



Marijuana Anonymous World Services Conference

<http://mawsconference.org/>

May 22-25, 2020

Hosted by District 4 – Western Washington State

University of Puget Sound

1500 N Warner Street, Tacoma WA 98416

Conference Materials and Agenda Items

District/Group Conscience Record

The purpose of the table below is for Districts and/or groups to be able to track the group conscience on each of the agenda items. It is for private use and will not be examined or collected at the Conference. It is recommended that for each meeting's group conscience, a tick mark is made in the appropriate column so that an overall group conscience can be viewed at a glance.

Example:

	Agenda Item	Yes	No
1	Agenda Item 1		
2	Agenda Item 2	 	

<u>*Item D: MA/Hazelden - 4 motions</u>	Yes	No
Motion 1: Logos		
Motion 2: <i>Doctor's Opinion</i> change		
Motion 3: Outbound links		
Motion 4: No catalogs from Hazelden		

	Agenda Items	Y	N
0	Shall the District offer to host the 2022 Conference?		
00	Shall the District offer to host the 2022 Convention?		
A	Update the Twelve Questions		
B	Service Manual updates		
C	Bylaws update		
D	MA Literature/Hazelden Relationship: 4 motions *see above		

	Agenda Items	Y	N
E	Change "God" to "Higher Power" in MA Literature		
F	CBD pamphlet		
G	Change "understood" to "understand"		
H	Change delegate sobriety requirement from 1 to 2 years		
I	Revise "Dangers of Cross Addiction"		
J	Approve Georgia to be a district		

Marijuana Anonymous World Services

2020 Conference Agenda Items

Note from the 2020 MAWS Conference Agenda Committee:

The MAWS Conference Agenda Committee consists of members of the Board of Trustees and interested members of our Fellowship who are tasked with the job of preparing the Conference Agenda Packet, designing the Agenda schedule and making Committee Assignments. This year's Conference Packet contains a few new elements which we'd like to bring to your attention.

First, you will note that after most Agenda Items submitted by members of the Fellowship the Agenda Committee has appended a short additional comment which attempts to provide to the Fellowship a historical and organizational context to inform the Fellowship's discussion and group conscience. We have attempted to be neutral and fair; and, we welcome feedback on the content of these comments. We can be reached at agenda@mawsconference.org.

2020 - Item A

TITLE: Update the 12 Questions

Submitted by: Rachel C., District 22 - New England

Background/Origin:

As marijuana legalization has changed the landscape of availability and consumption in North America, the current 12 Questions might be outdated in counterbalance with the proliferation of media, industry, and powerful forces that promote cannabis. While Marijuana Anonymous takes no stance on outside issues, per our Traditions we are here for the marijuana addict who still suffers; and, the 12 Questions are an important early identifier to a problem. This self-identification is often in the context of a larger world that enables denial, even within families. Many in our fellowship are dealing with dispensaries, apps, home delivery, and easier access to supply in multiple formats with high concentrates; and, our 12 Questions are perhaps “behind the times” when addressing the scope of what is going on. The recommended changes to the 12 Questions seeks to probe additional dimensions of marijuana addiction for improved clarity and impact.

Current Version:

The 12 Questions of Marijuana Anonymous

The following questions may help you determine whether marijuana is a problem in your life.

1. Has smoking pot stopped being fun?
2. Do you ever get high alone?
3. Is it hard for you to imagine a life without marijuana?
4. Do you find that your friends are determined by your marijuana use?

5. Do you use marijuana to avoid dealing with your problems?
6. Do you smoke pot to cope with your feelings?
7. Does your marijuana use let you live in a privately defined world?
8. Have you ever failed to keep promises you made about cutting down or controlling your use of marijuana?
9. Has your use of marijuana caused problems with memory, concentration, or motivation?
10. When your stash is nearly empty, do you feel anxious or worried about how to get more
11. Do you plan your life around your marijuana use?
12. Have friends or relatives ever complained that your using is damaging your relationship with them?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you may have a problem with marijuana.

If you have a desire to stop using marijuana, you are in the right place. To get started, take a look at the MA pamphlets, For The Newcomer and Detoxing from Marijuana. Learn about what you can expect by reading, The MA Meeting and the Home Group. Then find an in-person meeting, attend one by phone or online. We are all here to help.

MOTION: That the Conference approves the revised version of the 12 Questions as written below.

The Twelve Questions of Marijuana Anonymous

The following questions may help you determine whether marijuana* is a problem in your life.

1. Has smoking pot stopped being fun?

2. Do you ever get high alone?
3. Is it hard for you to imagine a life without marijuana?
4. Do you find that your friends are determined by your marijuana use?
5. Do you use marijuana to avoid dealing with your problems, and to cope with your feelings?
6. Has your weed habit lead to financial problems or difficulty in handling money?
7. Does your marijuana use let you live in a privately defined world?
8. Have you ever failed to keep promises you made about cutting down or controlling your use of marijuana?
9. Has your use of marijuana caused problems with your health, memory, concentration, or motivation?
10. When your stash is nearly empty, do you feel anxious or worried?
11. Do you plan your life around your marijuana use because you get feelings of discomfort unless you can get high?
12. Have friends or relatives ever complained that your use is damaging your relationship with them?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you may have a problem with marijuana. If you have a desire to stop using marijuana, you are in the right place. To get started, take a look at the MA pamphlets, *For The Newcomer* and *Detoxing from Marijuana*. Learn about what you can expect by reading *The MA Meeting and the Home Group*. Then find an in-person meeting, attend one by phone or online. We are all here to help.

