



BRIDGING THE GAP: A MAWS Trustee Report

Marijuana Anonymous World Service (MAWS) fulfills our primary purpose of helping the marijuana addict who still suffers, globally.

How does MAWS do this? By putting the familiar slogan "Turn Me to We" into action and employing the inverted pyramid format. Here are some specific ways that MAWS practices being of service to all marijuana addicts around the world: **maintaining** an 800 number that provides information and a website that includes free literature downloads, **responding** to phone calls, e-mails and letters, **providing** free information, pamphlets and support for the start-up of new meetings, **distributing** supplies, like books and chips to individuals, meetings and Districts, **sponsoring** an annual Conference, a vehicle for supporting and unifying the Districts, **sponsoring** an annual Convention, a vehicle for recovery and unifying the individual members, **maintaining** the central office as a non-profit business which files the annual taxes for each District and provides them with a legal structure that allows them, for example, to open a checking account.

Guided by our Seventh

Tradition to remain self-supporting, MAWS relies on our donations to pay for costs incurred providing such services. The MAWS Finance Committee is working very hard to explore ways to keep MAWS's costs as low as possible without compromising our ability to continue carrying the message of recovery from marijuana addiction throughout the globe.

Through a living amends, the Finance Committee is also now dedicated to concentrate on a major, fellowship-wide concern that was addressed at this year's conference. Two motions were passed which effectively require the Finance Committee to publish the monthly MAWS accounting to the Trustees and a quarterly report to the Delegates. In this way, important information can be passed on and shared with every District and meeting. Thus we renewed our commitment to keep YOU, the individual member, informed of income and expense details.

In all areas of recovery, a very important tool we learn to use is asking for help, even in World Service. For the Finance Committee, one thing was made clear at this year's Conference: MAWS needs both the Spiritual and the Financial support of its members to stay healthy.

Thankfully, so many members have been helping all along, but as the fellowship continues to grow, we need as much help as we can get. On behalf of MAWS, we are asking for YOUR help too.

We would like to express our gratitude to the fellows of District 6 who on their own, voluntarily did service for our fellowship and created the web site, www.fivekeepsusalive.com (also www.5keepsusalive.com), which provides easy to understand, specific details about MAWS's current financial situation along with practical things each one of us can do to help. Please visit the website to learn more.

There are also many other ways each of us can contribute. We encourage you to get involved with World Service! It is as simple as talking to your GSR's, your Delegates or your Trustees. Share your ideas with them to improve your program. Get the information from them you want to know about your program. Find out ways you can help your program be what you need it to be for your recovery! After all, there is no separation between you and MAWS. Our goal is one, and together we can do what we can not do alone.

Jonathan R., MAWS Treasurer



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.

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A New Leaf
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Torrance, CA 90504

or submit online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on publications

One Day At A Time

I am a 53 year old pot head. I have been smoking for almost 40 years off and on. ON for the last 10 years. I stopped in '06 for 6 months and relapsed at Christmas, '06. I completed the ERG through Kaiser Walnut Creek. I really needed to continue meetings after I graduated, but I had two major back surgeries with complications and could not kick it. I want to get clean now for the last time. I know that adding an M.A. class in addition to ERG with Kaiser is my new route this time. I know I will do it this time. I have made up my mind. I have promised myself and my daughter who is clean that this is it for me. I know I can do it with help and support. I am going to attend the Wednesday night meeting in Berkeley until I get in the Kaiser ERG in October. One day at a time and I will stay clean. ~ Denise



WE'RE INTERESTED

Please keep an open ear at the meetings you attend, share a copy of A New Leaf and perhaps suggest members submit their stories. It may be that some members are shy or don't think their story is worth sharing... an encouraging word could make all the difference.

I Thank God

My name is Susan H. I have been an active user for 31 years and have recently begun sobriety in another 12-step fellowship. I am discovering that there is a life outside of marijuana use and I am finding it enjoyable where once I believed there could be no joy in my life without it, I am a grateful recovering addict who CAN function without it in my life. I seriously enjoy going to 12 step meetings, and learning from other recovering addicts. I now have hope where before I had none. I thank God each day for helping me to overcome my addiction. ~ Susan H.

ROVING REPORTER

Question for November

It is said our sobriety is contingent upon the daily maintenance of our spiritual condition. Share what you do to maintain your spiritual condition.

Step Eleven

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.

Tradition Eleven

Our public relations policy is based upon 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.

My troubled mind *at work after getting clean and sober (again):*

Lord I come to you and wonder why I'm faced with
so much humble pie
Each day I rise and kneel and pray to make it
through another day
Today my wife and mother argued, all I can say is
"what did I do?"
Work is tough some days are rough
Too often I think I've had enough
I long for simple meaningful days
but find myself in purple haze
Though I hope in life for purpose and direction
The weed has got me in a depression
My doctor tells me I must quit
I do and suffer because of it
Each time I say this is the last
Next thing you know I buy more grass
Why is that myself I ask
Addiction sure has kicked my ass

I vow NO MORE to follow a path
That leaves me broke and stoned alas
A warrior I must become
Succumb to weed? You must be dumb
It's all because reality
So often makes no sense to me
You ain't in charge boy, can't you see
When life gets hard you look to me!
I'll set you straight just watch and see
God please grant me serenity
I swear this time I will not flee
A warrior is what I'll be
When the light ahead I cannot see
I'll pray to you and not to me
Now heal me lord is how I pray
Tomorrow is another day

~ Robert H.



