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A NEW LEAF

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Things I've Noticed

By Andrea, District Four

More energy. The circles under my eyes are gone. I am more likely to be on time. I am more prepared. I have better hygiene.

I stayed sober from September 21, 1997 for about 100 days. I relapsed thinking I could keep using and stay in control. Though my drug use wasn't daily, my feelings were bad. I was lying, especially to my boyfriend who was also in recovery. One night I called him, feeling especially bad. Imagine my surprise and relief when he told me he had been using. I went to a meeting that night and told of my relapse. Again, imagine my surprise when people applauded my return. They were not disap-

pointed or disgusted with me. Instead, they were warm and kind.

The attitude of the fellowship, my relapse and my previous attitude about both using and sobriety all swirled together and out came a new concept: Patience. After that meeting I felt differently about my recovery. Gently and patiently I have proceeded. When I feel anxious about anything I ask God, as I know God, to restore my patience. Progress is happening, quietly and slowly.

Projects that I started a year ago and could not finish because of my addiction are now being completed. My feelings about myself

and my work improve daily. As this happens, my cravings for drugs and the desire to use continue to decrease. What a great cycle! Daily I ask God for patience with myself. Daily I thank God for the opportunity to maintain my new attitude.

Recovery is not easy. There are many doubts and faith is easily lost. When my faith is at all weakened, that is the time I reach for God and the fellowship, and ask for a reminder. Inevitably I am reminded and rewarded with God's presence in my life. I feel God is patient with me. As I put my trust in God, recovery becomes easier, and my progress becomes more obvious to me.

The Convention is Coming!

By the District 6 Convention Committee

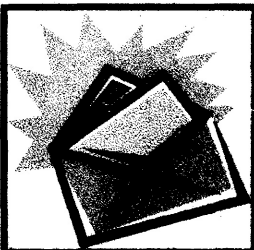
The plans for the 1999 Convention are shaping up. The Burbank Airport Hilton, across from the Burbank Airport is the Convention site. The date of the Convention is January 15-16-17, 1999.

We are planning workshops

on Steps 1-9, Meditation, Service Inside the Fellowship, Service Outside the Fellowship, Relapse Prevention, and a special gathering "for the Loved Ones of Marijuana Addicts". There will be special topic meetings

dealing with Young People, Longevity, and Service; as well as Men's and Women's Stag meetings. Early morning and late night meetings are planned.

(continued on page 3)

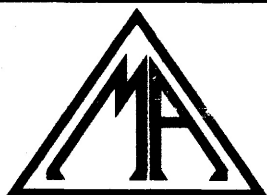


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A NEW LEAF P.O. Box 4314 North Hollywood, CA 91617



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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A NEW LEAF

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Goodbye Marijuana!!!!

The following letter, and response to the letter, originated from the Marijuana Anonymous website.

Goodbye Marijuana,

I've known you for 24 years and most of the time I thought we were having a good time, but you really kept me away from the good times. You helped me build walls to feel safe behind, but life is not about being safe.

Oh, I know that I've said goodbye before for short times and a few long times but I've got no choice this time. You have almost destroyed my life, sanity, and spirit. You turned my fear and pain to anger. You made me forget what is important in life, my love for myself, my husband and children, and also many friends I've pushed away so I could be with you. No more. I've had it. Don't bother knocking at my door again because I won't answer again.

I can hear your laughter now. I can hear you taunting: "You will come crawling back," but your wrong because this time I have a way to keep you from coming back into my life. I've got twelve steps written by a man in 1939. There are millions of people who have said goodbye to you and others like you. Again I hear your laughter: "You've tried this before, it doesn't work." Again you are wrong, it does work I just wasn't ready to say goodbye. But I've had enough, no more lies, not from you and not from myself. I'm going to learn to live my life one day at a time until God not you decides I'm going to die. You are not more powerful than God and he will help me because I've asked Him to and he loves me.

So goodbye forever, and be aware that I will be warning the world about you. Carol.

RESPONSE

Hi Carol:

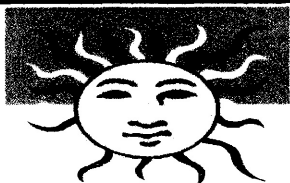
This is marijuana speaking. I got your letter. You may be surprised to hear this, but I support you completely. I never meant for people to rely on me to escape from problems or avoid feelings. If I was messing up your life in any way, I agree, your are better off without me!

Some people like me as a casual acquaintance, and we hang out once in awhile. But others use me as a substitute for a best friend, a lover, or a family. That's not what I'm all about. But because of my charming personality I know that some people spend too much time with me. Take it from me. You don't need me to be happy.

An ex-girlfriend of mine named Nina wanted me to tell you that MA is the only way she has been able to stay clean for six months. You may want to check out a meeting if there's any near you, or another twelve step meeting.

Good luck, and don't worry, I won't take your rejection personally.

Sincerely,
Marijuana



Convention News (cont'd)

There will be a special event on Friday night that we are tentatively calling "Meet & Greet", which we hope will help break the ice and provide an atmosphere of fellowship and unity. The Saturday night entertainment event is being planned as you are reading this, but we have been sworn to secrecy by the events coordinators. They guarantee you will laugh a piece of anatomy off!

