



Two Roving Reporter Responses for March (see page 3 of this issue for April's topics)

Step Three, How I Love Thee...

There are so many things that I love and am comforted by in Step Three of MA. I love the gender-free God of my own understanding—my favorite GOD acronym is *Generator Of Diversity*—and I feel soothed as I read and recall the choice I get to make every day to turn my will and my life over to their *care*.

I feel relieved that I don't have to have the slightest clue HOW to do it but rather only need *make a decision* to do so. Once the decision is made to put my life into God's care, all I have to focus on is the next indicated thing and getting out of my own way, intently seeking the will of God that I have requested to direct my life.

Tradition Three: "Shared Blood"

For me, the Third Tradition is the heart of MA. Members don't need to come to us already recovered in poster-perfect condition. When I got to MA, I was so steeped in shame and guilt about wasting years of my life and squandering my potential and allowing myself to be destroyed by a substance that wasn't even supposed to be addictive.

Being accepted as a member based solely on my *desire* to stop using marijuana was the most incredible gift. Merely by walking in the door to a meeting and saying I wanted to stop, I was already in. I didn't have to be certain I'd never use again or articulately identify how I was feeling or be nice or cool. I just had to want to be done with weed.

I could venture to say that the acceptance I got from the

Step Three **gives me permission to not know**, and further, celebrates that as a surrendering of my own willfulness! The beginning of Step Three, "*Made a decision...*" also feels especially empowering in contrast to my 18 years of active addiction wherein my relationship with marijuana did an alarming amount of my decision making.

As it says in the first paragraph on page 12 of the *Life with Hope* (3rd Ed.), "We made a decision. What an accomplishment this was!...We made it ourselves. We made a decision to have faith and began putting our trust

in a power greater than ourselves. Step Three was neither another assertion of our willpower nor another resignation from responsibility. It was a decision."

It has been my experience that making this important decision with Step Three, and recognizing the significance of that decision, gives me the tools I need (personal accountability and seeking the will of my Higher Power) to become a more empowered and responsible decision-maker throughout all areas of my life. ▲

~Jessica W.



group—acceptance that my pot use was a problem for me, acceptance of my belonging there, acceptance that I was one of you and didn't have to prove anything to take up the space in that chair—all helped make it easier and less scary to accept my own powerlessness and the unmanageability of my life. You all made acceptance look a whole lot better than what I had going outside of that room, which was resistance in general and rejection of myself and everything I had become as a hopeless, lost, and spiritually depraved addict.

The Third Tradition remains center-stage in my experience at meetings. I continue to embrace the notion that the person who **desires to get clean and can't is as essential** a member as the one with years of days doing multiple levels of service.

We are all members; we are equals. More clean time doesn't make for a 'better' member. Our desire to stop is our shared blood. ▲

~Jessica W.

A few numbers from the 2018 MA World Convention

Over 160 registered. Of those, 104 members went up to the podium on Sunday for the birthday countdown. Total sobriety of those members was calculated to be 933 years, 9 months and 22 days. The average of those turned out to be roughly 8.97 years. But who's counting? ;-) More next month!

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.

District Bureau Chiefs

Please get in touch with our ANLP's Managing Editor to collaborate on continuing to breathe life into our fellowship's newsletter. Your ideas and service are welcome, wanted and needed. Contact Thor H. at editor@anewleafpublications.org

ANLP Staff

Chairperson:	Alan B.
Treasurer:	John L.
Secretary:	Rick V.
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Contact ANLP

Send articles/stories:
stories@anewleafpublications.org

Or they may be submitted online:
www.marijuana-anonymous.org/story

Outreach Board

New Meeting Support Program

The Outreach Committee invites *you* to engage in service by supporting new and independent meetings by participating in the New Meeting Support Program.

Did you know that thousands of marijuana addicts have no local access to in-person meetings?