*Marijuana consumption includes but is not limited to: smoking (joints, blunts, bongs, pipes, dabs/wax/shatter, etc.), vaping, edibles and drinks, tinctures, and topicals.

Contextual Statement from World Services Conference Agenda Committee: None

2020 - Item B

TITLE: Approve Revised and Restructured Service Manual

Submitted by: The Marijuana Anonymous World Services Policies and Procedures Committee

Background/Origin:

The Policies and Procedures Committee has been working for several years on a project referred to as the “modularization of the service manual.” The idea is that the Fellowship as a whole would be better served if the service manual content pertaining to the various World Services Committees is “owned by” the relevant committee rather than being included in the Service Manual, which is overseen by the Policies & Procedures Committee and which can only be amended by Conference approval. By removing Committee content from the Service Manual and having it published in separate committee handbooks, the material can be updated more frequently and thus will remain more relevant to the work of the Fellowship. The need for such a restructuring is evidenced by the fact that the Internet Committee chose several years ago to publish its guidelines separately from the Service Manual which has enabled it to easily update its material as needed. The general idea of restructuring the Service manual in this way has been approved several times by previous World Services Conferences.

The new proposed Service Manual contains within it an explicit provision providing that, although changes made to the Service Manual still require Conference approval, the various committee handbooks need only be approved by the Board of Trustees. Additionally the Service Manual will include links and QR codes to facilitate locating the Handbooks belonging to the various Committees, which have been removed from the Service Manual.

Due to the length of the Service Manual the entire text is not being included in this Conference Agenda packet. Instead the following summarizes the substantive

changes, and a link and QR code are included so that members and groups wishing to review and/or download the entire proposed service manual can do so.

Here are the substantive changes which the proposed Core Service Manual will make to the previous edition 6.1 of the Marijuana Anonymous World Services Service Manual:

Document-Wide Changes

- Subject matter related to the individual Committees has been removed from the Core Service Manual. The various Committees are now responsible for creating and updating their Handbooks, links to which shall be listed at the end of the Service Manual.
- The Handbooks need only Trustee approval, not Conference approval to be modified unlike the Core Service Manual which will still need Conference approval. Effecting this change was one of the primary reasons for the Service Manual modularization project.
- The use of the acronym MAWS is avoided and replaced with “MA World Services” or “World Services.”

Changes by Chapter

Part One: The Program

Chapter 1: What is Marijuana Anonymous

Removed specific examples of the ways in which MA World Services serves the society of MA.

Chapter 2: The Role of Service in Marijuana Anonymous

Rewording of some service explanations.

Chapter 3: The Path of Communication and Service through Group Conscience

Replaced this material with a newer, more in-depth version from the 2020 Delegate packet.

Part Two: The Group

Chapter 4: Meeting Officers

Not significantly changed.

Chapter 5: Group Service Representatives

Updated to reflect current practice of sharing quarterly summaries from the Trustees rather than the monthly minutes.

Chapter 6: The Group

No major changes.

Chapter 7: New Meeting Startups

No change.

Chapter 8: Suggested Meeting Formats

No change

Part Three: The District

Chapter 9: The District

Language has been added to make a distinction between a “District” which has been officially recognized by MA World Services and a “regional service committee” which is defined as a group of geographically related meetings which have not yet been approved by MA World Services as a recognized district, although they may have organized the equivalent of a District Service Committee for self-management and/or preparation for applying to be recognized by World Services.

Chapter 10: Criteria for Acceptance of New Districts

This chapter is substantively the same as the former Chapter 14.

Chapter 11: The District Service Committee Meeting

This chapter is substantively the same as former chapter 10.

Chapter 12: District Officers

This chapter is substantively the same as former chapter 11.

Chapter 13: Subcommittees

Slightly enlarged former Chapter 12 with additional suggestion that district chairs work in coordination with World Services.

Chapter 14: Events and Fundraising

Substantially the same as former chapter 18.

Chapter 15: Guidelines for District Treasurers

Updated and clarified by World Services' accountant, assistant accountant and treasurer.

Chapter 16: The Relationship between the Society of MA and the MA World Services Corporation

The parts of former chapter 20 relating to finances have been updated and clarified by MA World Service's accountant.

Former Chapter 19: Convention Guidelines

Moved to appendix VII temporarily. It may be part of an expanded Conferences and Conventions Handbook in the future.

Chapter 17: Delegates: Former Chapter 13 has been relocated to the section on World Services and placed before the chapter on Trustees. It has been updated to reflect current practice of sharing quarterly reports rather than Trustee meeting minutes. The earlier versions of the Service Manual reflected the earlier practice of only having quarterly Trustee meetings. In recent years the Trustee meetings have

been taking place monthly although the Committee reports and Trustee's summary is still only required quarterly.

- Additional changes: language changed to reflect the expectation that Delegates are to use their own independent judgement, based on conference discussion and informed by their District's group conscience, a change from the previous language which just said they were to vote "according to the conscience of the District's groups."
- Language added to include the full text of the Bylaws requirement that Delegates must be sober as defined as "abstinence from marijuana and all mind-altering substances, including alcohol." The word "suggested" is removed from the sentence that states that delegates must have one year clean and sober to serve as a delegate.

Chapter 18: Trustees

Substantially the same as former chapter 21 although updated to reflect current practice.

