

Gone Rogue

The Prayer Labyrinth

*I stand at the mouth of the labyrinth
With a rock the weight of a boulder
Chanting the Serenity Prayer
Breath in....*

*I watch my feet taking their steps
Wondering what I'll find in the middle
I gently remind myself, stay in the present
So, I continue with the Serenity Prayer*

*My mind turns away from where I'm going
I focus on where I have been
Thanking God for the women around me
Who helped shape the woman I am*

*While enveloped in this feeling of love
I realize I've made it to the center
I clutch the boulder for one more moment
and I recite the Serenity Prayer*

*I look down at the bag of discarded defects
thinking of all the power within it
I imagine my ideal self
and drop the fucking rock in the bag*

*On the way out, I turn to gratitude
Grateful for my life and my sobriety
For the fact that I am here at all
It is now that I realize the absence of the boulder*

*Each remaining step is increasingly lighter
As I pass by women walking the same path
With tears in my eyes and gratitude in my heart
For the first time in a while, I am free!*

~ Londyn VZ

Your District Service Committee

- Chair** - Ryan H.
- Vice-Chair/Bureau Chief** - **OPEN**
- Secretary** - Dave D.
- Treasurer** - Kathy D. (**OPENING** - Jan. 2019)
- Events** - Londyn
- Chips** - Az A. (**OPENING**)
- Literature** - Tony R.
- Hospitals & Institutions** - **OPEN**
- Public Information** - Aime C.
- MAWS Delegate** - Aime C.

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: Justin
- Tuesday Laguna Hills: Lisa L.
- Wednesday Costa Mesa: Alex
- Thursday Mission Viejo: Layne
- Thursday Long Beach: **OPEN**
- Friday Orange: Anthony L.
- 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

60 Days and Counting

I had been to almost a year of meetings but had never managed to get more than 60 consecutive days of sobriety. Sick and tired of not making any progress, I decided to fully commit myself to the program. I got a sponsor and began working the first step. Things were going well and I found myself on the cusp of 60 days sobriety once again.

In the midst of my active addiction I had avoided traveling anywhere I was not guaranteed to find weed. There was simply no way I was willing to go without marijuana. Traveling to any location where weed was not legal or I did not have a known connection was out of the question for me. My family in Ohio had been trying for years to get me to come visit them, but I had made up countless excuses to avoid going. I did not know anyone in Ohio and weed is not legal there. Additionally, I would be with my family and was certainly not willing to deal with them sans weed. Avoiding Ohio came with a certain amount of guilt though. I had two aunts in Ohio who I had not seen in almost a decade, one of whom was very sick. I wanted to see them and was relieved that my sobriety would finally allow me to go.

I was nervous when my 60 days of sobriety came around again. I had not been 61 days sober in my adult life and the thought of it both terrified and thrilled me. I intentionally booked my trip to Ohio during the time I would reach my 60th day. I figured Ohio would actually be a perfect place to go during this time period. I would not have easy access to weed there

which would hopefully lower my temptation to smoke.

I arrived in Ohio and was staying with my aunt and her family. My aunt's husband, Cliff, is a bit of an oddball. I don't even consider him my uncle, in my mind he's just the guy my aunt married. He's one of these people you could talk to for five minutes and walk away thinking, "yep, that guy is a nutter." My aunt and Cliff were showing me around their property when Cliff turned to me and said, "You know, your aunt has been in a lot of pain since her back surgery." There was something about the way he said it that instantly made me understand where this conversation was going and I thought to myself "Oh no. Not now. I don't need this." Cliff continued on, "so I did some research and began growing marijuana." He moved some bushes out of the way to reveal a few flowering marijuana plants. My aunt chimed in at this moment. "I know you're into marijuana and it really has been amazing for my pain." The last time I had talked to my aunt about marijuana was a few years ago and she was unaware that my love for marijuana had turned into an active addiction. I tried to respond as politely as I could. "Oh, yeah, I used to be into weed but I had to quit. It got to be too much for me." There was not much discussion after that and I thought the subject had been dropped.

