

# Gone Rogue

Thought to live by for teens (and others):

Sometimes the most positive thing you can say is NO.

“NO, thanks. I don’t do that stuff anymore.”

“NO, thanks. I’ve got to be ready for a really big event: MY LIFE!”

Borrowed from *God grant me the Laughter* by Ed F. (c) 1989

## EVENTS

Visit [www.madistrict5.org/events](http://www.madistrict5.org/events) for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next District Service Committee (DSC) meeting

Sunday, January 14 - 12:00 pm  
College Hospital, Conference Room B



### Marijuana Anonymous Convention

February 16–18, 2018  
Hosted by District 4, Seattle, WA  
Find the latest details at  
<http://mawsconvention.org>

## Your District Service Committee

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

*Information regarding the District’s Role and Service Positions at the District level can be found in Part Three of the M.A. Service Manual, ver. 6.1, beginning on Page 22.*

## Group Service Representatives (GSR)

- Monday Los Alamitos - Laura B.
- Monday Fullerton - Reinhard
- Tuesday Mens - Tony R.
- Wednesday Costa Mesa - Az A.
- Thursday Costa Mesa - 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](mailto:info@madistrict5.org)

## Addiction is Oppressive

Addiction is oppressive. The relationship between the “get high” and the addict is a relationship of dependency. Through repetition of personal action and choice to “get high” the individual soon becomes the addict. Eventually the substance becomes the oppressor and the user becomes the oppressed. That is to say, eventually the user loses autonomy and can no longer exercise independent thought and choice due to a dependent relationship with their substance. This oppressor-oppressive relationship becomes concrete, it becomes an objective part of the individual’s history... it becomes experience, and so subjective and objective reality.

Marijuana Anonymous is a 12 step program of liberation. Through a set of principles and practices, the 12 steps and 12 traditions, marijuana anonymous brings about a critical awareness and a self-awareness that is essential for recovery. It is a program of subjectivity to bring about objective change, to bring about real concrete change. It is a program of solidarity and an act of love. We do this program for ourselves but not by ourselves, we recover together in solidarity, we stay sober together. And this solidarity is love in action. Love in so much that as fellows in the program we take risks and action to help one another, we practice genuine selfless concern and compassion for another’s success and another’s recovery. Love without action is not love, it is platitude, it is jargon.

As fellows in the program there is no

hierarchy in the relationship. No one is better than another, nobody’s story is more important than another’s, nobody’s experience is more valid than another’s. We act as fellows in solidarity. Through the subjectivity we share with each other, we find our own voices in our own experiences, and so we share our own unique subjectivity of who we were, what happened, and who we are today. This dialectical relationship between us as fellows is one that teaches us that listening is just as important as sharing to develop critical self-awareness.

This critical self-awareness is essential in deconstructing the oppressor-oppressive relationship between the “get high” and the user. In critical self-examination the addict can begin to identify the ways in which they have lost autonomy, in which they lost choice, and in which they lost freedom, so they can once more, with good conscious and autonomy choose to take the actions necessary to regain these lost virtues.

Awareness of one’s subordinate status, powerless status, can lead to the action to change that status. Marijuana anonymous, by way of the 12 steps, showed me convergent points, or opportunities, in which I can take my newfound awareness (new subjective awareness) and turn it into action to change my present and so my future (my objective reality). It is true that I am an addict, my history and experiences have objectively and

*(continued on page 2)*

**Addiction is Oppressive** *(continued)*  
concretely proven that to me. And through the 12 steps of marijuana anonymous and through the principles and practices I have gained a critical self-awareness, a critical reflection. I have been given the perspective to see myself for who I was, who I am, and who I can be. I have been given the gift of sight to see the underlying causes and conditions that led me to choose again and again to get high. I believe I internalized a selfish and self-seeking set of principles and practices which only thought about me, my comfort, and how to relieve my fear and anxiety.