Chapter 19: Marijuana Anonymous World Services Conference

- Updated to reflect current practice.
- Updated section delineating the respective responsibilities of the host district and Marijuana Anonymous World Services to reflect recent changes voted on by previous conferences; has been placed earlier in the chapter.
- References to having nine Trustees removed in anticipation of proposed amendment to bylaws creating a flexible number of Trustees.
- Guidelines for Writing a Conference Agenda item has clarified that agenda items should not direct World Services Committees to take on a particular project but rather encourages MA members to join and work with World Services Committees on a project they wish to see implemented.
- Section on Conference Approved Material shall now require only conference approval of the Service Manual itself, not the various Handbooks belonging to the various World Services Committees. Changes to the handbooks shall require only approval by the relevant committee and the World Services Board of Trustees.

Note: this change reflects the major purpose of the multi-year Service Manual modularization project which aims to make possible more timely updating and modification of committee handbooks and guidelines than the previous requirement of full conference approval allowed.

Appendix I: Foundation Documents

All the foundation documents have now been placed in a single appendix. The language introducing the Conference Charter has been edited to more clearly state the original intention that it can be amended to reflect changing circumstances.

Appendix II: Parliamentary Procedures

The material on the Third Legacy Procedure and the modified Robert's Rules of Order have been removed from the body of the Service Manual and placed in this Appendix.

The previous appendix containing the administrator job description has been removed reflecting the consensus of World Services' trusted servants and staff that such everyday personnel documents should be relatively private and need to be amended frequently.

MOTION: That the Conference approves the proposed Service Manual found at the link and QR code below, and that said Service Manual replace the previous version 6.1.



[Service Manual](#)

2020 - Item C

TITLE: Revision of MAWS Bylaws

Submitted by: The Marijuana Anonymous World Services Policies and Procedures Committee

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

The current corporate Bylaws of the nonprofit California corporation, Marijuana Anonymous World Services, specify that the corporate board of directors, also known as the Board of Trustees, shall have 9 directors/trustees. As Marijuana Anonymous and World Services have grown in recent years, the work of the Board of Trustees has grown as well. Whereas our service manual v6.1 envisions 4 meetings of the Board a year, we have routinely had monthly meetings for some time now. 9 Trustees is no longer a sufficient number to cover all the job assignments the Board needs to fill with trustees. In 2017 there was a conference agenda item to increase the number of trustees. A member of our Fellowship who was an attorney opined that to do so in violation of what our Bylaws specify could present legal problems. The Conference responded by referring the issue to the Policies and Procedures Committee. The Policies and Procedures Committee has since hired a California attorney specializing in nonprofit law to review our Bylaws and assist us in updating them. The attorney has informed us that it is legal to have our Bylaws specify a range in the number of directors/trustees which will enable us at each Conference to elect as many qualified candidates as we need but also not put us in a position of violating our Bylaws if we have an insufficient number of qualified volunteers. We have accordingly revised the Bylaws to provide an “authorized number of directors shall be an odd number, not less than seven nor more than 21.” The provision requiring an odd number is to prevent the Board from being stuck with tie votes. We have made a number of other minor changes at the recommendation of the attorney but the primary substantive change is to provide this flexibility in the size of the Board of Trustees.

Since the Bylaws are a lengthy document, we are not appending the entire document to this Agenda item. It can be located and downloaded if desired at the links included in the Motion language below.

MOTION: That the World Services Conference approve and adopt the revised corporate Bylaws, found at the following link or by using the QR code below:

[Revised MAWS Bylaws 2020](#)



2020 - Item D

TITLE: MA Literature/Hazelden Relationship: 4 motions

Submitted by: Peter S and Alex M, Members of MA

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

1. The Trustees of Marijuana Anonymous have signed a contract with Hazelden Publishing which authorizes Hazelden Betty Ford to print, and distribute *Life with Hope* and the *Life With Hope Workbook*.¹
2. The agreement includes requirements limiting MA's existing distribution of literature via the website, beginning with the removal of the entirety of *Life With Hope* from the website, replaced with selected excerpts.²
3. An agreement with Hazelden Betty Ford was neither approved nor disapproved by the Conference body, although a motion to explicitly require approval by the Conference body was rejected at the 2018 Conference.³
4. According to multiple sources, there is a non-disclosure clause in the contract between Marijuana Anonymous and Hazelden Betty Ford. Therefore the fellowship as a whole cannot review it.⁴
5. Hazelden Betty Ford is a Related Facility (Treatment Centers for Addicts⁵) and an Outside Enterprise (Publishing⁶ and Political Advocacy⁷ among other functions).
6. *A Doctor's Opinion about Marijuana Addiction*, which is MAWS approved literature is publicly attributed to:

¹ <https://ma-phone.org/mawpm-announcements>

² <https://drive.google.com/open?id=15cNCaCfYwrBcwNckqUDKVwq0FU3V4txS>

³ https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Q9lArsjpERz0sF2jtdwM-s6_O_iA0HF

⁴ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DieJciHsx_eNLDaITnMxrG0pCIHxD1iKi8Ef33XiELU

