



A NEW LEAF

December 1997
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A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

MAWS Bottoming Out

by Concerned MA Members

We are going broke. MAWS is going broke. We are MAWS. If you are reading this, you are also MAWS (Marijuana Anonymous World Services). If you are reading this, you probably hit some kind of bottom that brought you into the rooms. You hit that bottom alone. Now you are part of a greater community that is in danger of facing its own bottom.

You might think this has little to do with you—but it is precisely this attitude by both individuals and districts that got us into these dire straits.

Here's our story. Financially MAWS will soon be broke due to low income. Districts are withholding donations, our main source of income. What does this mean? For you personally, maybe nothing...initially. The 800 phone line will be shut off, and those still sick and suffering will not be able to call. Nor will they find us on the Internet, as our Web page will be stopped. No starter kits will be sent to those wanting to start new meetings. Eventually each district will be on their own, as MAWS loses their support and is dissolved.

You may think, so what if MAWS folds. Who needs MAWS? We need MAWS. We are MAWS. When the phone bill comes, we are

to pay it. When the starter kits have to be sent out, we have to pay the postage. We pay the bills. We are MAWS.

In truth, MAWS is symbolic of our recovery. It is the epitome of our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. So if MAWS dissolves, what does that say

If MAWS dissolves, it says we are falling back into "addict type" thinking: isolating in our districts, in our individual meetings.

about us? It says we are falling back into "addict type" thinking: isolating in our districts, in our individual meetings, comfortable in thinking MAWS will always be there. There?

There? Here, here is where MAWS is...in your hand right now. Reading this article, wondering what the hell these people are talking about?

We are talking about the fact that donations have dropped drastically. For the past four months, our income was \$2,839.12 and our

expenses were \$5,236.31. As of late November, we have a balance of only \$2,035.50.

Now you do the math. How long is it going

to take for MAWS to be broke? More important, do we care? Are we going to do anything about it? If so, what?

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From the MAWS Office Manager

by Ilene M., District 6

I thought it was time to check in with the fellow ship-at-large! MA is growing fast, most notably in the Midwest. There are two new meetings in Ohio, three new meetings in Michigan. It's exciting to see new meetings starting up, and challenging trying to keep everybody in touch with each other. When a new meeting starts, I check my files to see if we've gotten email from anyone in that area. If so, I let them

know about the new meeting. I also like to keep people who've started meetings in a particular state posted about other meetings in that state.

A lot of people have expressed an interest in seeing our meeting schedule posted on the Web site (<http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>). I'd like to apologize for taking so long to get around to doing this. I'm also not altogether sure posting meetings is a good

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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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Conventions Come In Many Shapes and Sizes

by B.W., District 2

What we are doing in Oakland this coming year is our usual three-day affair. What will be a bit different is that on Saturday we will sponsor three professional speakers from the Bay Area who will share their experience, strength, and hope with us concerning issues around the effects of marijuana on us and our families. The spirit and feeling behind this is to reach out into a larger community with information that will help the addict who still suffers. We expect a large crowd for the Saturday speakers. We are reaching out to high schools, treatment facilities, correctional facilities, as well as the professional community.

We are taking special care to have some balance and flow to insure your interest and participation. We have created an exciting agenda that will allow everyone plenty of options. It includes a good variety of workshops, marathon and speaker meetings, entertainment, a birthday countdown, cake, snacks, breakfasts, and a dinner. Some agenda highlights are:

- FogBreaker—exercises designed to move us beyond our anxiety and isolation towards getting to know our fellows in a meaningful way;
- Workshops on meditation, prayer, bodywork, forgiveness, hypnosis/tai chi/fun & games for a better self-care, dreams, and learning to love yourself;
- Guest speakers on three topics: marijuana addiction and brain chemistry, marijuana addiction and the family, and a 30-year retrospective of the amotivational syndrome.

We are reaching out to everyone with a big hand and a big heart to be a part of this event. We want you here making MA stronger in unity. So join us on January 16, 17, and 18—and let's become the class of 1998 together. ☺

Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!

**District 2**

John J.	Nov 5	1 yr!
James S.	Nov 8	1 yr!
Praline M.	Nov 28	1 yr!
Fay C.	Nov 30	8 yrs

District 3

Jeff B.	Oct 25	1 yr!
Shemian	Oct 26	1 yr!
Veronica	Oct 28	1 yr!
Mel G.	Oct 31	10 yrs

District 6

Terri R.	Nov 18	7 yrs
Gregg S.	Nov 20	3 yrs

District 7

Jim L.	Sep 25	8 yrs
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District 8

Andy R.	Nov 11	7 yrs
Carl P.	Nov 13	7 yrs
Suzanne B.	Nov 15	1 yr!

