced-rate “early-bird” registration now through Oct 31!
mawsconvention.org