⁵ <https://www.hazeldenbettyford.org/treatment/models/specialized-programs>

⁶ <https://www.hazelden.org/web/public/publishing.page>

⁷ <https://www.hazeldenbettyford.org/recovery-advocacy>

Marvin D. Seppala, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation⁸

7. Hazelden has official political positions against Marijuana Legalization by states and 12 points for minimum cannabis regulation, among other positions on outside issues.⁹
8. When a user is directed to Hazelden from Marijuana-Anonymous.org to buy *Life With Hope* and/or *Life With Hope Workbooks* Hazelden Betty Ford offers up-sells of non-MA literature such as¹⁰:
 - a. *Quitting Marijuana Workbook Revised* by Cardwell C. Nuckols
 - b. *Drugs on Trial Marijuana, A Prevention Program for High School*
 - c. *Marijuana: The Unbiased Truth about the World's Most Popular Weed* by Kevin P. Hill
9. When a group ordered *Life With Hope* books recently, they involuntarily received a 36 page Hazelden literature catalog.¹¹
10. The agreement between Marijuana Anonymous and Hazelden Betty Ford may involve (among others) Tradition 6, Tradition 10, Tradition 1, Tradition 2, Tradition 5, Tradition 7, Tradition 8 and Tradition 11.

[Authors' Conclusions]

1. Some will think Marijuana Anonymous is part of Hazelden Betty Ford if “The Doctor’s Opinion” is attributed to Hazelden Betty Ford, and the publisher of our basic text is Hazelden Betty Ford. Marijuana Anonymous is not part of Hazelden Betty Ford.
2. Some will think Marijuana Anonymous endorses Hazelden literature if their catalog is included in book orders through Marijuana-Anonymous.org.
3. Some will think Marijuana Anonymous endorses outside controversies, causes or outside literature that does not carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous if that literature

⁸ <https://marijuana-anonymous.org/pamphlets/a-doctors-opinion-about-marijuana-addiction/>

⁹ <https://www.hazeldenbettyford.org/recovery-advocacy/marijuana-education>

¹⁰ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DieJciHsx_eNLDaITnMxrG0pCIHxD1iKi8Ef33XiELU

¹¹ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DieJciHsx_eNLDaITnMxrG0pCIHxD1iKi8Ef33XiELU

is offered to members trying to buy *Life With Hope* as linked on Marijuana-Anonymous.org.

4. Some will think Marijuana Anonymous has official positions on outside political issues (implicitly or explicitly) if we link to Hazelden's website.
5. It is important we carry the message of Marijuana Anonymous, and not that of Hazelden Betty Ford.
6. There are perhaps some compromises we can come to that will create healthy boundaries and adherence to our traditions.

MOTION 1: Only Marijuana Anonymous Conference-approved logos appear on Conference-approved literature. This explicitly forbids inclusion of outside enterprises, including a publisher's logo.

(co-sponsored by District 2 DSC, Monday Night "Dopeless Hoppers," and Saturday Night "First Oakland Group")

MOTION 2: All references to Hazelden Betty Ford be removed from subsequent publishing of *A Doctor's Opinion about Marijuana Addiction* in any form and existing electronic publications under MAWS control. That this be extended to include the employer of any Doctor writing on behalf of Marijuana Anonymous and published by MAWS.

(co-sponsored by Monday Night "Dopeless Hoppers," and Saturday Night "First Oakland Group.")

MOTION 3: That all outbound links from Marijuana-Anonymous.org to Hazelden or another publisher include a notice specifying:

1. MA is not affiliated with Hazelden or the publisher.
2. This does not denote an endorsement of either Hazelden, the Publisher nor any literature or views on their website except *Life With Hope* and the *Life With Hope Workbook*.

(co-sponsored by District 2 DSC, Monday Night "Dopeless Hoppers," and Saturday Night "First Oakland Group.")

MOTION 4: Hazelden or other Publisher catalogs not be included with orders of Marijuana Anonymous Conference Approved literature. If this cannot be done within the parameters of the current agreement with Hazelden a note should be included in all literature orders specifically warning that the catalog and its' content is not endorsed or supplied by Marijuana Anonymous and is included by the publisher for their own (non-MA related) reasons.

(co-sponsored by District 2 DSC, Monday Night "Dopeless Hoppers," and Saturday Night "First Oakland Group.")

Contextual comment from World Services Conference Agenda Committee:

- For clarification, the word "publisher" means only distribution and printing as is explicitly acknowledged by Hazelden on their own website.
- We have been assured by ANLP that Hazelden's logo will not appear on any of our MA literature.
- The use of the term "publisher" in the agreement with Hazelden does not negate in any way MA's 100% control over the legal copyright and content of our literature.
- The disclaimer language asked for in Motion 2 above already exists in our book and pamphlet wherever Dr. Seppela's name is mentioned.
- Hazelden has informed us that they are unable to remove catalogues from the first 5000 orders in each year. Subsequent orders will not include catalogues.
- Related information from chair of the ANLP Board:

1) What follows is the language now appearing on the ANLP website:

"A New Leaf Publications offers Life with Hope in three formats. The companion volume, Life with Hope 12 Step Workbook, is available in softcover only.

A New Leaf Publications is the publisher of all MA literature in their various formats.

Orders for softcover versions of Life with Hope and Life with hope 12 Step Workbook will be redirected to an outside vendor for fulfillment.

Neither Marijuana Anonymous nor A New Leaf Publications is affiliated with any outside organization or enterprise; does not endorse non-MA literature; and, has no opinion on the views of any such outside organization or enterprise (MA Traditions 6 & 10)."

<https://www.anewleafpublications.org/book-store/>

2) What follows is the Conference-approved disclaimer language that appears after every appearance of A Doctor's Opinion:

“Marijuana Anonymous does not endorse the author of “A Doctor's Opinion about Marijuana Addiction” or his employer. The medical opinion presented is based on the doctor's research and clinical experience as of 2015 and should not be construed as the last word on the subject of marijuana addiction. Marijuana Anonymous is not affiliated with any foundation, institution, or other organization and has no opinion on outside issues.”

