

# Gone Rogue

## Principles Before Personalities

*“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.” - Abraham Lincoln*

The first 12 Step meeting of the Marijuana Anonymous World Service conference took place Friday evening and the topic was principles before personalities. Someone shared what I needed to hear: that I need to recognize when MY personality is interfering with the principles or values I am learning to live by. Sure, I can see the bad behaviors of others – my perception anyway. I forget to turn my attention to myself and my behaviors instead. How am I treating others? How am I behaving? Am I exhibiting a lot of low sighing, eye-rolling, and more swearing than usual? It was helpful to start the weekend off with that topic, because there were many opportunities for me to build up resentments – my number one offense: “It’s not being done MY WAY.” (self centered)

Witnessing over 30 people practicing principles to the best of their ability while passionately discussing their individual points of view about the agenda items that affect the fellowship as a whole was eye-opening. Yes, I could see frustration, and head shaking. There were pursed lips, as some fought to practice ‘restraint of tongue’. Others would leave the room momentarily, perhaps to collect themselves, take a call, or only to use the facilities. All those personalities in the room and no name calling, no fist banging. Instead, I watched a group of people doing their best to listen, to process, to provide a result that was the best for MA as a whole, even if – individually - some didn’t agree with the outcome. When the discussions got

### Step Six

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

### Tradition Six

M.A. groups ought never endorse, finance, or lend the M.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

### The Sixth Concept for Service

A “Right of Appeal” exists to protect minority opinions, and to ensure that all viewpoints have been considered in the decision making process.

a little heated, the President would raise his hands in the air and loudly say ‘GOD’ and everyone else in the room would raise their hands and recite the Serenity Prayer. The tension diminished and the discussions continued. (I’d love to try that at a family dinner...)

I appreciated the opportunity to be present and witness the many examples of the program in action. I can take away from this experience the value of the ability to pause, practice placing a principle or value ahead of a personality, mine or someone else’s, and I will remember when personality ruled and principle was just a word. △

### June Chip Recipients

Brad M. ....	6/3/1997.....	20 years
Brandon J. ....	6/6/2011.....	6 years
Andrea Y. ....	6/15/2010.....	7 years
Justin ....	6/26/2012.....	5 years
Pearl C. ....	6/21/2010.....	7 years

**Please ask your GSRs and members to let us know who took a chip, any chip. Thanks!**

### Upcoming Sobriety Birthdays (God willing...)

John McC.....	7/2/1991.....	26 years
Sean F.....	7/4/2002.....	15 years
Ryan H. ....	7/7/2007.....	10 years
Jeremy.....	7/15/2013.....	4 years

### June Meditation

By the time we got to Step Six, it was apparent that our needs were often distorted, our passions sometimes abnormal, and our ambitions warped. Many people have difficulty finding a proper way to associate with others and with society at large. Addicts have the same problem compounded by a spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical disease. Our defects of character, together with our virtues, had provided us with a way of behaving. The difference between our defects and our virtues is their effectiveness in helping us live clean spiritual lives.

**District 5 Treasury**

Beginning Balance (5-1-2017) .....	\$6,713.34
<u>INCOME</u>	
7th Tradition .....	\$238.00
Conference Donations .....	\$266.78
Conference Registrations.....	\$4,850.00
OCCU Interest.....	\$0.03
<b>Total Income</b> .....	<b>\$5,354.81</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Bank Fee.....	\$5.00
Yellow Pages listing.....	\$5.00
Stericycle Vmailbox.....	\$64.46
Meeting Room Rent .....	\$16.00
A New Leaf - June 2017.....	\$15.00
MAWS COnference Expenses ....	\$6,326.57
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<b>(\$6,432.03)</b>
<b>Ending Balance (5-31-2017)</b> .....	<b>\$5,636.12</b>
<u>Division of Sub-Accounts</u>	
Prudent Reserve .....	\$200.00
<b>Event Fund (Reserve)</b> .....	<b>(\$98.00)</b>
Conference Fund .....	\$3,059.78
Public Information Fund .....	\$0.00
Total of Sub-Accounts .....	(\$3,161.78)
<b>OPERATING FUNDS</b> .....	<b>\$2,474.44</b>

**EVENTS**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

August 12 - **Summer Picnic**  
Irvine Regional Park  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

September 15-17 - **Group Campout**  
Palomar Mountain, Cedar Grove Group Site  
Flyers for both events will be distributed soon.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next District Service Committee (DSC) meeting  
July 9 - 12:00 pm  
College Hospital, Conference Room B

**This is a WE program.**

Please submit your comments, ideas, suggestions and stories, etc. to: [info@madistrict5.org](mailto:info@madistrict5.org)

**District 5  
7th Tradition 2017 Donations**

	<u>June 11</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Mon. Los Alamitos .....	\$10.00	\$106.00
Mon. Fullerton.....	\$0.00	\$141.83
Tues. Hunt. Beach .....	\$40.00	\$210.00
Wed. Costa Mesa .....	\$35.00	\$367.75
Thur. Irvine.....	\$49.00	\$306.00
Fri. Orange.....	\$20.00	\$40.00
Sat. Costa Mesa .....	\$13.00	\$121.00
Sun. DSC.....	\$10.00	\$91.00
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$177.00</b>	<b>\$1,383.58</b>

**7th Tradition 2017 Donations**

Your District Treasurer was out of town during the June District Service Committee meeting. Az collected the 7th Tradition contributions from the meetings. Thanks, Az!

**A Final Note about the Conference Cans...**

Correction: As of May 14, 2017 the District raised \$3,645! Thanks to everyone for contributing.

**Your District Service Committee**

Chair - Ryan H.  
Vice-Chair/Bureau Chief - **OPEN**  
Secretary - Dave D.  
Treasurer - Kathy D.  
Events - Paloma D.  
Chips - Az A.  
Literature - Craig H.  
Hospitals & Institutions - **OPEN**  
Public Information - **OPEN**  
MAWS Delegate - Paloma D.

**Group Service Representatives (GSR)**

Monday Los Alamitos - Laura B.  
Monday Fullerton - Reinhard  
Tuesday Mens - Tony R.  
Wednesday Costa Mesa - Ron L.  
Thursday Irvine - Layne  
Thursday Long Beach - **OPEN**  
Friday Orange - Ernest F.  
Saturday Costa Mesa - Terry H.  
Sunday Riverside - Cory