

# Gone Rogue

## Powerless

I did not have a problem with marijuana until I tried to stop smoking marijuana. Then I had a BIG problem. I had did not think that marijuana was addictive - at least, I believed that I was not addicted to marijuana. Yeah, I smoked it. All day. Every day. For at least a decade or more. But I could stop at any time - heck, I had stopped, a couple of times. Once to attend a six month vocational program. And another time for over a year, when my dealer moved away, and my mind seemed more broken than usual. So I was convinced that if I needed to, I could stop smoking.

Except that I've discovered, in recovery, that this is a progressive disease. To me that means that as I continue the daily use, the claws of addiction grip tighter and tighter. The roots of the disease go deeper and deeper. There was a time when I could have quit, and then I crossed some invisible line, and I couldn't quit. Even when I truly wanted to. Even when my life was spiraling out of control.

I was powerless over marijuana. I wanted to stop. Marijuana did not. I quit on numerous occasions, only to pick up after a few days or a few hours. When I wasn't smoking it - when I'd decided to quit - there was this obsession in my mind, the constant thought of marijuana.

And once I got some, once I'd inhaled, there was this calm that came over me, a sense of relief, which lasted for a brief moment, followed quickly by the shame and embarrassment of my weakness. I was a slave to marijuana. I think there is a story with that title in the Life With Hope stories, and I get it.

When I attended my first MA meeting, a requirement of a program I'd been directed to by the courts, I knew

### Step One

We admitted we were powerless over marijuana, that our lives were unmanageable.

### Tradition One

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon M.A. unity.

### The First Concept of Service

The Marijuana Anonymous service structure was created to give the groups the freedom to carry out our society's primary purpose of carrying the message to marijuana addicts.

## December Chip Recipients

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

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

Tony R.....	1/1/2004.....	14 years
Hillary .....	1/1/2009 .....	9 years
Robert "Bravo". .....	1/2/2017.....	1 year!
John H.....	1/10/2013 .....	5 years
Melody C. ....	1/16/1989 .....	29 years
Layne.....	1/18/2010 .....	8 years
Anthony G.....	1/29/2015 .....	3 years

by the end of the meeting that these people, these sober addicts had something I'd been looking for - serenity, a comfortability. I didn't know what that was yet, but I could see it in their manner, and I could hear it in their stories. They talked about what it was like for them, what happened to get them here, and what it's like now, the result which came about by practicing a program of recovery.

The only requirement was a desire to stop using. I had that. Then I had to deal with that obsession of the mind: thinking about marijuana. I asked a Higher Power that I wasn't clear about to remove the obsession to use. I asked every day. I attended one meeting a week and I talked with people after the meeting.

One day, around 2 in the afternoon, I realized I hadn't thought about smoking weed at all that day until that moment. I smiled. Maybe I could do this. Just don't smoke, one day at a time. I got a sponsor, I worked the steps. I took service commitments. I am still powerless over marijuana. And today, I'm still sober. △

## January Meditation

Recovery does not happen all at once. It is a process, not an event. The process is set in motion the day we quit using or begin attending meetings. It begins with a real desire to stop using, with a genuine change in our attitude, with a soul-transforming realization that we are finally willing to go to any lengths to change our lives.

- Page 4, Life With Hope

**District 5 Treasury**

Beginning Balance (12-1-2017) .....	\$3,882.11
<u>INCOME</u>	
7th Tradition .....	\$239.00
<b>Total Income</b> .....	<b>\$239.00</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Bank Fee .....	\$10.00
Yellow Pages listing .....	\$10.00
Stericycle Vmailbox .....	\$69.96
Meeting Room Rent (DSC) .....	\$15.00
A New Leaf - Oct-Jan .....	\$60.00
Printing/Copies (P.I.) .....	\$16.82
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<b>(\$181.78)</b>
<b>Ending Balance (12-31-2017)</b> .....	<b>\$3,939.33</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
<b>Total of Sub-Accounts</b> .....	<b>(\$1,250.77)</b>
<b>OPERATING FUNDS</b> .....	<b>\$2,688.56</b>

**District 5  
7th Tradition 2018 Donations**

	<u>January 12</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Mon. Los Alamitos .....	\$30.00	\$30.00
Mon. Fullerton .....	\$42.00	\$42.00
Tues. Hunt. Beach .....	\$25.00	\$25.00
Wed. Costa Mesa .....	\$60.00	\$60.00
Thur. Costa Mesa .....	\$20.00	\$20.00
Fri. Orange .....	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sat. Costa Mesa .....	\$35.00	\$35.00
Sun. DSC .....	\$28.00	\$28.00
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$240.00</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>

**EVENTS**

**MA District 5 June Campout**  
June 15-18, 2018

Black Mountain Group Campground - Idyllwild, CA

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

**This is a WE program.**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next District Service Committee (DSC) meeting  
Sunday, February 18 - 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** - Tony R.

**Hospitals & Institutions** - **OPEN**

**Public Information** - Aime C.

**MAWS Delegate** - Paloma D. (outgoing)

**MAWS Delegate** - Aime C. (incoming)

*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: Scott

Tuesday Mens: Tony R. (acting)

Wednesday Costa Mesa: Az A. (acting)

Thursday Costa Mesa: Layne

Thursday Long Beach: **OPEN**

Friday Orange: Ernest F.

Saturday Costa Mesa: Terry H.

Sunday Riverside: Cory