2020 - Item E

TITLE: Change “God” to “Higher Power” in all MA Literature

Submitted by: The members of MA District 12

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

One question our district has discussed is why many people who initially come to MA don't continue to attend meetings. We are concerned that people may be put off by how much the word “God” is used in our books, literature, and meetings. We are fully onboard with the spiritual aspect of the program and the benefit and need of connecting with a higher power. However, we feel that the word “God” may be turning off some people who otherwise might be open to the program.

We feel that all of the references to God might cause someone who might attend just one meeting to have the mistaken impression that we are affiliated with some religious group. We feel that MA will be more effective in fulfilling our primary purpose of helping the addict who still suffers if we make these changes.

We are well aware that MA has no affiliation with organized religion and everyone is encouraged to find a higher power of their own understanding. However, we feel it is important to try to imagine the mindset of a newcomer attending a meeting for the first time.

We mostly were all in a distressed frame of mind when we first started attending meetings. We were confused, depressed, irritable, and had difficulty focusing. It may not be accurate to judge the effectiveness of our readings to a newcomer, based on our now (mostly) clear heads, which is a direct result of becoming and staying sober.

It is very clear that our primary purpose as members of the MA fellowship is to help

the newcomer who still suffers. The members of District 12 feel that we could more effectively reach out to the newcomer by changing the word “God” to “higher power”. We feel that this change would not reduce the spiritual aspect of the program, but that it would help to bring our program and the steps move effectively to a 21st century audience.

The current data indicates that younger people are way less religious than previous generations. We are concerned that all of the references to God may be interfering with these people feeling comfortable attending meetings.

The paragraph below is from an online article—by the Pew Research Center dated October 17, 2019—titled, **“In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace”**

(<https://www.pewforum.org/2019/10/17/in-u-s-decline-of-christianity-continues-at-rapid-pace>):

The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009.

The paragraph below is from a Wall Street Journal article titled, **“Can Religion Still Speak to Younger Americans”**, dated November 2019 (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/can-religion-still-speak-to-younger-americans-11573747161>):

The fastest-growing population on the American religious landscape today is “Nones”—people who don’t identify with any religion. Recent data from the American Family Survey indicates that their numbers increased from 16% in 2007 to 35% in 2018. Over the same period, there has been a dramatic decline in the share of the population who identify as Christian, from 78% of Americans in 2007 to 65% in 2018-19, according to a report by the Pew Research Center released this month. The rise of Nones is even more dramatic among younger people: 44% of Americans aged 18

to 29 are Nones.

Members of our district feel that having a sense of a higher power is vital for us to stay sober. We just want to make sure that we are providing as inclusive an atmosphere as possible to anyone who is brave enough to stumble through the doors of an M A meeting.

Motion: Amend *Life with Hope, Life with Hope 12 Step Workbook*, all MA pamphlets, meeting readings, and MAWS website to replace the word “God” with the words “higher power”.

Contextual Statement from World Service Conference Agenda Committee: Per our charter, the written consent of three-quarters of all groups must approve any change in the Steps or Traditions. If this item were to pass it would raise questions as to how to implement this change given that the Steps and Traditions have a more rigorous requirement for changes to be made.

Any change in Article Twelve of The Charter, The Twelve Traditions of MA, or The Twelve Steps of MA must be made with the written consent of three- quarters of the MA groups, as defined in the resolution adopted by the October, 1989 Conference*. (Service Manual v6.1, page 65)

2020 - Item F

TITLE: Pamphlet entitled "What About CBD?"

Submitted by: Marijuana Anonymous World Services ad hoc committee on CBD along with the MAWS Literature Committee

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

MA World Services fields questions at the local meeting, District, and World levels regarding the use of CBD as related to recovery and membership in MA. Some members regard CBD as an "outside issue" on which World Services should not take a position. However, some others do not agree that it is an outside issue, and MA World Services gets queries asking for guidance regarding CBD use or abstinence.

At the 2018 MA World Services Conference, a motion was made for World Services to address the CBD question. This motion was referred to the Literature Committee. World Services has followed through by forming an ad hoc committee to address persistent unanswered questions and concerns about CBD use, and to respond to groups asking how CBD use might affect a member's clean time and/or eligibility to take service positions.

The Trustees' ad hoc CBD committee, in conjunction with the Literature Committee, has drafted a pamphlet for Conference approval which we hope will offer members guidance and help dealing with questions about CBD use. This pamphlet does not present an official position or opinion; instead, we hope that it can be useful to those asking for guidance or fielding questions from newcomers or sponsees about CBD. In preparing this pamphlet, the ad hoc CBD committee sent out a survey to the membership asking about members' experiences with CBD use, researched articles, and solicited feedback from two physicians known to our fellowship who are specialists in addiction. From those sources, we drafted the following pamphlet titled: "What About CBD?" which we are submitting to the 2020 Conference for approval as an addition to our recovery literature.

Motion: That the 2020 Conference approves the attached pamphlet entitled, “What About CBD?” and circulate it along with other Conference approved pamphlets, and that the PDF of said pamphlet be added to the printable files available on the MAWS website.

