



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

December 2010

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Gifts of the Program

[Reprint from ANL September 1991]

I got my nine month chip at a Glendale MA meeting this week. I am the type of person who reflects on my progress whenever I reach a milestone like this. Of course, I am very happy. Of course, I am very proud of myself. However, I am also thinking of all the gifts I have received from the program in the past nine months. Not only do I have my sobriety, but I have my friends, my higher power, and my future.

In my opinion, my friends are one of the most precious gifts I have received in MA. During the end of my using, I had no friends, like many of us marijuana addicts. Today, I have more friends than I have ever had. What's more, they are REAL friends. They love me unconditionally, and I love them. I have learned the true meaning of friendship in MA.

My Higher Power is my greatest gift from the program. I am not a religious person, but I believe I have become a spiritual person. My Higher Power guides and supports me in a way I have never known before. I think I am in conscious contact with God, at least most of the time. And, for that I am grateful.

The most exciting thing I have gotten from my time in MA is my future. Before I got sober, I did not really have any goals for my future. As long as I could get high, I didn't care what else I did. Now that has all changed. In September, I will be starting my third semester in college, and I am deciding what my major will be. The wonderful thing is that now I can do anything. Now that I am sober, I have confidence in myself. My future is not set in

stone, but I know that if I am sober, whatever my Higher Power and I decide will be wonderful.

~ Terri R. District 6

Editors note:

Congratulations, Dr. Terri, on 20 years clean and sober 11/18/10.

Spirit of the 12th step.... A poem by Neil W.

Won't you listen my friend to the words that we share.
Won't you open your heart to a power that cares.
For within each of our souls is the spirit of living.
Within each of our hearts is the gift of giving.
Won't you be free my friend to open your mind
To know God is with us.... One day at a time.

MAWS Money:

What do 7th tradition funds pay for?

MAWS' fiscal year (FY) end, the period for preparing annual financial statements, is June 30 each year. This past June 30 represented the end of fiscal year 2010. Throughout the year, lots of hard work goes into the accounting of the income and expenses for the World Services organization. At different times, people have asked what MAWS does with the 7th tradition donations it receives. Members rightly should know what MAWS does with their donations. The information below attempts to shed light on this.

While most expenses are fairly

fixed, each year there are changes – due to changing conference locations (and therefore costs), new expenses, or pricing changes for existing expenses. For example, the FY that ended 6/30/2009 was problematic for MAWS as the expenses for that year exceeded the income – by \$7,339! Unlike the federal government, MAWS can only experience a deficit year once in a while or it will be out of business. MAWS does have a prudent reserve of \$5,000 in a savings account however those funds would be depleted if losses continued.

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ROVING REPORTER

Question for January

What is the most meaningful way your sponsor has helped you?

Step One

We admitted we were powerless over marijuana and that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition One

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon M.A. unity.

Submit your answers to your Bureau Chief, or online, by December 17.

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
P.O. Box 6482
Torrance, CA 90504

or submit online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on the newsletter tab.

MAWS Money:

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Due to the serious concern over MAWS' financial situation, during the 2009 annual conference, districts were asked to pledge funds to MAWS which resulted in several thousand dollars of additional donations from districts in July 2009 as well as over \$1,200 in donations from individuals last December.

Because of the improved income, which came in the 2010 fiscal year, income exceeded expenses that year by \$2,133. This was welcome news but there is continuing awareness that close attention needs to be paid to MAWS' financial health. In a nutshell, in any year when donations do not meet projections, difficult choices must be made about what expenses can be reduced or eliminated. Unfortunately, in any year, it is hard to judge whether donations will continue to flow in or might slow down.

So what are the expenses that MAWS pays each year? Generally speaking, they fall into 4 categories:

45% - Payroll, payroll taxes, and other expenses associated with the Office Manager (represents the portion not paid by A New Leaf Publications)

23% - Office expenses, Directors & Officers' liability insurance, accounting fees, conference calls, bank charges

26% - Conference lodging, travel & other expenses

6% - Program expenses (800 line, web hosting, internet)

The figures used to create these categories come from the full-year income and expense spreadsheet. You can access and review the detailed spreadsheet by typing this string into your browser address: <http://marijuana-anonymous.org/2010inc-exp.pdf>. MAWS'

sources of income can be easily understood by looking at this spreadsheet.

MAWS operates on a small budget. For FY 2010, total expenses were less than \$25,000 (excluding two items that had direct income offsets). For FY 2011, expenses are again expected to be close to \$25,000. By contrast, actual expenses in FY 2009 were almost \$30,000. A variance of a few thousand dollars is a big deal for our fellowship.

