



## Service Adventure: Starting a New MA Meeting

One of the reasons I am grateful to live in MA district four (Western Washington) is because we have several meetings each week to choose from. About a year into my recovery though, a consistent issue was bothering me and some other friends in the local fellowship—there weren't good mid-week meeting options in the Seattle area. As we discussed the issue, the idea of a Wednesday night, open, co-ed meeting quickly solidified in our minds.

Starting a new meeting can be quite a daunting task. Here are some lessons I learned during this journey.

**LOCATION!** We were able to find space in a local recovery bookstore. If you can find local spaces that work with various 12-Step recovery groups, this is great for your meeting because a lot of resources are automatically built in. You may have to pay higher rent out of your Seventh Tradition, but you'll also have to manage less to keep the meeting going. In our case, our meeting cofounder quickly identified a recovery book store that had a Wednesday evening meeting slot open.

**PUBLICITY!** Remember that publicizing your meeting within the recovery community is not 'promotion', and is explicitly permitted by Tradition Eleven. To quote the first line: "Tradition Eleven permits us to publicize our fellowship." We found that going to other fellowships (where appropriate), district meetings, and online resources to let people know about our meeting was critical to get early attendance numbers.



## Special Edition, February 2018

See inside for a report from your Internet Trustee:  
*A Bit of History and an Exciting Update*

**PARTNERSHIP!** Don't go it alone when trying to start a new meeting. Having a partner or partners is critical. While the early excitement can carry you forward, months of a weekly commitment can lead to a burnout situation. Having a service partner or partners when you set up a new meeting ensures more coverage and the ability to take a week off here and there.

**PATIENCE!** Newcomers will take time. There were a few months of meetings before we started to attract newcomers on a regular basis. Be patient in the meantime.

**LET GO!** As your new meeting's fellowship grows, others will take an interest in service positions.

**LET THEM!** To keep the meeting going, it is important to let others take an active role in its continued success, both for their recovery and for the health of the meeting.

From the early support of long-term members of our local fellowship, our Wednesday night meeting has grown into a consistent mid-week recovery resource for our local community. We have a dinner tradition before, and we usually have 10-15 members attending regularly each week. Starting a new meeting is a great act of service you should consider if you are able! ▲

~by Bryan C.

## Tradition Two Checklist: Q&A

**"FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE** there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God whose expression may come through in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." (Tradition Two, *Life with Hope*, 3rd Ed., page 67)

### Questions:

- ☐ What is my responsibility in seeing that the ideals of this tradition are fulfilled?
- ☐ Do I help my group or district make decisions at its business meetings?
- ☐ Do I attend these meetings; if not, why?

- ☐ Which of my character assets would my Higher Power have me utilize during the meetings I attend?
- ☐ Am I open-minded or must I always have things go my way?
- ☐ Do I hold others to a higher level of accountability than I would like to be held?
- ☐ What does a group conscience mean?

### Answers:

See Tradition Two, *Life with Hope*, 3rd Ed., pages 67-68.

~ANLP Managing Editor

## 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

We are reaching out to districts to update the District Bureau Chief and birthday lists. Additionally, district representatives, including but not limited to those serving as Bureau Chief, are encouraged to stay in touch by emailing:  
[chiefs@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:chiefs@anewleafpublications.org)

### ANLP Staff

Chairperson:	Rick V.
Treasurer:	John L.
Secretary:	Maurice R.
ANLP Admin:	Thor H.
Managing Editor:	Thor H.

Publishing Editor:	*volunteer
--------------------	------------

### Contact ANLP

Send articles/stories:  
[stories@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:stories@anewleafpublications.org)

## Internet Trustee's Report: A Bit of History and an Exciting Update

My name is Bill C. and I serve in the role of Internet Trustee for Marijuana Anonymous World Services. I am a marijuana addict with 6 years and 5 months sobriety. Being of service is an important part of my recovery.

As Internet Trustee, I chair the Internet Committee which supports internet and other technical services for our fellowship, our trustees, and delegates. We source and implement technologies, and maintain the various websites and platforms our fellowship uses to carry the message and conduct the business of fellowship through MA World Services and A New Leaf Publications.

### These sites/platforms will be among the most familiar to our members:

- o [marijuana-anonymous.org](http://marijuana-anonymous.org) – MA's primary site, *newly re-designed!*
- o [mawconference.org](http://mawconference.org) – MA's Conference site
- o [mawconvention.org](http://mawconvention.org) – MA's Convention site
- o [anewleafpublications.org](http://anewleafpublications.org) – MA's publishing division, A New Leaf Publications (ANLP)
- o [marijuana-anonymous.org/forum](http://marijuana-anonymous.org/forum) – MA's Connection Forum, *currently offline*
- o the MA Mobile app – *available on most mobile devices*

In addition to supporting these, we also support the fellowship's email, email groups, and e-commerce, among other technical services.