[View pamphlet online](#)



MA Member Experience Varies

The results of a survey of our members who have used CBD during their recovery were as follows:

- Some members believe that they benefit from CBD use for medical conditions in their recovery (under a doctor's advice and care)
- Some believe CBD use was the cause of relapse and their return to active substance abuse
- Some want the difference highlighted between topical and ingested CBD use
- Some find CBD beneficial and don't feel it has any negative impact on their recovery
- Some think CBD use is a “slippery slope”
- Some want other MA members to know that CBD can also have THC in it, and therefore is not an “outside issue”
- Some would rather MA World Services not address CBD use at all.

The input we've received illustrates the uncertainty surrounding the issue of CBD at this time as well as the variety of opinions and experiences within our Fellowship. It would be divisive as well as inappropriate for MA World Services to take a concrete position on the use of CBD by our members. We have no evidence of the use of CBD benefitting any member's recovery from marijuana addiction. We do suggest that members using or considering the use of CBD talk to their doctor, their sponsor, and their home group. We urge members to be open-minded and humble as they consider what is best for them and their long-term recovery. Be on guard against addict behaviors or attitudes such as keeping your CBD use secret, obsessing about it, or increasing your use without your doctor's orders. It is worth remembering that *Our Life with Hope* text states in Step One: “We are powerless over marijuana in all of its forms.”

Our Traditions

MA World Services doesn't have an opinion on the criteria that individual meetings use for giving sobriety chips to members, nor do we define qualifications for service at the meeting level. Tradition Four states that, “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or MA as a whole.” Each group gets to decide their own parameters on the type of sobriety requirements they have for members during their monthly group conscience business meetings. MA World Services does not determine if using CBD impacts clean time.

There has been much discussion and a variety of opinions about whether or not the use of CBD is an “outside issue” within the meaning of Tradition Ten: “Marijuana Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the MA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.” There is no clear group conscience at this time as to whether or not CBD use is an outside issue.

Tradition One emphasizes MA unity, and Life with Hope states in Step Twelve, “As we each work the program in our own special way, we discover the spiritual principles that we all have in common.”

What about CBD?



MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

A Twelve Step Program of Recovery
for Marijuana Addicts

Marijuana Anonymous World Services

340 S Lemon Ave # 9420
Walnut CA 91789-2706

+1.800.766.6779

www.marijuana-anonymous.org
info@marijuana-anonymous.org

Order books, etc. at
www.anewleafpublications.org

P-xx

version

##/#####

© 2013–2018 MA World Services
Conference Approved Literature

P-xx

MA Has No Official Opinion on the Use of CBD

CBD products have burst onto the market in many states and seem to be advertised and available everywhere these days. As a result, MA World Services, Districts, local MA meetings, and sponsors are regularly asked for advice and guidance on the question of whether it is consistent with recovery for an MA member to use CBD, and whether individual meetings should give sobriety chips to those members. At World Services, we have been asked if MA has an official position or policy about members using CBD.

It's Hard To Know the Facts

An important consideration for any member giving thought to the use of CBD is that CBD is a constituent product of the marijuana plant and can be derived from both hemp and marijuana. If manufactured from marijuana, the likelihood of residual amounts of THC remaining in the finished product is a significant risk.

As of this writing [January 2020] the regulations and standardization of CBD products are in constant flux. This makes it hard to know what exactly one gets in a CBD product. There is no US government watchdog overseeing the claims which producers make about the source of or ingredients in their CBD products. This substantially increases the risk that a user can ingest THC inadvertently.

Input from Two Career Experts in the Field of Addictions Treatment

Marvin D. Seppala, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

There is not yet good science about CBD that adequately proves its efficacy for some of the many ailments it is being touted to cure. It's a big business and we need to be wary of their claims.

The following is specific to ingested CBD. It is also not well controlled, thus there are small amounts of THC in the CBD which could possibly trigger the brain, thus triggering relapse is a question, or even providing some level of intoxication, depending on the amount ingested. Additionally, we have no idea how much THC is in the available CBD, therefore cannot distinguish one type from another for safety. The CBD that is being sold can result in recognition of THC on urine drug screens, which is also a problem for those being monitored.

The current regulatory situation I've seen described is as follows: The allowable amount of THC in CBD in states without legal THC is 0.3%. There are limits set in some states with medical THC at 3%, and in states with recreational THC, there may be no defined limit.

The regulatory requirements are not necessarily being monitored, as a result I don't trust the manufacturers to actually follow the limits. I suspect it's cheaper for them not to.

At our treatment facilities, we've chosen not to allow its use. There's no way to know what people are getting at this time, nor what may happen as a result. Low amounts of CBD and THC could be safe for use in recovery, but may not be; as a result, it's best to completely avoid it.

Timmen L. Cermak, MD

First, there is no evidence of any addiction to CBD, nor are there any withdrawal symptoms when it is discontinued. It is, however, very mildly psychoactive, though evidence suggests that it reduces excess anxiety but does not lower anxiety below a person's baseline level.

CBD does have many legitimate medical uses. But I think people in recovery from marijuana abuse/addiction should treat CBD like any prescription medication, meaning that a person should be under the care of a physician for whatever symptoms s/he wants relief from. If the physician recommends a particular use of CBD, it should be taken according to the instructions. Any deviation should be in consultation with the physician.

Why do I have this conservative view for people in recovery? Because ...

- People in recovery often keep looking for a pill/medicine to cure ills that working a program of recovery should be relied on for.
- A marijuana addict using CBD could be like an alcoholic drinking near beer—whistling past the graveyard, playing with fire to prove something.
- CBD is psychoactive, however mild; you can always take more.
- It remains impossible currently to be sure CBD derivatives do not include THC.