We worked really hard to make this convention affordable for everyone, and we hope you can join us. We especially encourage those of you from outlying areas to join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and unity.

If you have any questions about the Convention, please write to us at: MA Convention, P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, Ca 91404, or Burbank99@aol.com.

MA Worldwide...

San Francisco (District 1) P.O. Box 460024 San Francisco, CA 94146 (415) 522-7373	L.A. County, North (District 6) P.O. Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 (818) 759-9194	Portland, Oregon (District 11) P.O. Box 14125 Portland, OR 97293 (503) 221-7007
East Bay (District 2) (510) 287-8873	L.A. County, South (District 7) P.O. Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 (213) 964-2370	Humboldt, CA Area (707) 443-5928
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Seattle (District 4) P.O. Box 1509 539 Queen Anne Ave. N Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 548-9034	Santa Cruz (District 9) P.O. Box 3196 Santa Cruz, CA 95063 (408) 427-4088	New Zealand MA Service Centre P.O. Box 74-386 Newmarket Auckland 3, New Zealand (09) 846-6822
Orange County (District 5) 358 S. Main #215 Orange, CA 92668 (714) 999-9409	L.A. County, East (District 10) P.O. Box 94400 Pasadena, CA 91109 (909) 787-6020 (626) 583-9582	



World Service Office

P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 ♦ (800) 766-6779

<http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>

e-mail: info@marijuana-anonymous.org

Congratulations to Our Members Celebrating Their Sober Birthdays!

District 4

Matt D.	8/4/97	1 year!
Courtney	9/19/94	4 years
George	10/29/89	9 years

District 5

Ron "Gardener"	11/5/95	3 years
Meri K.	11/5/91	7 years
Dan E.	11/11/92	11 years
Grasshopper	11/11/92	6 years
"Grateful" Rich	11/21/93	5 years

District 7

Jim L.	9/25/89	9 years
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District 8

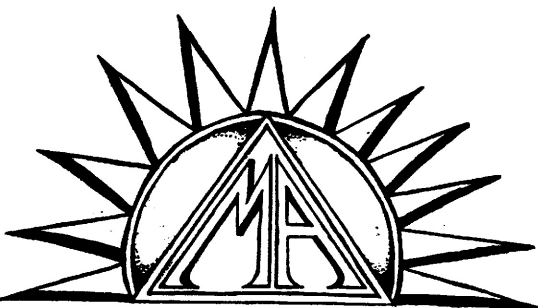
Andy R.	11/11/90	8 years
Carl P.	11/13/90	8 years
Suzanne B.	11/15/96	2 years

District 11

Marilyn	10/6/96	2 years
David V.	11/19/95	3 years
Chuck Mc.	11/25/97	1 year!
Stephen P.	11/26/95	3 years
Wayne S.	11/27/96	2 years

Louisiana

Eric F.	11/20/88	10 years
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The 5th Annual
Marijuana Anonymous Convention
"Stepping Into The Light"
January 15-16-17, 1999
Burbank, California

Tentative Agenda

(Specific starting times subject to change)

Friday January 15

Registration opens-4pm
Dinner on your own
Opening meeting-7pm
Meet and Greet Event-9pm
Late Night meeting-11pm

Saturday January 16

Early meeting-7am
Breakfast-8:30am
Workshops and Meetings
Banquet Dinner-6pm
Speaker meeting-7:30pm
Surprise entertainment-8:30pm
Dance-10pm
Late Night meeting-11pm

Sunday January 17

Early meeting-7am
Breakfast-8:30am
Workshops and Meetings
Closing Ceremonies-11:30am
Raffle

Hotel Registration

(Hotel is not included in registration costs-you must book your room separately)

Burbank Airport Hilton 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, California (800) HILTONS (Hotel is across the street from Burbank Airport)

Room Rates: \$89.00 per night plus tax-1 to 2 people per room. Add \$10.00 per night for each additional person up to 4 people per room.
(\$109 per night plus tax for 4 people in a room)

Reservations must be made by December 15, 1998 to guarantee this rate.

You must say that you are with the MA Convention to receive this rate.

(You may stay Sunday night at the Convention rate if you wish!)

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Convention Registration Order Form

Full Packages

	Cost	# of tickets	Total
Before December 15-All events and food	\$70	_____	\$ _____
After December 15-All events and food	\$80	_____	\$ _____
At the Door-All events and food	\$90	_____	\$ _____

Individual Events

	Cost	# of tickets	Total
Friday-Opening meeting and Meet & Greet Event	FREE	_____	_____
Saturday-Workshops, Banquet, Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Saturday-Workshops, Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance (NO FOOD)	\$15	_____	\$ _____
Saturday-Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance Only (NO WORKSHOPS OR FOOD)	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Sunday-Workshops and Closing Ceremonies (NO FOOD)	FREE	_____	_____

Send order form and check for total amount payable to:

MA Convention Fund

P.O. Box 2912

Van Nuys, Ca 91404

Total Registration Cost \$ _____

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E mail address (if applicable) _____

(Your anonymity will be protected on all materials)

Banquet Dinner Choice: Chicken (quantity) _____ Vegetarian Lasagne (quantity) _____

Will you need shuttle service from Burbank Airport? _____