

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:

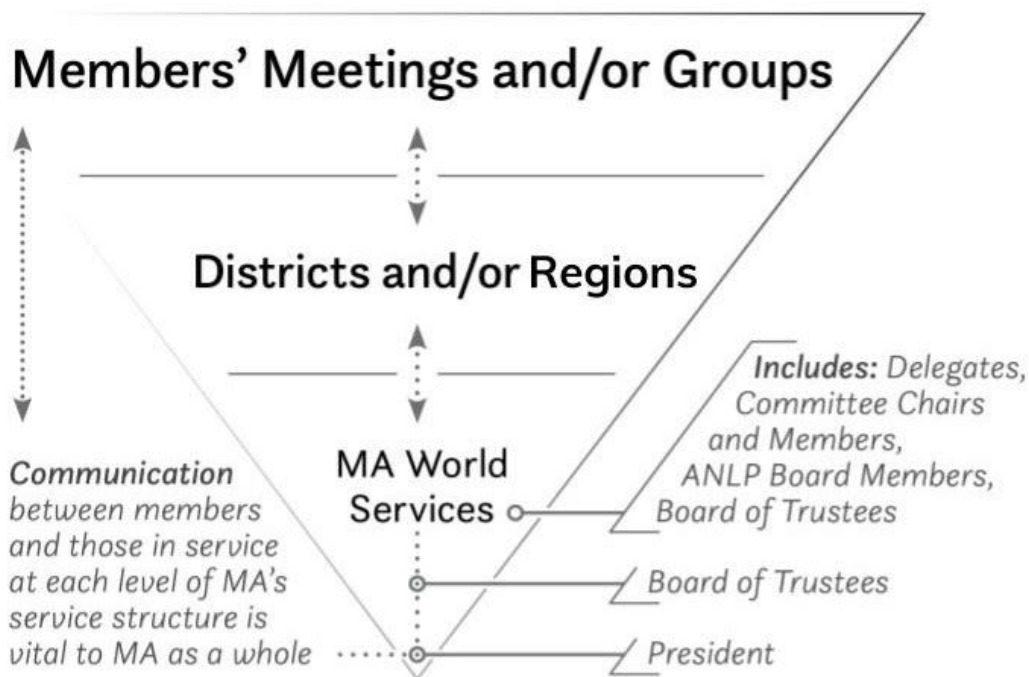
	Agenda Item	Yes	No
1	Agenda Item 1		
2	Agenda Item 2	 	

<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	<u>Update the Twelve Questions</u>		
B	<u>Service Manual updates</u>		
C	<u>Bylaws update</u>		
D	<u>MA Literature/Hazelden Relationship: 4 motions</u> *see above		

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

The Path of Communication and Service through Group Conscience



The service structure of Marijuana Anonymous is described as an inverted pyramid featuring three levels. The meeting/group occupies the broad base at the top of the pyramid. The middle level represents the District. The tip, or the smallest portion of the pyramid, consists of *Marijuana Anonymous World Services* (MAWS).

Since the pyramid is inverted, the meeting/group is the largest and most vital part of the fellowship. Without meetings, there would be no need for the District or for World Services. This point cannot be stressed enough; the District and World Services exist to serve meetings/groups, which is essentially made up of individual marijuana addicts. The degree and quality of communication and cooperation between all levels of the service structure determines the health and survival of MA, which exists to carry the message of recovery, including to those who have not yet found the fellowship.

Meetings/Groups

The meeting or group is fundamental to the service structure of our fellowship. A meeting or group consists of two or more marijuana addicts who meet on a regular basis. Groups are fully self-supporting, and remain so by collecting contributions

each time they meet. The funds necessary to sustain each meeting are contributed from the members of that meeting, and not from outside sources. This collection of monies is commonly referred to as “the Seventh Tradition,” since it fulfills that Tradition. Meetings have no outside affiliations and no opinions on outside issues. Each meeting is autonomous; however, compliance with each of the Twelve Traditions is vital for all meetings.