In the end it is the intention behind CBD's use that is important. If it represents a way of not having to give up marijuana entirely, this is a problem. If a physician is treating someone's arthritis, it is truly medicinal. This is a place for practicing rigorous honesty and transparency with others you trust.

You are very right to be concerned about getting what you want from the market these days. About 70% of preparations are not what they claim to be. I am hopeful that CBD tested by licensed labs and sold by licensed dispensaries in California will improve the situation.

Contextual Statement from World Services Conference Agenda Committee: None

2020 - Item G

TITLE: Change “understood” to “understand”

Submitted by: The members of MA District 12

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

The members of District 12 feel that the conception of God or our higher power being in the past tense causes us to think back to conceptions of God that we had when we were children and some of us were instructed to believe in a vengeful and punishing god. We feel that referring to God or higher power in the present tense would be more appropriate to our current circumstances and current conception of our God or higher power.

Given how our lives have evolved and transformed through recovery, we feel that using the present tense helps us to have an evolving conception of a higher power.

Motion: Amend the reading “How It Works” sentences that start with the printed numbers 1 and 11 to replace “as we understood God” with “as we understand God”.

Contextual Statement from World Service Conference Agenda Committee: Changing this language would be a change to the language of Steps Three and Eleven which requires approval by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the groups of Marijuana Anonymous as per the Conference Charter of Marijuana Anonymous:

Any change in Article Twelve of The Charter, The Twelve Traditions of MA, or The Twelve Steps of MA must be made with the written consent of three- quarters of the MA groups, as defined in the resolution adopted by the October, 1989 Conference*. (Service Manual v6.1, page 65)

2020 - Item H

TITLE: Change Delegate Sobriety Requirement from 1 to 2 years

Submitted by: Marijuana Anonymous District 5, District Service Committee

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

To give people the opportunity to grow their experience with the Steps & Traditions in their lives, hopefully by taking commitments at the group/district arenas. This would be helpful in working within the 12 Concepts in the Conference arena. It may be true that time does not always equate with experience, BUT, experience always requires time.

MOTION: Amend the MAWS Service Manual on page 30, paragraph 5, sentence 2 from:

The suggested clean and sober time to serve as a Delegate is one year.

To read:

The suggested clean and sober time to serve as a Delegate is two years.

Contextual Statement from World Services Conference Agenda Committee: None

2020 - Item I

TITLE: Amend “Dangers of Cross Addiction”

Submitted by: David G., Member of District 4

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

In its current state, the “Dangers of Cross Addiction” is focused specifically on the potential to become addicted/dependent primarily on substances. However, 12 Step fellowships have increasingly expanded to accommodate behavioral addictions including but not limited to gambling, shopping, working, compulsive eating, gaming, as well sex and love addiction. Moreover, many of these problematic behaviors and addictions have been recognized and acknowledged by mental health providers. While our fellowship is focused specifically on the use of marijuana, the “Dangers of Cross Addiction” is a vital part of our literature in that ensures that our members do not risk their recovery by becoming dependent on other substances or begin engaging in other forms of addictive behavior – thus interfering in their ability to stay sober as well as help others recover from marijuana addiction. As such, we are doing a disservice to many of our new members by acknowledging only the potential to engage in addictive use of other substances and not including specific verbiage that addresses compulsive behaviors as a means of coping with ceasing marijuana usage.

MOTION: That the Conference approve the revised version of the pamphlet “Dangers of Cross Addiction” and the abbreviated version in the appendix to *Life with Hope*, and that these revised versions replace the current versions in all future MA literature.



[View pamphlet online](#)

obsessive behaviors, that might have been unacceptable before. We may compulsively overeat, become addicted to our jobs, engage in risky sexual behavior, or find ourselves on shopping sprees we can't afford, etc.

In fact, because of our past addictive behavior, we even have to be very careful of prescribed medications! We addicts have a dangerous tendency to self-medicate. If the doctor tells us to take one pill, we figure two will be better. If we have three pills left over after an injury or surgery, we save them instead of throwing them away. After all, we tell ourselves, we might need them the next time we are in real (or imagined) physical pain. We cannot deviate from prescribed use without placing our sobriety in jeopardy. As recovering marijuana addicts, we have learned that we must be very vigilant about our sobriety at all times, in all ways.

The belief that marijuana cannot be addictive is widely circulated throughout the world. Well, somehow, we managed to get addicted to this "non-addictive" substance. We recovering marijuana addicts don't need to play with fire by checking out other addictive substances. To reiterate, the only requirement for

membership in Marijuana Anonymous is a desire to stop using marijuana. It is important, however, to recognize the potential to create another problem as we strive to recover from this one.

Excerpted from the fourth paragraph of Step 2 in Life with Hope:

We came to realize that trying to fix our lives with marijuana hadn't worked. Marijuana had once seemed to be the most effective way to help us cope with the problem of living, at least temporarily. When we stopped using marijuana, we didn't automatically feel worthwhile and full of purpose. Our overwhelming feelings, character defects, and negative actions were still there. Sometimes they seemed even stronger than before, because we had no anesthetic to dull them. We were not problem users whose problems went away when we threw away our stash. When we stopped using, we found we had a problem with living; we were addicts.

