



A NEW LEAF

September 1994

Volume 4 • No. 9

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

Service is a Path Well Traveled, So What Are You Waiting For?

by BW L., District 1

I can say this with great ease because service is and has always been fun, and easy for me. It has also saved my life, and brought me great rewards. So why not give it a try? To me, the thought of service in MA carries the reputation something like the 4th step. You know, "O MY GOD NOT THAT, IT MIGHT HURT." Hog wash, when I think of the 4th step, I think of how easy it is every week to make a grocery list. I have some of this, and I need some of that, and you get what you pay for, so don't buy dented cans! Service basically breaks through denial. You know, should I go to the meeting or not? Humm, what mood is my addict in tonight? There are a million and nine good reasons I could avoid going and only one good reason to show up and tell the truth. My life depends on it. As I say, Get A Clue - or Life, for that matter.

The first service I ever did was to fold chairs at a meeting. I did that basically because I was too shy to say anything to anyone and I hated to leave the minute the meeting was over. Plus, it baffled me how people spontaneously jumped up and started talking to each other. but after a while I caught on, and there I was going out to dinner with these people, and making conversation. At the time that was a gigantic step. Then I became a treasurer and then a secretary. I helped with A Day In MA, a garage sale, and a dance. Before I knew it, I was starting meetings, going to the World Service Conference as a delegate, then a trustee.

Here is where service took on a new meaning to me and where my MA cheerleader self took off.

I was loved and looked after in such a tender and wonderful way that I gained a new level of love and respect for the program. I witnessed Higher Power moving through the people in MA. I have had the privilege of watching MA from its first year and 1st birthday. I've heard all the tales of that 1st meeting in the hotel room and the divisions we survived around gender identity in our language. I learned that fellowship doesn't mean the boys. But it does sound that way. For me, that was like moving a mountain, 'cause we all know God is a woman. Got ya! I can just hear you people in Southern California.

So it is about six years later and my terms as trustee have transpired and the phone calls and decisions go on without me. That is not easy for me, because I am genuinely interested and somewhat

of a control queen. (In a polite way.) It is hard not to be a trustee, but now I am learning to let the people in those positions have the privilege that was honored to me. I congratulate those people for their strength, courage, and experience.

So what's next for someone like myself who needs the love and direction that service allows? How about the 1st MA Convention? One of the committees from the past conference was a convention committee. There were feelings (mostly mine) that MA needs a forum, other than a business conference, where all MA members can gather periodically. Why? Because one of the things we witness at the Conference is the love and unity that comes from getting together. Sparks fly and, take my word for it, it is incredible. I know other programs have conventions around recovery and workshops. We won't be in rooms ironing out the

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MA's "How It Works"

by Kathy C., District 6

"How it Works", the MA Version, is a vital Reading in any MA meeting. It represents the fundamental formula for recovery from the disease of marijuana addiction. It offers concise and detailed instructions on how and why our program works. Perhaps it's time we look at how our version of "How it Works" came to be.

This Reading was written for MA by the Literature Committee at the

1990 World Service Conference in San Francisco, California. The final draft was accepted by the Committee after much thought, discussion, rewording, and rewriting. It was then approved by the General Session that same year.

Our 12 Step program is based on Alcoholics Anonymous, and most of our readings are taken from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. We take absolutely no credit for revising

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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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A Collection of Views and Opinions from Around the Fellowship

*This month's question:
What do you do to make your meeting healthier?*

David B., 2 yrs. 4 mos.

I try to be a good example of the program. I put my hand out to newcomers. I share both good and bad feelings I'm going through. I smile whenever I can.

Michelle, 5 months

1) When I walk into these rooms, I leave the outside world behind. 2) I get in touch with my Higher Power. 3) In the fellowship of the group, I feel strength and power. 4) I surround myself with loving people. 5) I get honest and real. 6) I try to be as positive as I can be and I feed off other people's positivity and recovery.

Mike W., 3 years

I show up for my commitments, which is really important to me. I also reach my hand out to my friends and newcomers, and I try to speak Recovery, which is a real important thing for me.

Avi, 2 yrs. 9 mos.

I suit up. I show up. I shut up. I keep it simple.

Eugene A., 5 months

I try to focus my sharing on the topic of discussion. Moreover, I attempt to share from the perspective of what the solution is, as opposed to dwelling in the problem I may be facing.

Betsy C., 3 yrs. 2 mos.

I show up. I participate by sharing and taking commitments. I give of my talents and time, to the best of my abilities, in the service of MA. Mainly, I stay sober!

René G., 1 yr. 1 mo.

I try to keep my personality out of the meeting and put the principles of the program first. When I share, I try to keep it in the "I".