A **group conscience** reflects the consensus of the group on any matter brought before the group. Through an *informed* group conscience, the meeting/group elects a General Service Representative (GSR).

The GSR is a critical link between the meeting/group and the District levels of the inverted pyramid. The role of the GSR is to represent the group conscience to the District (or a regional service committee), reporting the group’s wishes and ideas, and participating in the group conscience at the District level. The GSR also brings news of District and World Services activities back to the group. GSRs may later serve on District Committees to help their District. *See page 8 of the MA Service Manual for more regarding GSRs.*

Districts

A District is a geographical unit containing a number of groups. Districts are generally limited by geographic boundaries that permit GSRs to meet periodically, usually once a month. This monthly meeting is called the District Service Committee (DSC) and is open to all MA members. There are also regions and regional service committees serving the same purpose for groups and meetings not yet recognized as an official District by World Services.

All of the business of the District is discussed at the DSC meeting. A number of District officers and committee chairpersons are elected at the DSC to carry out District business. Each District will ideally have at least these positions continually filled by MA members aware of their part in the service structure: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairpersons for subcommittees such as Hospitals and Institutions (H&I), Public Information (PI), Literature, Correspondence, Chips, and Events. Detailed job descriptions of each role can be found in the Service Manual.

The District exists to serve its groups. District services include: purchase and distribution of chips, printing and distribution of literature and meeting schedules, community outreach (through PI and H&I efforts), maintenance of telephone

services and written correspondence, as well as collection and distribution of monies to MA World Services. In addition, the District provides assistance to individual groups in need of help, coordinates District-wide fellowship events and fundraisers, and helps locate speakers.

Each District and each meeting is a part of MA as a whole. Every year, each District elects two Delegates and at least one alternate to represent that District's group conscience to World Services at the annual MA World Services Conference. This Conference has traditionally been held over Memorial Day weekend. It is here that members come together to engage in the work of the MA Fellowship as a whole and establish consensus on and/or continue to contribute to the work of each of the Committees.

World Services

Marijuana Anonymous World Services is a corporation formed to carry out the necessary business and legal affairs of Marijuana Anonymous. Trustees are the officers of MA World Services, the "trusted servants" of the members of MA. Currently, there are nine Trustees. Traditionally, each Trustee is assigned to a particular post (President, Secretary, Treasurer, H&I, PI, Literature, etc.).

Along with the Delegates, the Trustees attend the MA World Services Conference each year. At the Conference, Committees are formed to discuss issues that have arisen in the Districts over the course of the year. Areas covered usually include: Finance, Literature, Internet, Policies and Procedures (P&P), Hospitals & Institutions (H&I), Outreach (including Correspondence), and Public Information (PI). Each Delegate and Trustee serves on at least one Committee, and it is common for other MA members to be invited to participate as well. Often the Committees make recommendations which are voted on by the Delegates and Trustees in general sessions of this or future Conferences. This is one of the ways in which policy changes are made in MA. Committees continue to do the service work of the fellowship throughout the course of the year.

Trustees also meet via conference calls or online meetings several times during the year, typically at least monthly. They monitor and coordinate the progress of MA service work which is being performed throughout the fellowship. Trustees also make interim business decisions that cannot wait until the next Conference.

Goal of the Service Structure: *Fulfilling our Primary Purpose*

The GSRs, Delegates, Trustees, and Committee members at all levels of the inverted pyramid are trusted servants. They do not govern. Each individual serves at the ***direction of the membership***, with only a loving Higher Power as the ultimate authority. It is important therefore, that Trustees, Delegates and GSRs are not only aware of the service structure but do what they can to facilitate an ever-widening participation in the development of informed group conscience wherever possible, so that those volunteers can in fact serve at the direction of the membership.