When we found our way back into the house, Cliff promptly whipped out a large jar

(continued on page 2)

60 Days and Counting *(continued)*
full of pre-ground marijuana. He took the lid off and instructed me to smell it. “A sativa-dominant hybrid,” he said proudly. I told him that it smelled good and handed the jar back to him. He pulled out a cigarette-style one-hitter and told me to try some. “You’ve gotta try this stuff. It’s the best I’ve grown,” he said. Again, I told him that I would love to but I simply could not. I had quit smoking marijuana. Still, Cliff insisted. “You know all about the California weed! And the stuff they’ve got in the dispensaries! I have to know how my stuff stacks up,” Cliff said. Once more, I told him that I was unable to smoke, but this guy just wouldn’t let it go. “Come on, just one hit! You’re in the house, there’s nothing to worry about,” he said with continued enthusiasm. I was running out of ways to respectfully decline his offer to smoke. It had been years since someone had tried this hard to get me to take a hit and I certainly did not need this kind of temptation right now. Finally, my aunt stepped in. “She said no. She doesn’t have to smoke if she doesn’t want to,” she said. Thankfully, this was enough to get Cliff to stop and put the jar away. Of course, Cliff being the type of guy he is, then walks over to the refrigerator and produces a bag of marijuana-filled capsules. Apparently, he had been grinding up the weed and putting it inside the capsules to make his own “edibles.” I was kind of stunned when he told me this. One, because I could not have made it any clearer that I was not interested in his marijuana. And two, because this guy was honestly just eating raw weed and thinking it was going to get him high. I declined his

marijuana capsules and it seemed like the conversation about marijuana had reached a conclusion.

To my immense relief, the topic of marijuana was not brought up about again while I was in Ohio. I achieved my 60 days (and counting!) and really enjoyed my time with my family. More than that, I hung tough in a situation where someone was really pressuring me to give up my sobriety. The feeling of pride I have in overcoming that situation was better than any high marijuana could ever give me. I owe my continued sobriety to MA, my sponsor, and the people in the program. They help remind me to keep taking things one day at a time.

~ Ali △

July Chip Recipients

Jeff..... 7/1/20144 years
John McC..... 7/2/199127 years
Sean F..... 7/4/200216 years
Shanna..... 7/7/2017 1 year!
Ryan H. 7/7/2007 11 years
Jeremy 7/15/20135 years



Upcoming Sobriety Birthdays
(God willing...)

Allan..... 8/6/20144 years
Coleman 8/13/199226 years
Lisa T..... 8/21/199028 years
Dave D. 8/22/20099 years
Peter S. 8/24/20162 years
Dave 8/28/20153 years
James VM 8/29/20153 years

August Meditation

Our objective was to begin clearing away the wreckage of our past so that we could facilitate our own spiritual awakening. By the time we worked our way through the process of making amends, the level of freedom we began to realize astounded us. - Page 36, *Life With Hope*

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.

EVENTS

Beach Party
Saturday, August 25 - 2pm - 10pm
Huntington State Beach - Lifeguard Tower 6

Visit www.madistrict5.org/events
for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

District 5 Treasury

Beginning Balance (7-1-2018)	\$4,028.11
INCOME	
7th Tradition	\$397.00
Total Income	\$397.00
EXPENSES	
Meeting Room Rent (DSC)	\$15.00
Stericycle Vmailbox.....	\$67.53
Yellow Pages.....	\$5.00
P.I. Copies	\$29.29
MAWS Donation.....	\$1,600.00
Total Expenses	(\$1,716.82)
Ending Balance (7-31-2018)	\$2,708.29
<u>Division of Sub-Accounts</u>	
Prudent Reserve	\$200.00
Event Fund (Reserve).....	\$180.00
Conference Fund	\$370.18
Public Info. Fund	\$200.00
Total of Sub-Accounts	(\$950.18)
OPERATING FUNDS	\$1,758.11

District 5

7th Tradition 2018 Donations

August 12 **YTD**

Mon. Los Alamitos	\$20.00	\$225.00
Mon. Fullerton.....	\$96.00	\$419.00
Tues. Hunt. Beach.....	\$55.00	\$200.00
Tues. Laguna Beach.....	\$0.00	\$212.00
Wed. Costa Mesa	\$80.00	\$473.00
Thur. Mission Viejo	\$44.00	\$397.00
Fri. Orange.....	\$25.00	\$95.24
Sat. Costa Mesa	\$0.00	\$143.00
Sun. Riverside	\$0.00	\$96.66
Sun. DSC.....	\$16.00	\$128.00
TOTAL	\$320.00	\$2,388.90