I am a human being whose natural disposition it is to grow, explore, and discover, (the same natural tendency which out of my control led me down the road of marijuana addiction, powerlessness, and oppression); I believe can try a new delivery system to journey towards liberation and freedom. Through the admission that I am powerless; that is to say, the critical self-awareness of my oppressed status.... a reflection enabled to me only by taking the action steps, the 12 steps of marijuana anonymous, I have come to believe that I am more powerful than I have ever known before in changing and influencing not only my present but my future. I believe there is no future without freedom, and I believe I cannot have freedom without autonomy, and I believe I cannot have autonomy in a dependent oppressor-oppressive relationship with the “get high”.

Awareness, practice, reflection, and action become my mantra. Individualistic pursuits give way to solidarity with my fellows.

Through listening to other marijuana addict’s subjective experiences and concrete histories I learn about myself. I find my own voice in critical self-reflection, and share my subjective truths and objective history. I live in a state of freedom liberated from my addiction, as long as I stay on dialectical relationship with my fellows and the 12 steps, in symbiotic and emergent relationships with others.

I understand myself today to be a spiritual seeker looking for a spiritual solution and awakening. Oppressive relationships and tendencies are ever present in my life. Marijuana anonymous, the fellows and the steps, has given me the education and awareness necessary choose better, to do better. Together, in solidarity and love for each other’s recovery, mine and your star is rising to transform the night sky! - Lyman I. △

**December Chip Recipients**

Colin..... 12/3/2011..... 6 years  
Lisa S. .... 12/7/1993..... 24 years  
Gary R..... 12/10/1990..... 27 years  
Debra G..... 12/13/2015..... 2 years  
Andrew..... 12/13/2015..... 2 years  
Robert M. .... 12/11/2011..... 6 years



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

Tony R..... 1/1/2004..... 14 years  
Hillary ..... 1/1/2009..... 9 years  
John H. .... 1/10/2013..... 5 years  
Melody C. .... 1/16/1989..... 29 years  
Layne F..... 1/18/2010..... 7 years  
Anthony G..... 1/29/2015..... 3 years

**December Meditation**

We try to carry a message of recovery, rather than push our own agenda or wallow in self-pity. Our message is a simple one of hope: by following the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps, any addict can stop using marijuana and lose the obsession and desire to do so.

- Page 64, *Life With Hope*

**Step Twelve**

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to marijuana addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**Tradition Twelve**

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

**The Twelfth Concept for Service**

The Marijuana Anonymous service structure should be one of selfless service and not of power or government, ensuring that the spiritual principles of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and the warranties of Article 12 of the conference charter are always maintained.

**District 5 Treasury**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance (11-1-2017) .....      | \$3,973.93        |
| <u>INCOME</u>                            |                   |
| 7th Tradition.....                       | \$252.00          |
| <b>Total Income</b> .....                | \$252.00          |
| <u>EXPENSES</u>                          |                   |
| Bank Fee .....                           | \$10.00           |
| Yellow Pages listing .....               | \$5.00            |
| UPS - PO Box Annual Fee....              | 240.00            |
| Stericycle Vmailbox .....                | \$68.82           |
| Meeting Room Rent - DSC...               | \$20.00           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> .....              | (\$343.82)        |
| <b>Ending Balance (11-30-2017)</b> ..... | <b>\$3,882.11</b> |
| <u>Division of Sub-Accounts</u>          |                   |
| Prudent Reserve.....                     | \$200.00          |
| Event Fund (Reserve).....                | \$200.00          |
| Conference Fund .....                    | \$850.77          |
| Public Information Fund.....             | \$0.00            |
| Total of Sub-Accounts.....               | (\$1,250.77)      |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b> .....          | <b>\$2,631.34</b> |

**District 5**  
**7th Tradition 2017 Donations**

|                   | <u>December 10</u> | <u>YTD</u>        |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mon. Los Alamitos | \$30.00            | \$196.00          |
| Mon. Fullerton    | \$50.00            | \$432.83          |
| Tues. Hunt. Beach | \$30.00            | \$300.00          |
| Wed. Costa Mesa   | \$50.00            | \$497.75          |
| Thur. Costa Mesa  | \$24.00            | \$360.00          |
| Fri. Orange       | \$0.00             | \$50.82           |
| Sat. Costa Mesa   | \$25.00            | \$203.00          |
| Sun. DSC          | \$15.00            | \$155.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>\$224.00</b>    | <b>\$2,195.40</b> |