Luckily, new meetings are starting up all over to increase access to the fellowship. As MA continues to grow around the world we find that many new meetings face challenges as they begin to build their foundation. In addition, many meetings operate without service sponsorship or other types of support because they are located in geographic areas that don't fall within an MA district.

We want to reduce the isolation by connecting these meetings with volunteers who can share both their recovery through the 12 Steps and MA service experiences. Volunteers are paired with a new meeting and provide correspondence (email or phone) with a contact person to discuss service topics, challenges and successes the new meeting is experiencing.

The Outreach Committee has set a goal of each District having two members joining the New Meeting Support Program. Please spread the

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word about this program so we can better serve and support MA's new and independent meetings. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Aime or Drift at outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org

Correspondence Committee

The newly formed Correspondence Committee is looking for volunteers!

We are seeking additional volunteers with service experience and a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous to respond to support requests received through the MA 800 helpline and email inquiries. Volunteers will respond to calls that come in on the voicemail line with a goal of returning calls within 48 hours. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact office@marijuana-anonymous.org

Are you fluent in another language?

Many people across North America and the UK contact MA looking for help. However, the long-term goal of Marijuana Anonymous is to become a truly global support network, able to provide resources to suffering addicts in countries all over the world. In taking steps to reach this goal the Outreach Committee is looking to create a database of members who are fluent in languages other than English who would be able to help us bridge the communication gap. We are especially looking for Spanish speakers, as well as European language speakers. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Outreach at outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org

Women's Town Hall

The Outreach Committee is currently researching and developing an online Town Hall for MA's female-identified members. The Project Lead is seeking input, guidance and volunteers to develop this remote Town Hall for the fellowship worldwide. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Lana or Drift at outreach@marijuana-anonymous.org

*To volunteer at ANLP send a note to board@anewleafpublications.org

Fellowship Fueled

All of you are my people, whether old, young, fat or thin
 We know of the struggles our addictions can spin
 We know that our grip on sobriety can be fragile
 We learn that we must stay calm and ever so agile
 We know what we know and we work to remember
 That pot's not our friend but a dark glowing ember
 That we couldn't shake, until came the fears
 And learned to put trust in the strength of our peers
 And the Power on High of the forces unseen
 That bestow upon us, another day clean
 As I head to the meeting on this Friday night
 It reminds me of times when my life was not right
 I pull into the parking lot, fully aware
 Knowing the circle of friends will be there
 Not always the same folks, the new and the old
 But travelers together in a quest to be whole
 I enter the room to the people arrayed
 In the chairs in a circle, a fellowship made
 A smile or a handshake, a nod or a grin
 The routine familiar, hardly ever chagrin
 A moment of silence and onward the flow
 Of ritual and sharing for an hour or so
 It's a time to remember
 The dead burning ember
 And so pleased to remember sobriety
 So simple and better than the endless anxiety
 The greatest of gifts as the time moves along
 As the days turn to weeks and the
 chips sing our song
 As the pain and anguish slowly decrease
 The hope and the courage finally increase
 The days filled with fright
 Give way to some light
 The Life that seemed lost
 At what terrible cost
 Begins to return and with it the joy
 To see through these eyes and truly enjoy
 That the feelings are mine
 Whether good, bad or sublime
 And I'm learning to cope
 And live with some hope
 Living my life on life's terms
 Embracing all that reaffirms
 Learning to deal
 Continuing to heal
 Trusting myself, struggle and all
 So precious a thing for me to recall
 That I thank everyone
 For all that you've done
 For this path that I travel
 Which has helped me unravel
 That I'm never alone
 Even with the unknown
 Cosmically jeweled
 And Fellowship Fueled ▲

~Dean A.

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your that content in recent
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your is recycled. Have you?
your Please help our readers
new... by sharing a bit of your
 recovery. Thank you!

