

# A NEW LEAF

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## The Skinny on Merchandise

by: Patricia G., World Services Merchandise Trustee

When I became an MA World Services Trustee, I wanted to help with the development of our own fund-raising merchandise. Up until now, we just weren't in a financial position to do anything with merchandising since you have to invest some money before you can raise some money. We just didn't have much to invest. But that situation is changing. Merchandise can help support such things as the huge amount of new meeting packets being sent out each month to cities and countries all over the world. As our fellowship grows so do the expenses of carrying the message of our existence and maintaining some sort of support network for all our new members on a global scale.

In the past, MAWS survived on a shoe string. In '95 we were broke. There was very little money for merchandise (What little we had produced had been "fronted" by individual members). A gross of T-shirts costs approximately \$700, and 300 mugs costs around \$900. Merchandise was obviously less important than the "800 Line" and the first printing of Life With Hope. After the first printing of our "12 & 12" and after District 7 hosted the very successful Second Annual Convention, finances turned around. It was finally time for merchandise. Since some T-shirts had been purchased already,

mugs were next on the agenda.

The mugs were produced and half of them were sold at the last World Services Conference. A few Districts bought mugs through their delegates and some were purchased by individual members. At present we have 140 new mugs

*"As the fellowship grows, the merchandise distribution system has to grow as well. As we put it into place, it is important to uphold the Twelve Traditions and respect the autonomy of each district and meeting."*

remaining, and 34 old "Life With Hope Logo" t-shirts and sweat-shirts. This is a small inventory of items. World Services has recently allocated \$1000 for new merchandise. A new T-shirt logo is being worked on and more ideas are welcomed. Soon, World Services T-shirts and stickers will be available to Districts to

be sold at their own events. Merchandise will also be available at events such as the World Services Convention.

Since the Seventh Tradition states "we are self supporting through our own contributions" we can only sell merchandise to members of the fellowship. As the fellowship grows, the merchandise distribution system has to grow as well. As we put it into place, it is

important to uphold the Twelve Traditions and respect the autonomy of each district and meeting.

In the future, I envision an MA distribution hub on the MA "web-site" where a variety of items can be purchased by members.

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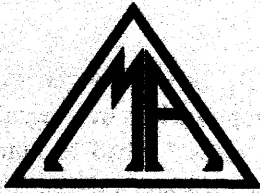
## Reaching Out to Young People

by Todd E. and Stephen S., District 7

There is a growing concern regarding the young people (defined as 21 years of age and under) who are clean and sober in our fellowship. We realize that they face certain factors that can get in the way of "trudging the road of happy destiny." Such factors can easily make these individuals feel "less-than" and "different-from." We'd like to reduce these feelings by somehow bringing these courageous spirits together.

We feel a special sort of 12th Step outreach is in order. Current suggestions include establishing a new meeting primarily for the young. Such a meeting might hopefully attract members from throughout the Southern California region, regardless of their home district. Another idea is to compile a special

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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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## To the Newcomer

by Allison O., District 6

Why have I chosen not to use any kind of mind-altering substance? Well, I awoke in a hospital, strapped to a gurney, unable to use my limbs. I decided to take it as a wake-up call. The call sounded like John Lennon telling me to stop using pot (which seems quite ironic since I don't think he had a problem with pot smoking). I did not think I was an addict.

Going to college, having a part-time job, and owning a brand new car... I felt I was a "normie". In my head, I assumed addicts were those that dropped out of college, got kicked out, or could not sustain a roof over their heads. In the end, though, my thinking has taken a 180 degree turn.

If you are new to the program and question whether or not you are an addict, ask yourself one question. "Would not using for 90 days be a conceivable idea?" Pot may not seem like an evil substance because it is so easy to function in life while using. You don't hear about people killing each other

over pot or having serious car wrecks over pot. However, the effects of it are strong and subtle.

I've been clean for about 17 months. I've found that I do not stay at home as much as before. I'm usually busy with an intensive job or out with my sober friends. Also, I have noticed that I feel emotions which before were numbed by marijuana.

My view on this chaotic world has changed from pessimism to one of optimism. While using pot, I felt that the end of the world ought to hurry up, because nothing seemed positive. All I ever did was hang out at home and watch TV. These days, on average, I view an hour per week, at most. My perspective on the world has changed. Now I feel that we, as a species, are evolving, day by day, into something better.

I'd like to end with a note for the newcomers. If you want it bad enough, you will find a power greater than yourself to stop using. That is the MA program. ♪

## Thought for the Month

*"The definition of intimacy is...  
Me being me and letting you see me."*

*"I Got Tired of Pretending" by Bob Earll*

## Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!



Coanna	Sept 1	2 yrs
Dauna	Oct 10	4 yrs
Tammy C.	Oct 10	1 yr!
Richard A.	Oct 10	7 yrs
Michael P.	Oct 12	2 yrs
Nancy G.	Oct 16	3 yrs
Franz	Oct 20	1 yr!
George T.	Oct 29	7 yrs
Carl P.	Nov 3	6 yrs
Meri K.	Nov 5	5 yrs

Ron L.	Nov 5	1 yr!
Grasshopper	Nov 11	4 yrs
Dan E.	Nov 11	9 yrs
Gerald F.	Nov 12	6 yrs
Terri R.	Nov 18	6 yrs
Grateful Rich	Nov 21	3 yrs
Fay C.	Nov 30	7 yrs

## Merchandise

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Additionally, an order form could appear periodically in A New Leaf. These possibilities need further discussion and development. A New Leaf has recently become the "publication arm" of the fellowship at large. Perhaps something similar should be set up for merchandize. This idea and others will undoubtedly be discussed at the '97 Conference. In the future, it will be important to develop WS merchandise policies that comply with The Twelve Traditions.