P-11 version XX/XXXX ©1997-2018 MA World Services Conference Approved Literature

Dangers of Cross Addiction



MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

A Twelve Step Program of Recovery for Marijuana Addicts

Marijuana Anonymous World Services
340 S Lemon Ave # 9420
Walnut CA 91789-2706
+1.800.766.6779
www.marijuana-anonymous.org
info@marijuana-anonymous.org

Order books, etc. at
www.aneuleafpublications.org

P-11

Marijuana Anonymous

Tradition 3

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using marijuana.

Marijuana Anonymous was formed so that marijuana abusers would have a safe haven for recovery, without being ridiculed for “only” being marijuana addicts. However, many of us have found that the only way that we can keep our sobriety is to abstain from all mind and mood altering chemicals, including alcohol. As stated in our Third Tradition, the only requirement for membership in Marijuana Anonymous is a desire to stop using marijuana. In fact, there’s not even a demand that we stop using, only that we have a desire to stop. There is no mention of alcohol or any other substances. This is to adhere to the “singleness of purpose” concept.

When we give up the drug of our choice, a void is created. The initial struggle to abstain from marijuana use often leaves us vulnerable. For the first time in years, we no longer have marijuana clouding our feelings; we don’t even have a name for some of these feelings. We may experience happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, enjoyment, fulfillment, and other positive feelings; we may

also experience anger, depression, resentment, sorrow, dejection, fear, emptiness, and other negative feelings. To fill these voids or numb the pain, we may start to use, or increase the use of, other substances such as alcohol, cocaine, pills, or other drugs. We may also begin to engage excessively in certain risky behaviors such as gambling, shopping, binge eating, overworking, as well as compulsive use of pornography and even video games.

Since we’ve never done feelings, of any kind, too well, we may use mind or mood altering chemicals or engage in compulsive behaviors to take the edge off our powerful new feelings, both positive and negative. Although we may not now be addicted to these substances or behaviors, their use can lower our inhibitions and leave us open to repeating old patterns of thinking and actions, which can lead back to marijuana use or on to new addictions.

Many of the addicts who come to MA have just not been able to stay clean and sober. While a few have gone back to using marijuana right from the start, most have started with another substance or compulsive behavior. It is usually alcohol since it’s so readily available and socially acceptable.

They felt safe since alcohol had not been a problem for them in the past.

They also wanted to be “a part of”, and not be different from their non-addict friends. However, we are different from our non-addict friends! That’s one of the things we have to learn if we are going to turn our lives around. There is an old saying, “Once you’re a pickle, you cannot go back to being a cucumber.” For many of us, a drink on Friday night can become a few drinks on Friday night, and then a few drinks a few nights a week, and so on and so on. We know the story. We played that one out with marijuana. Or maybe we just have a couple of drinks, lower our resistance, then pick up a joint and there we are out using again.

Those of us who have managed to put together a few years in this program have learned to think of other substances and certain behaviors as something we haven’t gotten addicted to... yet. It doesn’t mean we can’t and won’t, if given a chance. The fact that we became addicted to marijuana reflects a tendency towards behavior that may lead to cross addiction (addiction to other substances and behaviors). Particularly during the first few shaky months, we might find ourselves drawn to new

As stated in our third tradition, the only requirement for membership in Marijuana Anonymous is a desire to stop using marijuana. There is no mention of any other drugs or alcohol. This is to adhere to the “singleness of purpose” concept, but many of us have found that the only way that we can keep our sobriety is to abstain from all mind and mood altering chemicals, including alcohol.

When we give up the drug of our choice, a void is created. The initial struggle to abstain from marijuana use often leaves us vulnerable. To fill this void we may start to use, or increase the use of, other substances such as alcohol, cocaine, pills, or other self-prescribed drugs. Although we may now be addicted to these substances, their use can lower our inhibitions, leaving us open to repeating old patterns of thinking and behaving than can lead back to marijuana use. The fact that we became addicted to marijuana reflects a tendency towards behavior that may lead to cross addiction or substitution addiction to these substances. We may also begin to engage excessively in certain risky behaviors such as gambling, shopping, binge eating, over working, and compulsive use of pornography or video games.

To reiterate, the only requirement for membership in Marijuana Anonymous is a desire to stop using marijuana. It is important, however, to recognize the potential to create another problem as we strive to recover from this one.

Contextual Statement from World Services Conference Agenda Committee: This revised pamphlet has been vetted by the Literature Committee

2020 - Item J

TITLE: Application of Georgia to become District 23

Submitted by: Georgia state Regional Service Committee

BACKGROUND/ORIGIN:

Our regional committee is currently comprised of a total of 5 meetings, with a weekly attendance of between 60 and 90 members. One of our meetings regularly has up to 30 attendees. There are currently no other MA districts in the southeastern area of the United States, and we are open to considering expanding our service network to surrounding states if the need arises in the future. Our monthly RSC meeting has good participation, with at least 70% of elected GSRs in attendance. We have a strong network of communications between meetings, using the GroupMe app to report attendance after each meeting, give local members the chance to share on a recovery question of the day, etc. We have been holding member events like Unity Days... (describe events, how often, etc.). We are still in discussion about the best way to establish ourselves financially, giving consideration to which bank will hold our money, and whether we should establish our own tax ID number or request permission to use the World Services tax ID. We offer our region's meetings the suggestion to establish their own prudent reserve before passing excess contributions to our service body, but our meetings have been generous enough so that we will soon be able to start contributing financially to World Services.

Motion: That the Georgia state region be recognized as an official district of Marijuana Anonymous and be given the name District 23.