I provide support on website projects even though I myself did not develop the sites. In fact, until recent times the development, maintenance, and webmaster services for the various sites have been largely the work of one person, Keith G., for whose service I and the greater fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous today owe a great deal of thanks and gratitude. Keith for many years had been our tireless legacy technician, and webmaster, and was MA World Services' first Internet Trustee. The time came when he chose to pass the baton, and he expressed willingness to train or service-sponsor someone else.

It is our fellowship's tradition to rotate out of our service positions to allow other members the privilege of serving. However, neither I nor the previous Internet

Trustee have been able to fill Keith's shoes. In April 2018, we began having problems on our website with meeting search and form functions. We were not able to edit or update web pages and there were system crashes. I consulted with our previous Internet Trustee, John L., other technicians and the MA World Services Trustees. In 2018, the Trustees approved and authorized me to develop a MA World Services Webmaster job description, an hourly wage, and for us to recruit and hire a new webmaster as a paid special worker. We hired a qualified candidate, Jesse K., in November 2018.

The Internet Committee had planned to put our websites on a more stable platform and hosting service because of continuing price increases and reliability issues.

### Purchase Books & Subscriptions

[www.anewleafpublications.org](http://www.anewleafpublications.org)  
or subscribe by sending your name, address and a \$15 check (\$20 non-US) to:

**A New Leaf Publications**  
340 S Lemon Ave # 9420  
Walnut CA 91789-2706

Other inquiries and correspondence:  
[info@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:info@anewleafpublications.org)

\*To work with ANLP, please send a note to [board@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:board@anewleafpublications.org)

I worked with the Public Information Trustee and our new Webmaster to redesign our fellowship's primary site. Huge thanks to each of them!

The new primary site went online in January 2019, a few days before our recent Town Hall meeting. Most of the information and functionality from our previous site is available on the new one. We have a list of enhancements and we are prioritizing them to be implemented by our Webmaster. Bear with us over the next several months—more will be revealed! In the meantime, please get the word out about our newly updated site, [marijuana-anonymous.org](http://marijuana-anonymous.org)!

#### The most notable features are:

- o The MA Meeting search function is working again, which is especially beneficial since it was used by many people, members and newcomers.
- o The newest version of the MA pamphlets are available for download.
- o The site is built using WordPress tools and plugins which makes it easier to support, maintain, and enhance.

Much of the information and functionality of the old site has been migrated to the new one, **with some exceptions:**

- o Single-file all-inclusive PDFs of *Life with Hope* (LwH) and the *Life with Hope Workbook* have been removed, for several reasons, one of which is in anticipation of a contract with Hazelden—[www.hazelden.org/web/public/storerecovery.page](http://www.hazelden.org/web/public/storerecovery.page)—with whom we hope to have publishing and distribution agreement for MA literature soon. Excerpts of LwH, and the workbook's Step Four worksheets are still downloadable. Full versions of both books remain on the MA Mobile app.
- o Audio versions of *Life with Hope* have been removed because they were not current.
- o The release of the MA primary website has had other **technical impacts which are currently being addressed:**
  - The MA Mobile app meeting search functionality may not be fully working because of host database issues.
  - The MA Connection Forum is offline until it can be migrated to a new host platform.
  - Some website forms and functionality are still being developed.

The Internet Committee is maintaining a list of planned enhancements and fixes which is growing based on the input of members. Until such time as these are fully implemented, **the following information may prove helpful:**

- o *Life with Hope* books and *Workbooks*, the A New Leaf newsletter subscriptions, MA pamphlets, and the New Meeting Starter Kit may be

purchased by going directly to the ANLP bookstore at [anewleafpublications.org](http://anewleafpublications.org).

- o MA members may submit stories via email to [stories@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:stories@anewleafpublications.org), and annual birthdays to [chiefs@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:chiefs@anewleafpublications.org).
- o Both domains and platforms for the MA Convention and the MA Conference sites remain unchanged for the time being (*listed at the beginning of this article*) and links to them can be found on the primary site. Ultimately the Convention and Conference sites will be redesigned and migrated to a more reliable platform as well.

Finally, if you notice any issues with the new MA primary site, please email [internet@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:internet@marijuana-anonymous.org). If you notice any issues with, or changes needing to be made to the MA meeting information on our site, please email details to [directory@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:directory@marijuana-anonymous.org).

I hope this article has been helpful. It is my honor to serve the fellowship of Marijuana Anonymous as your Internet Trustee.

Wishing you all serenity and joy in your recovery! ▲

~by Bill C.