As MA grows into the next century, merchandise can and should become a major contributor in our effort to spread our message to the world. It is important that a system be in place before we begin distributing on a large scale. I assure all the members that merchandise has only just begun. Patience and service are keys to getting this work accomplished. I welcome help or ideas. R

## Young People

*Continued from Page 1*

phone list, which would be made available to young newcomers in order to provide mutual support.

One example of how we in District 7 have already put this concern into action was through the First Annual MA Three-On-One Basketball Tournament, Which attracted young people as well as older members of our fellowship. It was a wonderful way for recovering potheads to put their principles into practice in a competitive arena. The event was organized by Matt R., Joel B. and Jonathan R. and featured four teams. The winning team consisted of Jim L., Scott M. and Clay W. Look for this event next year.

Any additional suggestions for young persons' outreach would be most appreciated. Please spread the word. Stephen S. has volunteered to serve as interim liaison in these endeavors. Feel free to contact him at (213)850-1841 with any thoughts and/or suggestions you may have.

Thanks! R

## What Step One Means to Me

by Bill C., District 6

When I first heard the words that compose Step One, I thought, "Wow, that's deep" and it made me realize "Yeah, I am powerless over my drug addiction. I can't manage my own life. It's a mess." I had to humble myself and admit that my addiction had me by the neck and it doesn't want to let go. Addiction is the "tax man" and I was paying often. My will alone can't break the power of addiction's cunning grasp. Using my own resources wasn't enough. I am convinced that I had hit bottom before I knew a single word of the First Step. Yet, for some reason(s) God didn't let me go splat and die from my illness. He lifted me up after seeking and finding me. I realized I could not continue to live the way I was living. In order for my life to be somewhat manageable, I not only have to work the 12-Steps, I also have to live them each day. Addiction is still out there, waiting for Bill to slip and that's a road I can't go on, considering the consequences of what would happen. I don't need to go through that nightmare again. R

## Recovery...Problems or Opportunities?

by Steve G., District 6

As I choose to spend the time writing an article this afternoon, I will acknowledge that with God, your help, and the 12-Steps, I have not put drugs or alcohol into my body since February 7, 1992. I have learned so much in that time from those who were here before me, as well as those who have come since.

My life is going exceptionally well. I want everyone to know that I am very grateful for all the beautiful things that God has brought into my life. Today, I feel healthy in mind, body, and spirit. I have not one single *problem*, I have *opportunities* to apply the program and live my life.

Recently, I have been reading more often. I have been attracted to books covering a wide variety of topics. The message that has been striking me as true in both my reading and my experiences, is that a Higher Power is certainly at work in the universe. We may choose to call this energy whatever we wish or whatever makes us comfortable. The fact is, that when we welcome that Higher Power into our hearts and souls, our spirits are comforted. Today we have an opportunity to devote ourselves to love, faith, charity, hope, and truth.

I believe our program has suffered growing and learning pains. Outstanding! This is great! After all, we are all addicts in recovery that are being restored to a normal way of thinking and living; as Step Two indicates. I want to acknowledge that Marijuana Anonymous is a wonderful program. It is a miracle that can save all of our lives if we stay on the road to happy destiny. As you are reading this newsletter, recognize that we are all part of the Marijuana Anonymous program. We all have a responsibility; it should not be viewed as a burden. Participate. Share your thoughts and ideas (this is God working through you.), be heard and seen, be of service, and most importantly, have fun!

I just wanted to let you know how I'm feeling and what is on my mind. We all deserve to allow ourselves to be the best we can be today, one day at a time. Thanks for letting me share. R

# Bulletin Board

## Quad-District Unity Picnic

District 6, LA-North  
District 7, LA-South

District 5, Orange County, San Diego

District 10, LA-East, San Bernardino, Riverside

Come on out!

Experience the unity, fun and fellowship of MA!

Saturday, November 16th

from 11am-4pm

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area (Approx. \$3 parking fee)

MA Meeting at noon

1:30 Picnic Lunch

(bring your own food, grill and drinks provided)

After lunch... Softball, Volleyball, Walks around the lake...

Even a playground for the kids!

For directions and information

contact Todd E. at (310)281-9504

## The Third Annual MA Convention

*"Happy-Joyous-& Free!"*

February 14,15,16

San Diego, California

at the Handlery Hotel & Resort

Meetings, Speakers, Banquets, Workshops  
Fun & Fellowship

Pre-register for individual events or package deals by  
January 1st for Best Rates!

See October issue or the upcoming December issue  
for pre-registration form!

## A Poem

by Sean D., District 6

*The Echos of Madness*

*Grow from the things you're fed.*

*The Echos of Madness*

*Sounds that ring in your head.*

*You are living a lie that you don't even see*

*The reflection in the mirror, "can that be me?"*

*The Echos of Madness*

*Never play fair and*

*The Echos of Madness*

*will always be near.*

*With drugs to change  
and with drugs to escape...*

*The Echos of Madness*

*Are filled with pain.*

*The choice is mine*

*The choice is yours, but with*

*The Echos of Madness*

*It is life that you can lose!*

*The Echos of Madness*

*Damage my body and soul.*

*And it is friends and family*

*That pay the heaviest toll.*

*It's time to live! And goodbye to Madness*

*Nothing works like a heartful of gladness.*

*So this poem is in passing to those who will read*

*This poem of madness was all about me!*

## MA WORLDWIDE...

### DISTRICT 1 - SAN FRANCISCO

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San Francisco, CA 94148  
(415) 522-7373

### DISTRICT 2 - EAST BAY

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Berkeley, CA 94707  
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### DISTRICT 3 - SOUTH BAY

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Campbell, CA 95011  
(408) 450-0796

### DISTRICT 4 - SEATTLE

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Marijuana Anonymous World Wide Website

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