



Daytrippers - The Making of a Daytime Meeting

I moved to New York City in 2003 as a transfer student. I had been an enthusiastic but casual smoker, and never had my own dealer or kept my own stash.

Three weeks into the semester, I was connected with a weed delivery service and my whole life went up in smoke. I smoked weed all day, every single day. On the extraordinarily rare occasions when I didn't smoke, the agony was unbearable.

I knew it was bad; I had tried to go to MA, but all the meetings were at 8:00 p.m. I knew so many stoners like me, unsupervised creatives and freelancers who just couldn't wait until dark to get high, or service industry folk who worked at night and couldn't get to an 8:00 p.m. meeting. MA didn't seem to have people like us in mind.

In an attempt to quit on my own, I drank like a fish. I have several family members who died of alcoholism, and eventually I became convinced I was on that same path. I went to my first AA meeting in 2013 and have not taken a drink since.

I did keep relapsing with weed, until I finally hit my "Please help me, O-BaJeezus!" bottom. Driven by a truly awakened spirit, I hit as many AA morning and daytime meetings as possible. I got 30 days of total sobriety together and came to MA. I was glad to be in the right place, but MA felt threadbare in comparison to AA. I

learned that many marijuana addicts with serious, long-term recovery drifted to AA, and one reason was that MA meetings became less convenient as life got bigger.

There seemed to be a notion that folks who didn't make it in just didn't have the "Gift of Desperation," but so many daytime stoners won't even hear that phrase...

The absence of a daytime meeting seemed to be creating a drain of old-timers, but more importantly, a failing to reach a significant segment of newcomers. There seemed to be a notion that folks who didn't make it in just didn't have the "Gift of Desperation," but so many daytime stoners won't even hear that phrase, let alone "it works if you work it, so work it, you're worth it," if they can't get to an 8:00 p.m. meeting.

After I got nine months of recovery under my belt, I became determined to get a MA Daytime Meeting off the ground. I needed a coalition of people with more sober time than me who were willing to commit. Not only was I worried about this becoming "my meeting," but I wanted to make the best possible impression to the newcomer.

Soon, a person with solid recovery who had started to drift from MA to AA agreed to be the co-chair. A woman in my AA home-group with thirty years told me she was actually a pothead and wanted to help me start the meeting. She suggested a time and place, and we called the meeting "Working Title," hoping that if it really materialized, the meeting would name itself.

A year later, we have a unique meeting culture with both regulars and lots of people coming in for the first time. My original partners still attend regularly, but the meeting is now led by a young woman who had her first 12-Step meeting experience here nearly a year ago. When she stepped up to the plate, the group held a vote... We're now officially called "Daytrippers."

One of the things that makes our meeting unique is that we read from *A New Leaf* every other week. Having a new flow of stories every month is hugely crucial for a meeting that can't sustain a speaker program just yet. We have been given so much by this great newsletter and are very excited to contribute to it ourselves! ▲

~ Ben W, District 8

subscribe

send your name, address and a \$15 check (\$20 non-US) to:

A New Leaf Publications
340 S Lemon Ave # 9420
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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.

We are reaching out to districts to update the ANLP Liaisons and birthday lists. Additionally, district/group service representatives, including but not limited to those serving as ANLP Liaisons, are encouraged to stay in touch: chiefs@anewleafpublications.org

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My Brother Rod

My brother Rod and I were two peas in a pod who saw and made our way through life from totally different perspectives. We were only a year apart in age. We fought a lot as teens, each wanting to distinguish himself from the other.

What we had in common was a desire to be different from the other—ranging from who we chose as friends to our respective interests in school and extracurricular activities. But, as much as our male egos goaded us to be different from one another, we each loved the other and admired qualities that the other had.

My brother entered military service at age 18. I, at 19, was a conscientious objector. Rod would write me about smoking pot to relieve the stress and craziness of being in active combat. My “best thinking” at the time was to start using pot to be near him. What we ultimately shared in common was addiction—me, to marijuana and alcohol, him to pot, alcohol and cocaine. My brother totally succumbed to addiction while in military service. Over the next 40 years as he would struggle, in and out of 18 treatment programs without success.

When my time for recovery came I wanted, in a small way, to honor my brother's struggle and life experience. I had never ever wanted to become an addict, yet here I was. I had reservations about the second step—“Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.” I didn't think I could survive the death of a family member without using.

My sponsor said that “some of us have to die so that those of us who remain can know how serious our disease is”. And so it is. Who among us has not known, or known of, someone who has totally succumbed to their addiction?

My brother Rod died with a needle in his arm in our mother's basement in my eighth year of recovery. In the meantime something miraculous had happened for me. Not only had my reservation to use as a reaction to my brother's death been cancelled. I was able to be of maximum service to my family during our time of loss. Along the way Step 9 had introduced me to the spiritual principle of justice and Step 12 suggests practicing the spiritual principles of the program of Marijuana Anonymous in all of our affairs.