## POWER OF THE PACK

### Convention 2019 • Vancouver, Canada

**S**o, chances are you're reading this either at, or sometime after the 2019 MA World Convention. If you were present for all or any part of the Convention, we'd love to hear from you—Please **SHARE!**

**H**ow was your experience? Did you have fun? What were some of the highlights?

**A**re you excited to tell others about it? What are some things you'd like our members to know about the recovery and fellowship at a Convention?

**R**eadings about your experience might help others in their recovery, their service, or simply give them reason to come to the next one. Maybe consider a focus for an ANL submission.

**E**laborate! What was awesome? What didn't work so well? If you were involved in service, how did that go? Whether you were on the host committee or not, an out of town volunteer or guest, would you care to share how the Convention helped your recovery?



We want to hear from you! ✉ [stories@anewleafpublications.org](mailto:stories@anewleafpublications.org)

# Marijuana Anonymous Worldwide

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

**MA World Services** 340 S Lemon Ave # 9420, Walnut CA 91789-2706  
www.marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ info@marijuana-anonymous.org ▲ +1.800.766.6779

<b>DIST. 2 San Francisco &amp; East Bay</b> www.madistrict2.org	+1.510.957.8390	<b>DIST. 14 London, England</b> www.marijuana-anonymous.co.uk	+44.300.124.0373
<b>DIST. 3 South SF Bay Area</b> www.madistrict3.org	+1.408.450.0796	<b>DIST. 15 Long Island, NY</b> www.ma-longisland.org	+1.631.647.0768
<b>DIST. 4 Western Washington</b> www.madistrict4.org	+1.206.414.9270	<b>DIST. 16 Melbourne, Australia</b> www.marijuana-anonymous.com	+61.403.945.083
<b>DIST. 5 Orange County</b> www.madistrict5.org	+1.714.999.9409	<b>DIST. 17 Denmark</b> www.ma-danmark.dk	
<b>DIST. 6 LA County North</b> www.madistrict6.org	+1.818.759.9194	<b>DIST. 18 Sacramento, CA</b> www.sacramentoma.org	+1.916.341.9469
<b>DIST. 7 LA County South</b> www.madistrict7.org	+1.310.494.0189	<b>DIST. 19 Toronto, Canada</b> www.matoronto.org	+1.647.201.9161/+1.416.999.2244
<b>DIST. 8 New York</b> www.ma-newyork.org		<b>DIST. 20 San Diego, CA</b> www.ma-sandiego.org	
<b>DIST. 11 Oregon</b> www.madistrict11.org	+1.503.567.9892	<b>DIST. 21 Colorado</b> www.ma-colorado.org	+1.303.607.7516
<b>DIST. 12 North Bay, CA</b> www.madistrict12.org	+1.415.419.3555/+1.707.583.2326	<b>DIST. 22 New England</b> www.newenglandma.org	
<b>DIST. 13 MA Online</b> www.ma-online.org		<b>PHONE MA Phone Meetings: 4 Distinct Groups</b> www.ma-phone.org	

Id

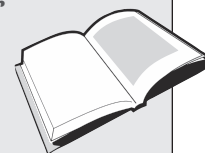
**WANTED: Designer, with InDesign chops to join the team!**

We are in need of *both* a paid Admin, and a volunteer Publishing Editor. The latter requires InDesign CC, a grasp of Character and Paragraph Styles, *e.g. how they're used in layout*, and willingness to be of service on a team. Per our charter, it's a 1-year commitment, optional second year, by a member ideally 2 yrs clean+sober. We've found that the best way to elicit

support is asking directly, and we hope our readers will do just that. Specifically, we encourage you to **not only** announce this in meetings, but to learn who in your area might have design skills and discuss this service opportunity with them directly. Thank You! ~ANLP  
board@anewleafpublications.org

From *Life with Hope*

**Step Two**  
*Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*



**Tradition Two**  
*For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God whose expression may come through in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

## Celebrating 90 Years of Sobriety!

### District 5

Hillary	1/1/2009	10 yrs
John H.	1/10/2013	6 yrs
Layne	1/18/2010	9 yrs
Melody C.	1/16/1989	30 yrs
Robert M.	1/18/2018	1 yr
Robert S.	1/2/2017	2 yrs
Tony R.	1/1/2004	15 yrs

### District 21

John A.	1/2/2010	9 yrs
Porter I.	12/30/14	4 yrs
Steve W.	12/31/2016	2 yrs
Tom C.	12/13/2016	2 yrs
Zach S.	12/30/2017	1 yr



### 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](mailto:chiefs@anewleafpublications.org) **or** submit them online at [tiny.cc/mabday](http://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.