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YOUR recovery content

www.marijuana-anonymous.org/literature/newsletter

THE ROVING REPORTER

Every month, our readers have **another opportunity** to reflect on their recovery and to help carry the message to the addict who still suffers. This issue presents certain questions/topics, the responses to which may be published in the April issue. In addition to questions/topics, the Step and the Tradition corresponding to the month of publication are offered as topics. For example, in this March issue we are requesting submissions related to **Step/Tradition Four** for publication in **April**. The deadline is the 16th of the month. You need not write more than a couple paragraphs and the exercise may strengthen your own recovery. The action you take will certainly bring to life **Step Twelve** and **Tradition Five**. The Fellowship hopes to hear from you often. One of this month's topics is derived from lines within **Step Four of Life with Hope** (pg 19, 3rd Ed).

First, to quote: "Some of us did not get it all the first time, so we did other inventories as more memories surfaced. There is nothing wrong with that. Taking inventory is a

process we can repeat."

So for those who relate, who have done multiple inventories, the question is: **What are some specific examples of emotional or spiritual growth that have occurred as a direct result of a second, or third, or nth Fourth Step inventory, and what is a personal reflection on having taken multiple passes?**

And/or you may wish to respond to a different topic:

Briefly describe the initial resistance(s) you may have had about approaching the Fourth Step the first time around, and the specific experience(s) that brought you to willingness to finally put pen to paper.

One final suggested topic, given that we just had a the 2018 MA World Convention last month: **If you attended the convention, what were some of the stand-out moments that helped you in your recovery process?**



Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

For a complete listing of all meetings visit
WWW.MARIJUANA-ANONYMOUS.ORG

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www.marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ info@marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ +1.800.766.6779

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DIST. 13 MA Online www.ma-online.org			

Celebrating 324 Years of Sobriety!

District 2

Alex C. 1/22/16 2 yrs

District 5

Anthony G. 1/29/15 3 yrs
Cory B. 2/19/18 19 yrs
Jeremy 2/9/14 4 yrs
Layne 1/18/10 8 yrs
Max S. 2/12/15 3 yrs
Nico 2/16/14 4 yrs
Steve C. 2/16/16 2 yrs

District 7

Brian A. 1/11/16 2 yrs
Dan 1/5/15 3 yrs
Dan P. 1/15/10 8 yrs
Don 2/5/09 9 yrs
Jesse K. 1/3/14 4 yrs
Jessica C. 1/20/11 7 yrs
John G. 12/25/91 26 yrs
John V. 1/3/16 2 yrs
Karen S. 12/28/07 10 yrs

Libby 2/7/96 22 yrs
Luisa M. 1/18/17 1 yr
Malek 1/13/17 1 yr
Marcy E. 1/7/13 2 yrs
Mark L. 2/1/89 29 yrs
Noelle 12/22/07 10 yrs
Rob R. 1/6/06 12 yrs
Sebastian ?/??/2016 2 yrs
Staci 2/2/07 11 yrs
Tracey 2/19/17 1 yr

District 11

Gabe M. 2/5/10 8 yrs
Guy E. 2/15/88 30 yrs
Harry H. 2/10/87 31 yrs
Rick V. 2/8/03 15 yrs
Trisa A. 2/1/96 22 yrs
Walt G. 2/13/01 17 yrs

District 22

Dean A. 2/14/04 14 yrs

GOT A YEAR? ALLOW US TO PUBLISH YOUR ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE!!!

Provide your sobriety date to your local GSR to be forwarded to your Bureau Chief, **or** e-mail your details to chiefs@anewleafpublications.org **or** submit them online at tiny.cc/mabday.

Members / GSRs / Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that

- 1) HAVE OCCURRED,**
- 2) HAVE NOT been published recently,**
- 3) and ARE NOT OLDER THAN 45 days.**

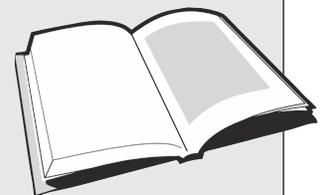
Please format birthday submissions in this manner: **Name <tab> Date <tab> #yrs**



From Life with Hope

Step Three

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood God.



Tradition Three

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using marijuana.