Step 10: Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

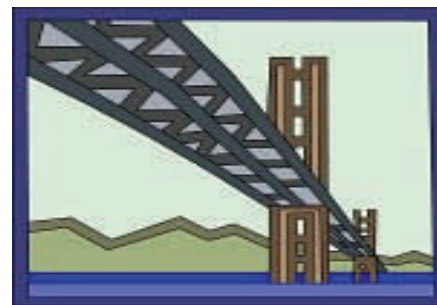
I adore Step 10. I'm on perpetual lookout for the part that states "when we were wrong, promptly admitted it." The rare times nowadays when I suspect that blame is "out there" I IMMEDIATELY about-face and look "over here" to check my attitude and my behavior to see what or where the part I played is located. And mind you, I trained and developed this muscle in recovery. Because, I didn't know that I didn't know how to "hold self" accountable for my part and I never did! I come from a background of active addiction that revealed through my working the steps, that whenever, wherever I showed up "the integrity of the space was always compromised."

And since I am not so far removed from "the symptoms" that brought me into recovery in the beginning I make it my business to take 100% responsibility for what does not go well, if I am in the picture. It's part of growing up, and I am less likely to be scoping out "over there" when I know that "over here" my side of the street ever requires being kept clean. And, I've come to know myself as a litterbug, I can toss some stuff about, ok? I'm not perfect. I "claim spiritual progress, rather than spiritual perfection." And I make meetings on a regular basis and I keep coming back! Yeah, I adore me some Step 10, now!

Best, Portia W., District 8



MA District 11
Proudly Presents
BUILDING BRIDGES
2010 MA World Convention
February 12-14, 2010
Double Tree Hotel - Lloyd Center
Portland, OR USA



**For more information,
please go to:**

www.maconvention.org

**Participate in
our suggestions blog at:**

blogideas2010.blogspot.com

**If you would like
to lead a workshop,
request a workshop application at
info@maconvention.org**

marijuana anonymous worldwide

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District 17 Denmark

info@ma-kbh.dk

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

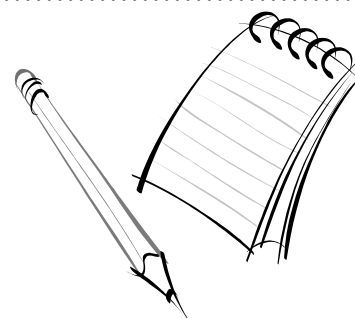
MA Daily Meditation Book

We're looking for YOUR writing to fill a year's worth of daily meditations, focused on MA recovery from marijuana addiction. The writings should be approximately 250 to 500 words, and focused on recovery. What would you want to read every day on your sobriety birthday? Send your submission and we'll print it on YOUR

recovery birthday. If you feel so moved, send in more than one. If you need inspiration, take a look at daily meditation books from other fellowships.

In this issue is one of the submissions – be sure to write yours now to reserve your date for you submission.

Send submissions to A New Leaf, Attention: Susan B.



SUBMIT

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

birthdays - Celebrating 149 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL contact information on page 2.

District 2

Guy K. 9/13/08 1 year!

District 5

Rick D. 9/12/08 1 year!

Tom G. 10/17/93 16 yrs.

Michael L. 10/29/90 19 yrs.

Jason 10/29/93 16 yrs.

James V. 10/29/98 11 yrs.

District 7

Cynthia P. 9/1/98 11 yrs.

District 10

Dan K. 9/1/07 2 yrs.

Matthew O. 9/2/08 1 year!

Mike W. 10/09/08 1 year!

Ricky W. 10/28/07 2 yrs.

District 11

Susan B. 10/9/86 23 yrs.

Jan D. 10/13/03 6 yrs.

District 12

Donnie K. 12/18/06 2 yrs.

District 13 (Online)

Susan K. (CA) 7/28/05 4 yrs.

Daniel (AZ) 8/2/04 5 yrs.

Melanie (Toronto) 8/3/08 1 year!

Kim (TX) 8/8/99 10 yrs.

Trayce 8/23/06 3 yrs.

Jeannie (OH) 8/22/07 2 yrs.

District 14

Matt B. 7/28/08 1 year!

District 15

Gary K. 4/12/08 1 year!

Ellen 9/19/04 5 yrs.

Other locations:

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Lenny S. 10/5/06 2 yrs.

Chicago, IL

Vicki P. 9/1/06 3 yrs.

One Day
At A
Time