So, when you consider how much work is performed by our dedicated part-time Office Manager, Tom W. (attending conferences and preparing the minutes, answering calls on the 800 line, directing inquiries, communicating with Trustees and others, participating in Trustee conference calls, etc.) and when you reflect on how many recovery tools are offered on the website and through our 800 number (meeting information, literature, merchandise, etc.), keep in mind that your donations are the key to making these services available. To the extent our 7th tradition collections improve we will be able to enhance the program tools we offer. If you have any questions or comments regarding the MAWS budget or actual financial information, contact our devoted MAWS Treasurer, Jonathan R. ~ Submitted by the MAWS Finance Committee

Tradition Twelve

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

I recently got my name in the Los Angeles Times as a recovering marijuana addict. Now some folks were concerned that

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2011 Marijuana Anonymous Convention

February 18–20 at the Jersey City Hyatt



Registration

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Other Registration Info

☐ MA ☐ Mar-Anon ☐ Guest

Special needs: ☐ None ☐ Deaf/Hearing Impaired ☐ Wheelchair Access

Other: _____

I would like to: *(check all that apply)*

☐ Help outreach for MA 2011

☐ Volunteer for service

☐ Be on the monthly e-mail list

☐ Update my Contact information

Registration Prices:

\$45 August 1 - December

\$55 December 2 - February 17

\$60 At the door

Items for Registration

☐ MA 2011 Convention Registration \$ _____

☐ Saturday Banquet: \$50 _____

☐ Saturday Dance: FREE

Total Amount of Check: \$ _____

Name on Check *(if different from Registrant)*: _____

Make Check Payable to "MA District 8"

Send to: MA District 8

PO Box 1244, Cooper Station

New York, NY 10276

Attention: Convention Committee

YOU MAY REGISTER ONLINE USING PAYPAL OR A CREDIT CARD AT MA-NEWYORK.ORG/CONVENTION

marijuana anonymous worldwide

MA World Services

PO Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 800.766.6779

www.marijuana-anonymous.org

email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

District 1 San Francisco

www.madistrict1.org 415.325.4785

District 2 East Bay

PO Box 20484 Oakland, CA 94620 510.287.8873

District 3 South SF Bay Area

PO Box 551 Saratoga, CA 95071 408.450.0796

District 4 Western Washington

PO Box 17452 Seattle, WA 98107 206.414.9270

District 5 Orange County

1439 W. Chapman Av. PMB#215 Orange, CA 92868 714.999.9409

District 6 LA County No.

PO Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 818.759.9194

District 7 LA County So.

PO Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 323.964.2370

District 8 New York

PO Box 1244 Cooper Station New York, NY 10276 212.459.4423

District 10 LA County East

PO Box 94400 Pasadena, CA 91109 626.583.9582

District 11 Portland

PO Box 2012 Portland, OR 97208-2012 503.221.7007

District 12 North Bay, CA

PO Box 2842 Petaluma, CA 94952 415.419.3555 707.583.2326

District 13 MA Online

www.ma-online.org

District 14 London, England

07940.503438

District 15 Long Island, NY

www.ma-longisland.org 516-568-5883

District 16 Melbourne, Australia

24HR. info 0403 945 083 from overseas +61 403 945 083

District 17 Denmark

info@ma-kbh.dk

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

Roving Reporter Asks... How do you help a newcomer at their first meeting?

I try to help newcomers by making them feel comfortable and welcome. I greet them, welcome them, listen to them, and share a little of my story with them. I don't force anything, I make sure they have a schedule and at least my phone number, and perhaps introduce them to some other folks. Mainly, I try to let them know that we understand and we're here for them, whenever they're ready, and wherever they are in the process.

~ Paul G ▲

Tradition Twelve

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I broke Tradition Twelve. But, absolutely nothing was said about MA and that is why I consented to be interviewed. The interview was about marijuana from the viewpoint of a currently clean addict.

The anonymity spoken about in Tradition Twelve is about preventing "...anyone from becoming known as the spokesperson or leader of MA." I would have loved to shout from the housetops, "Hey! Look at me! Marijuana Anonymous saved my life!" But, if I became publicly known as a member of MA (particularly if I had some fame) then MA would be judged by my actions. What if I went out again?

Then MA would be judged by that.

We hear, all the time, famous people thanking Bill W. They're not saying they are members of any particular anonymous program. And, those of us who "know the code" know what they are talking about. But by the same token, what if they start drinking again and they've told the world they are in that program? The folks we call Normies (and wish we were like them) would get the feeling that the program doesn't work so well. And so, none of us in any Twelve Step program says they are a member so as not to be thought of as a spokesperson. Because? There are no spokespersons or leaders. "Others have gone before; others will follow. WE recover."

~ Carol McD ▲

birthdays

Celebrating 150 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL contact information on page 2. Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that, a) HAVE occurred, b) HAVE NOT been published and, c) are not older than 45 days.

District 3

Dave L.	11/01/04	6 yrs.
Margee W.	11/06/08	2 yrs.
David G (Fisherman)	11/19/03	7 yrs.
Courtney	11/21/07	3 yrs.



District 5

James V.	10/29/98	12 yrs.
Jason	10/29/93	17 yrs.
Michael L.	10/29/90	20 yrs.
Rich C.	11/02/98	12 yrs.
Kathy B.	11/04/03	7 yrs.
Ron the Gardener	11/05/95	15 yrs.
Tina C.	11/06/07	3 yrs.
Bobby	11/15/05	5 yrs.

District 10

Richard N.	10/23/95	15 yrs.
Raul D.	11/11/05	5 yrs.

District 11

Issa	11/11/09	1 year!
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Other

Bangalore, IN		
Shreenivas B.	11/10/90	20 yrs