My then-surviving family gathered in a small room at the funeral home to make arrangements for Rod's funeral. For our mother, one of the most troubling aspects of accepting “life on life's terms” was dealing with the death of a child. For the surviving siblings, the conversation focused more on disposition of Rod's body; two preferred cremation and two preferred whole body burial. None of us had any idea of what Rod would have preferred. Addicts don't leave wills.

I shared at the time that Rod had always felt slighted (spelled “resentful”) that while he had been wounded in combat during his military service, he was not compensated because the wound was from “friendly fire.” Further, though he was entitled to a full military service and burial at Arlington National Cemetery there was only room for cremated remains.

I shared further that our perspective could shift to honoring Rod—that we could honor him and resolve our respective conflicts over burial by choosing cremation and burial at Arlington. Notwithstanding our differences, we each wanted to honor him, and we did.

The day came when a US Marine played the bugle call “Taps,” and though I grieved, I didn't use. ▲

~ by Anonymous

The Wall

There is a wall
Between realizing my true nature
And how I perceive the truth
How do I break down
What's getting in my way?

Step aside, watch and listen
The wall will crumble on its own
With inner awareness
Leaving the pieces in a pile of
self-compassion
Open up and allow

My heart will melt the wall away
Slowly allowing vulnerability
Releasing my self-will
Offering me strength without fear

Look directly into the wall
Which is tall, thick and strong
Know the wall seeks
To keep me separate from myself
And G-d

Speak up and speak out
To the wall that stands in defiance
The wall that justifies its existence

And keeps me in the pain of the
past

Be present in mind and body
Giving Master Teacher
A clear and clean path
Acknowledging my courage to ask
How do I break down
What's getting in my way?

~ by Sandra J

2020 MA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

A Vision For Us

February 14th – 16th Los Angeles, CA
30th Anniversary of MA



HOTEL

Airtel Plaza Hotel
7277 Valjean Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91406
\$109+/night (1 or 2 beds)
Breakfast incl & free parking
(Discounted rate Feb 11-18)
Must book hotel by Jan. 31st
Code = "MA Convention" Or use link
on website to book w/ special rate

COSTS

Full weekend registration detailed
below include: workshops, speakers,
Friday & Saturday night entertain-
ment, snacks, and lunch Saturday
and Sunday. **Scholarship Donation** is
an optional fund- if you are able,
thank you!

TRANSPORT

Email transportation needs to:
ma2020transp@gmail.com
Buses at LAX on the Lower/Arrivals Level
in front of each terminal under the green
"FlyAway, Buses and Long Distance Vans"
sign. Find the Van Nuys Airport Bus. Upon
arrival at Van Nuys station, use the Airtel
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Name _____ Mailing Date _____

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Yes, I want to volunteer
at the convention!

FULL REGISTRATION! {Full weekend + Banquet + **\$185.00**} \$ _____

{ Full weekend w/o Banquet **\$145.00** } {Banquet only **\$50.00**} \$ _____

Scholarship donation (if any) \$ _____

TOTAL USD \$ _____

If Banquet, choose one: fish chicken veggie

Registration and payment can be made through the website: *www.mawsconvention.org* or
Send this form with a check or money order payable to "MA District 6" to : **MA District 6 P.O. Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404**
Questions? Email: *ma2020reg@gmail.com* or call Felicia F. (310) 714-3361

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For a complete listing of all meetings visit
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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, t.v., film, and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow MA members.

Celebrating 97 Years of Sobriety!

District 4			District 6		
Angela M.	10/19/2016	3 yrs.	LB D.	9/20/2005	14 yrs
Shauna L.	10/11/2016	3 yrs.	District 7		
District 5			Amir	9/28/2016	3 yrs.
Az	9/30/1986	30 yrs.	Emma F.	9/18/2018	1 yr.
John L.	10/6/2015	4 yrs.	Megan J.	9/3/2016	3 yrs.
Julia	10/11/2018	1 yr.	District 11		
Mike G.	9/28/2015	4 yrs.	Kyler F.	9/18/2017	2 yrs.
Scott	9/28/14	5 yrs.	District 21		
Stephen	9/19/18	1 yr.	Dell X.	9/17/2018	1 yr.
Trés	9/20/2002	17 yrs.	Karen D.	9/29/2014	5 yrs.

See your sobriety date here.



Allow us to publish your anniversary to celebrate!
Provide your sobriety date to your local GSR, ANLP Liaison, or e-mail to:
chiefs@anewleafpublications.org

Members / GSRs / ANLP Liaisons are encouraged to submit birthdays that...

- 1) **HAVE OCCURRED,**
- 2) **HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY,**
- 3) **AND ARE NOT OLDER THAN 45 DAYS.**

Please submit by the 15th of the month and use the format shown in the listing at left. *Thanks!*