It is vital to the unity of MA that information and service effort flow smoothly between the three levels of the service structure. As stated in the First Tradition, our unity is critical to our personal recovery. Any service position at any level should be accepted with the ***desire to serve the fellowship***. The MA Service Manual is an invaluable tool for all MA members in service positions, and it is suggested that each meeting obtain a copy of it.

The inverted pyramid is the model for the service structure of MA. World Services serves the District, and the District serves the meeting/group. That said, ***the goal at each level of the pyramid is the same***: to fulfill MA's primary purpose, as stated in the Fifth Tradition, by carrying the message of recovery from marijuana addiction to the marijuana addict who still suffers.

Suggested Reading and Notes for Additional Understanding about Service in MA

- The MA World Services Manual can be easily accessed with the QR code on the right or this URL: tiny.cc/masm
- The Service Manual layout (US Letter) is designed for print or larger screens, not for small hand-held devices.
- The freely-downloadable PDF is searchable and fairly interactive with internal links and bookmarks.
- It is suggested that members in the **path of communication and service** from the meeting level (*top of the inverted pyramid*), down through MA World Services (*bottom of the pyramid*) are familiar with the Service Manual.
- It is also recommended that those members also get some familiarity with the fellowship's foundational documents, beginning on page 65 of the current Service Manual (revision 6.1), through page 90.



Conference Delegate Responsibilities

The Delegate's primary responsibility is to serve as liaison between the District and MA World Services throughout the year beginning with each Conference. Delegates vote on Conference items utilizing one's own independent judgement based on Conference discussions, and informed by their District's group conscience. The Delegate votes on policies affecting MA as a whole and participates in the selection of Trustees and Service Committee chairs.

Delegates participate on one or more Committees at the Conference and are expected to continue such participation throughout the following year. Delegates are responsible for reporting MA World Services' activities to the Districts throughout the year and for ensuring that MA World Services receives updated contact information for the members of their District's DSC so MA World Services can communicate with them regarding world-level activities and issues that are within their purview.

The Delegate should be prepared to work in a cooperative and helpful manner over long hours and sometimes trying circumstances. The Delegate should forever strive to place principles before personalities. They ought to listen carefully and respectfully to differing opinions and tolerate fairness of debate. Delegate specific duties are detailed on the next page.

Delegate Specific Duties:

- 1) Submit a written status report on the District and its meetings to the Conference.
 - a. Vote on Conference items based on discussions, informed by their District's group conscience.
 - b. Serve on a Committee(s) at the Conference and throughout the year.
- 2) Following the Conference, report at District Service Committee meetings:
 - a. Conference information.
 - b. Ongoing activities of World Services Committees.
 - c. MA World Services quarterly Trustee summary and financial reports.
- 3) Keep MA World Services updated by submitting contact information for District officers and chairs to the Office Administrator.
- 4) Act as service sponsor to successor Delegates, informing them of their duties and what to expect at the Conference.

Conference Delegate Report

Each Delegate (or pair of Delegates) will submit a written report in advance of the Conference and provide a brief presentation of that report to the Conference body (up to 5 minutes), addressing one or more of the following:

- Have any new meetings opened or existing meetings closed in your District?
- What strategies has your District found helpful in strengthening your meetings?
- What has helped your District's efforts to engage members in service and sponsorship?
- What have your most successful fundraising effort(s) been?
- What feedback does your District have for how MAWS is fulfilling its primary purpose?
- What ideas do you have about how to motivate members to contribute service and time to the fellowship?

The Twelve Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon MA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God whose expression may come through in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using marijuana.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or MA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the marijuana addict who still suffers.
6. MA groups ought never endorse, finance, or lend the MA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every MA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Marijuana Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. MA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Marijuana Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the MA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based upon attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, t.v., film, and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow MA members.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Approved by the General Service Conference of Marijuana Anonymous, October 1989 and World Services Conference, May 1992.