Richie, 3 years

A healthy meeting is a meeting that not only flows good without a hitch but can help me, as well as others, to learn as much about our disease as possible while at the same time, showing us how to contribute TO the meeting as much as possible. For me, it means taking commitments or clearing up (even if it's not your commitment). So what I do for my meeting, to make it healthier, is doing the phone list. I have also been Secretary twice, Clean-Up, Greeter, and an Interim Sponsor since I've been at this meeting. I can sum it up in three words, "Be of Service". Thanks for asking!

*This month's Roving Reporter
was compiled by Teri A.
from the fellowship in District 7.*

The Roving Reporter

Getting Down to Core Issues

by Steve R., District 6

I have tried in vain to stay sober since 1989. I have been hiding in fear of being judged the way my family judges me. I have learned that this fear permeates my life and affects all my relationships. It is time to embrace life. I have a front up that no one gets through. I steamroll over your emotional borders, subverting our casual intimacy. I need to dwell in the moment, to let love in and out. I get hurt when I perceive rejection, it turns to anger, and after acting it out I perceive new rejection. Acceptance of this cycle may help to set me free.

Service

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structure for MA. We will be working on ourselves and our connection to our spiritual selves, and unity.

What we need is a good place close to an airport. Where we can have a large meeting room with a stage or area where we can perform a play (stay tuned). We also need to move off into 3 or 4 other rooms to conduct workshops. It should be a 2 day weekend thing. There will be a donation of \$20 or \$30 depending on the space cost. This will include an MA key chain, or something like that, and a discount on the T-shirt we come up with (more on that later). Maybe a dinner will be included. We need a space where the hotel or facility can feed us dinner and, of course, we need to sleep there.

Currently we have raised \$375 towards this event. How much money we need depends on the space so our money needs are a bit nebulous. However, the more we have, the sooner we can pull this event together. As well, we see this as a way to raise money for MA World Services, which is kind of broke. The only facility that seems interesting is the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, CA. They are booked for a year and a half, so the search continues. As I mentioned, I am working on a play that will be scripted, and I need help with this. Then, the parts will be handed out to interested parties through all the MA districts where you will be in touch with me. We will only finalize the skit at the convention. Another good excuse to participate in the convention! You might get discovered. Any of you who know me, know I will be video taping this play.

The long and short of it is that we need all the participation you can conjure up. The more the better for all, and the more fun we can have putting this together. So are you in or out? If you have an interest, get in touch with George B. at 818-771-0704 in the LA area or with me, BW in San Francisco, 415-929-8511. 

MA's "How It Works"

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"How It Works" to be any better or any more profound than its original content. We do, however; acknowledge that the revised MA version is more relevant to a marijuana addict in recovery. The Alcoholics Anonymous version explains in depth the concept of letting go absolutely, and what happens to people who cannot or will not do this. The MA version states simply, *"The practice of rigorous honesty, of opening our hearts and minds, and the willingness to go to any lengths to have a spiritual awakening are essential to our recovery. Our old ideas and ways of life no longer work for us. Our suffering shows us that we need to let go absolutely. We surrender ourselves to a Power greater than ourselves. Here are the steps we take which are suggested for recovery"*... followed by the 12 Steps.

The 12 Steps were changed very slightly: the word "marijuana" replaced "alcohol"; a genderless "God" replaced "Him"; and "alcoholics" was replaced

by "marijuana addicts". We are Marijuana Anonymous and our primary purpose is to address and help the marijuana addict who still suffers to achieve sobriety. This is accomplished by addressing and referring to our own addiction - marijuana.

We took the simple, yet vital messages of willingness, a spiritual foundation, and letting go of old ideas, and placed them in present tense, for recovery is always a present day practice.

As we travel the road of recovery we will find meetings from which great strength is drawn and the sound of quality sobriety and recovery is heard. Many have found this in Marijuana Anonymous. We have our own members, our own meetings, our own literature, our own 800 line, and our own World Service structure....how *very important* it is we have a common Reading which is used in all our meetings. One that we can call our very own! 

Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!



Joni	Jul. 9	1 year	Heather K.	Sep. 4	2 years
Morgan A.	Jul.11	6 years	Patrick P.	Sep. 8	2 years
Lucia	Jul.29	1 year	Stacey S.	Sep. 8	2 years
Don O.	Aug.14	3 years	Brian A.	Sep.11	3 years
Lisa T.	Aug.21	4 years	Wendy C.	Sep.11	7 years
Tom S.	Aug.25	5 years	BW L.	Sep.13	6 years
Drew	Aug.29	2 years	Carlos B.	Sep.13	1 year
Todd E.	Aug.31	1 year	Marta S.	Sep.13	5 years
Al E.	Sep. 1	5 years	Roger W.	Sep.13	8 years
Karen F.	Sep. 1	3 years	Kristine C.	Sep.15	2 years
Larry E.	Sep. 1	5 years	Sea Dog	Sep.24	3 years
Rasputin	Sep. 1	7 years	Derek S.	Sep.25	8 years
Richie S.	Sep. 1	3 years	Jim L.	Sep.25	5 years
Tamar I.	Sep. 1	2 years	Michelle E.	Sep.26	5 years
Lynn W.	Sep. 2	2 years	The Turk	Sep.30	8 years