District 10

Lamar A.	Apr 16	9 yrs
Richard N.	Oct 23	2 yrs
Bobbie D.	Nov 4	4 yrs
Kory B.	Nov 15	2 yrs

District 11

Carl P.	Sep 1	6 yrs
Mike C.	Sep 18	13 yrs
Susan B.	Oct 9	11 yrs

Alabama

Eric F.	Nov 20	9 yrs
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Florida

Andy B.	Sep 1	1 yr!
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West Virginia

Warren M.	Nov 20	1 yr!
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From the MAWS Office Manager

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idea, since they change so often...more often than I update the Web page, for sure!...and I don't like the idea of having incorrect information on our site. But members seem to want it. So keep checking the Web site in the coming weeks. I hope to have it completely updated and redesigned sometime around the beginning of next year. Although it's somewhat out-of-date in its appearance, our Web site is still doing a great job of attracting people who are interested in recovery from marijuana addiction. I have met several addicts who have gotten sober and/or started meetings after finding out about MA via the Internet. It even looks like we're going to have some MA meetings starting in England in the next few months—just because someone did a Web search and found out about Marijuana Anonymous. Pretty cool!

I finally finished the minutes for the MAWS Conference held last May. Copies have been sent to all delegates and trustees. If anyone

else would like a copy, send a \$6 check—which covers printing and postage costs—payable to “MA World Services” to: MAWS, P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404. I also have copies of the MAWS Service Manual available at all times. Those cost \$13 apiece (including postage) and can be ordered by sending a check payable to “A New Leaf” to: A New Leaf, P.O. Box 4314, North Hollywood, CA 91617.

Working for MA has become a big part of my program. Sometimes

I get frustrated and overwhelmed, but all it takes is one letter from a grateful addict, or a phone call from an excited newcomer who has just started a meeting and is thrilled to be a part of MA, and all the work becomes worth more than the frustration. I want to remind all of you that I work for *you*. If ever there's anything you need, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Editor's Note: This article reflects just the kind of vital things that will disappear if MAWS goes broke. ☸

MAWS Bottoming Out

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What can we do? First off, concerned MA members should contact their MAWS district delegate. If you don't know who or how, send an email to: ANewLeaf97@aol.com. In the email, please list your district (where you go to meetings), so we can point you to the right delegate.

An action you can take right away is to send a (still, for now) tax-deductible contribution check made out to “MA World Service.” Mail it to: MAWS, P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404.

We are MAWS. ☸

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

NEW YORK (District 8)

P.O. Box 507
New York, NY 10276
(212) 459-4423

EAST BAY (District 2)

P.O. Box 8354
Berkeley, CA 94707
(510) 287-8873

L.A. COUNTY, SOUTH (District 7)

P.O. Box 3012
Culver City, CA 90231
(213) 964-2370

PORTLAND, OREGON (District 11)

P.O. Box 14125
Portland, OR 97293
(503) 221-7007

SOUTH BAY (District 3)

P.O. Box 111341
Campbell, CA 95011
(408) 450-0796

L.A. COUNTY, EAST (District 10)

P.O. Box 94400
Pasadena, CA 91109
(909) 787-6020
(626) 583-9582

HUMBOLDT, CA AREA

(707) 443-5928

SEATTLE (District 4)

P.O. Box 1509
539 Queen Anne Ave. N
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 548-9034

ORANGE COUNTY (District 5)

358 S. Main #215
Orange, CA 92668
(714) 999-9409

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 194
Sadsburyville, PA 19369
(610) 622-9243

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

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

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

Marijuana Anonymous World Wide Web

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

email: info@marijuana-anonymous.org

The Fourth Annual MA Convention

Stepping Out of the Fog: Recovery for Mind, Body & Spirit

January 16, 17, 18, 1998

Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland, CA



Tentative Agenda

(specific starting times for registration, workshops, and meetings to be announced)

Friday, January 16

4 pm registration opens
dinner on your own
opening meeting
entertainment

Saturday, January 17

breakfast
workshops and meetings
banquet dinner
entertainment

Sunday, January 18

breakfast
workshops
closing meeting

Hotel Registration

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

Oakland Marriott, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA – (800) 228-9290 or (510) 451-4000

Room rates: \$89 per night plus tax (1–4 persons per room)

Reservations MUST be made by December 16, 1997 to receive Convention rate

After December 16 you will pay the regular room rate of \$99 per night *and* rooms may not be available!

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

You *may* stay Sunday night at the special Convention room rate if you wish

Convention Registration Order Form

Individual Events

	Cost	#tickets	Total
Friday meeting, snack bar and entertainment only	20.00	_____	\$_____
Saturday breakfast buffet and workshops only	30.00	_____	_____
Saturday banquet dinner/entertainment only	40.00	_____	_____
Saturday day pass (no food)	20.00	_____	_____
Sunday breakfast buffet/workshops/meeting	30.00	_____	_____
Sunday day pass (no food)	15.00	_____	_____

(all events include coffee, juices, and ice water — soda available in hospitality suite)

Full Packages

	Cost	#tickets	Total
Before December 1 – All events and food (save \$25.00)	95.00	_____	\$_____
After December 1 – All events and food (save \$10.00)	110.00	_____	_____
Before December 1 – Day pass, all days (save \$15.00)	40.00	_____	_____
After December 1 – Day pass, all days (save \$10.00)	45.00	_____	_____

Send order form and check for total amount payable to:

MA Convention

P.O. Box 8354, Berkeley, CA 94707

Total Registration Cost \$_____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Banquet dinner choice: Chicken (qty) _____ Vegetarian (qty) _____

I have special requirements as follows: _____
