

Gone Rogue

Clear, Simple Direction

Eighth Month. Eighth Issue. Eighth Step. Let's see where this takes us.

Many of us used to say we were sorry all the time, and then continue to practice the same behavior. How could we possibly think that anyone would trust us or believe our amends until they had seen us acquire a degree of humility and observed a real change in our behavior? Page 38-39, Life With Hope

I like the way the steps are written: each step contains clear, simple direction. Step Eight offers two clear directions: Make a List and Become Willing. The first seven steps and having a sponsor with a solid program prepared me to make a list of all those I felt I had harmed, and to ask my Higher Power for the willingness to make amends to each one.

I asked myself, upon reading Life With Hope's Step Eight, how often did I say I was sorry because I'd stepped on the toes of another with my words or actions, and still continued to behave in the same manner, over and over? How many times had I quit smoking weed only to return to the familiar, comfortable oblivion? How many times did my partner or my friends say to me, "I thought you quit."? I could have called those many times I quit vacations instead. It was a more accurate description.

By the time I was truly done my promises to myself and others sounded like I felt - hollow. Every 'I'm sorry' was an empty apology. I was sorry, just not for the thing for which I was apologizing. Eventually I reached a state of reasonableness - just enough to attend a meeting, on a

Step Eight

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Tradition Eight

Marijuana Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

The Eighth Concept for Service

Effective leadership qualities are essential for trustees, who are entrusted with the responsibility of making final decisions regarding general world service business and finances.

regular basis. That tiny bit of surrender was the beginning. Pair that with a clear program of simple directions and a willingness to give it a try, and I got sobriety and recovery, one day at a time.

On page 40 of Life With Hope is this: *Occasionally we had just as much trouble admitting our own responsibility in situations where we could only see what was done to us, neglecting our part.*

I'll focus on those last three words: neglecting our part. You may be someone who does a Fourth Step and claims that they don't have a part in some of the resentments they've listed. Some will tell you that isn't possible. Others will nod in recognition. It was my experience that maybe I didn't have a part in a particular situation, not one requiring an apology. I discovered much later that my part in those resentments included my reluctance to forgive
(continued on page 2)

August Chip Recipients

Coleman G.	8/13/1992.....	25 years
Allan.....	8/16/2014.....	3 years
Lisa T.....	8/21/1990.....	27 years
Dave D.	8/22/2009.....	8 years
Peter S.	8/24/2016.....	1 YEAR!
Dave	8/28/2015.....	2 years
James VM.	8/29/2015.....	2 years



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



Mari.....	9/3/2011.....	6 years
Terry H.	9/7/1996.....	21 years
Rick D.	9/12/2008.....	9 years
Cassie C.	9/13/2009.....	8 years
Tres P.....	9/20/2002.....	15 years
"Thievin' Dog".....	9/30/1986.....	31 years
Scott	9/4/2014.....	3 years

August Meditation

To start Step Eight, we wrote down whom we had harmed as a result of our character defects and precisely how we had done so. This list often included people who had passed away, or that we had little chance of ever seeing again. At this point in our recovery, however, the ability to make amends was irrelevant. We focused instead on the willingness to make them.

District 5 Treasury

Beginning Balance (7-1-2017)	\$5,413.30
<u>INCOME</u>	
7th Tradition	\$189.00
Total Income	\$5,602.30
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Bank Fee	\$5.00
Yellow Pages listing	\$5.00
Stericycle Vmailbox	\$72.24
Meeting Room Rent	\$10.00
MAWS Conference Expenses	\$71.86
Total Expenses	(\$164.10)
Ending Balance (7-31-2017)	\$5,438.20
<u>Division of Sub-Accounts</u>	
Prudent Reserve	\$200.00
Event Fund (Reserve)	(\$98.00)
Conference Fund	\$2,700.77
Public Information Fund	\$0.00
Total of Sub-Accounts	(\$2,802.77)
OPERATING FUNDS	\$2,635.43

**District 5
7th Tradition 2017 Donations**

	<u>August 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Mon. Los Alamitos	\$20.00	\$146.00
Mon. Fullerton	\$83.00	\$335.83
Tues. Hunt. Beach	\$25.00	\$235.00
Wed. Costa Mesa	\$30.00	\$397.75
Thur. Irvine	\$0.00	\$336.00
Fri. Orange	\$0.00	\$40.00
Sat. Costa Mesa	\$40.00	\$161.00
Sun. DSC	\$21.00	\$122.00
TOTAL	\$219.00	\$1,773.58

EVENTS

September 15-17 - **Group Campout**
Palomar Mountain, Cedar Grove Group Site

A printable flyer is posted at www.madistrict5.org/events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next District Service Committee (DSC) meeting

Sunday, September 10 - 12:00 pm
College Hospital, Conference Room B

Surrender was the Beginning *cont'd*

the other person, my unwillingness to let go of the past, my desire to be a victim, and my need to milk that victim status for all it was worth. I held on to the hate and that self-righteous indignation... obsessed on it, on the wrong done to me, instead. Sometimes I still develop resentments. I am grateful to notice this in my behavior today. I am able to practice humility these days in admitting I'm doing it and in making any apologies necessary.

Pages 41 and 42 of Life With Hope list the miracles we receive having practiced and worked Step Eight. I counted nine. I've received them all. (Sometimes I find that I've returned one or two of them and I have to do some work to regain them and that's okay).

If you'd like to know more about Step Eight, you'll find essays on the step in Marijuana Anonymous' *Life With Hope*, the 'Big Book' - *Alcoholic Anonymous*, the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and Al-anon's *How Alanon Works*, to name a few. △

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 - **OPEN**
- 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 - Az A.
- Thursday Irvine - Layne
- Thursday Long Beach - **OPEN**
- Friday Orange - Ernest F.
- Saturday Costa Mesa - Terry H.
- Sunday Riverside - Cory

This is a WE program.

Please submit your comments, ideas, suggestions and stories, etc. to: info@madistrict5.org