Bulletin Board MA Dollars and Sense

Southern California:

Sober Camp Out! Sept. 16 - 18. Stone Creek Campground. Freeway 10/60 east toward Indio. At Banning take "243 to Idyllwild" (Apx. 20 miles) Campground on left, just past Alandale fire station. \$7.00 per car/day. Bring Food, Drinks, Wood, Camping Stuff. Reservations suggested if arriving later than Friday night. Call 800-444-7275. (Sponsored by District 5)

Garage Sale! Sat., Sept. 17th. Donations requested. 10954 Charnock Road, Los Angeles. No. of Venice, east of Sepulveda. Venice off-ramp from the 405. (Sponsored by District 7).

Trustee Conference Call 7/31/94
Working cash negative \$267. * 800 line recd. 120 calls in Jun, 102 in Jul. 7 Starter Kits sent out in Jun, 5 in Jul. * Pricing to tie-dye remaining MA T-shirts for fund raising. * BW in S.F. auditioning for Pub. Info. spots. * Seattle may split into 2 dist. due to logistics. * Service Manual nearly thru editing.

MA World Services

Cash Flow 3/19 - 6/30/94

Beginning Bal. 3/19	\$ 548
Plus: Dist. Donations	1,662
Less: Expenses	
800 Phone No.	\$1,020
Office Manager	480
Conference Calls	458
Postage & Phone	184
Xerox, Bank, Misc.	181
Chips (Start Kits)	154

	-2,477
Ending Balance 6/30	\$ - 267

One of duties of *A NEW LEAF* is to keep you informed of the business of MA. On June 30th (the close of MA's business year) World Services had received about \$2000 less than hoped for from the districts, while expenses were what had been projected. Unfortunately, this could mean that MA's ability to carry the message to addicts still suffering may be drastically effected.

Twelve Step members have been

putting a "Buck In The Basket" for long time, and a dollar doesn't stretch as far as it used to. Keeping that in mind, *A NEW LEAF* is reprinting this article first published in our June 1991 issue.....

Hey, What's the Basket For?

by Loren N., District 6

The monies collected during our seventh tradition ultimately goes to carrying the message of Marijuana Anonymous, not only locally, but worldwide. When this is hampered, the addict is the one who suffers or dies.

Most of us figured that the basket money went to rent, literature, coffee, and cookies. Whatever was left over would go to the district or World Services to pay their expenses, etc. Well folks, the "etc." is carrying the message, and the message needs our combined support.

Let's face it, the dollar cost of recovery from active addiction in MA is cheap! Under four hundred bucks a year if you go to a meeting every day and put a dollar in the basket. That wouldn't buy you four sessions with a shrink. That wouldn't have kept you loaded for a (check one) ___ day, ___ week, ___ month. Think about how much you used to spend on insanity.

So please remember that our donations go far beyond just paying the rent. They save lives! So when that basket comes around and you're clean today, go ahead and double up or do whatever you can. And of course, if you're clean and sober you should just naturally pop the two bucks in the basket - one for each. ☺

Thought for the Month

"Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace..."
St. Francis of A.

MA WORLDWIDE...

DISTRICT 1 - SAN FRANCISCO
P.O. Box 194252
San Francisco, CA 94119
(510) 287-8873

DISTRICT 2 - EAST BAY
P.O. Box 8354
Berkeley, CA 94707
(510) 287-8873

DISTRICT 3 - SOUTH BAY
P.O. Box 111341
Campbell, CA 95011
(408) 450-0796

DISTRICT 4 - SEATTLE
P.O. Box 45646
Seattle, WA 98145-0646
(206) 548-9034

DISTRICT 5 - ORANGE COUNTY
358 S. Main #215
Orange, CA 92668
(714) 999 - 9409

DISTRICT 6 - LOS ANGELES (NORTH)
P.O. Box 2433
Van Nuys, CA 91404
(818) 566-3678

DISTRICT 7 - LOS ANGELES (SOUTH)
P.O. Box 3012
Culver City, CA 90231
(213) 964-2370

DISTRICT 8 - NEW YORK
(no address at this time)
(212) 459-4423

DISTRICT 9 - SANTA CRUZ
P.O. Box 1481
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(408) 427-4088

NEW ZEALAND
(no info at this time)

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