The Twelve Concepts for Service in Marijuana Anonymous

1. 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.
2. The ultimate authority and responsibility for service in Marijuana Anonymous is the collective conscience of the groups.
3. The Marijuana Anonymous groups have delegated to its service committees and trusted servants the full authority to conduct Marijuana Anonymous' business and service regarding district as well as world affairs.
4. All members of a service committee have the "Right of Participation," and bear substantial responsibility for the service committee's decisions.
5. Group conscience is the spiritual means by which service decisions are made.
6. A "Right of Appeal" exists to protect minority opinions, and to ensure that all viewpoints have been considered in the decision-making process.
7. The scope of responsibility and authority of every service position should be well defined to ensure accountability of all service positions as well as the ability to perform each position.
8. Effective leadership qualities are essential for trustees, who are entrusted with the responsibility of making final decisions regarding general world service business and finances.
9. The Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of Marijuana Anonymous World Services, Inc., are legal documents that empower the trustees to manage and conduct world service business; the conference charter is not a legal document but relies on the force of the traditions and power of the group conscience.
10. The integrity of our service structure depends on continued unity of Marijuana Anonymous groups, districts, and World Services through effective communication.
11. Marijuana Anonymous' funds and resources should be managed responsibly to ensure their most efficient use in carrying out the primary purpose of Marijuana Anonymous.
12. 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.

Approved by the World Services Conference of Marijuana Anonymous, May 1996

2020 Conference Program & Agenda

Day 1: Friday, May 22	
4:00 p.m.	Check-in Opens
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner and Meet and Greet <i>(available by host district onsite)</i>
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Delegate Orientation
8:30 - 9:30 p.m.	MA Meeting

Day 2: Saturday, May 23	
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast <i>(available by host district onsite)</i>
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	General Session I
8:00 - 8:20 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview
8:20 - 8:25 a.m.	Establish conference quorum. All voting members <u>must</u> be in attendance.
8:25 - 8:35 a.m.	Introduction to Motions Agenda Item: Georgia Motion to become a district* <i>*suspend rules to prioritize</i>
8:35 - 9:00 a.m.	Consent Agenda (Fast Track) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Agenda • Adoption of Standing Rules

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2019 Conference Minutes
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA World Services Reports (9 Trustees, ANLP, Administrator)
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA World Services Reports <i>continued</i>
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Reports
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (<i>available by host district onsite</i>)
1:00 - 6:30 p.m.	General Session II
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Reports <i>continued</i>
2:00 - 2:50 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motions
2:50 - 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motions <i>continued</i>
4:30 - 4:40 p.m.	Break
4:40- 6:00 p.m.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motions <i>continued</i> • Introduction to Committee Work <p><i>*May be extended 30 mins at Chair's discretion</i></p>
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Saturday Evening Activity*
6:00- 9:00 p.m.	Evening Recess - Dinner (<i>provided by Conference</i>)
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.	MA Meeting

**It is possible that dinner will be earlier due to the venue's requirements in which case there might be need for a Saturday evening general session.*

Day 3: Sunday, May 24	
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast <i>(available by host district onsite)</i>
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	General Session III
8:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Committee Breakout Sessions
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>(available by host district onsite)</i>
1:00- 6:30 p.m.	General Session IV
1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Conference Host Districts Selected • 2022 Convention Host Districts Selected • Committee Reports & Motions
3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Break
4:00 - 6:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Trustee Elections • Trustee Elections <i>(takes place throughout General Session IV)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Reports & Motions <i>(cont.)</i>
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Evening Activity
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outgoing Quarterly Trustees Meeting and Dinner, with incoming Trustees in attendance
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner provided by conference.
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.	MA Meeting

Day 4: Monday, May 25	
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast <i>(available by host district onsite)</i>
8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.	General Session V
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Presentation & Adoption
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Reports & Motions <i>(if needed)</i> Motions from the Floor
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Reports & Motions; Motions from the Floor <i>continued</i>
11:30 - 1:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch in Committee
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	General Session VI
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Presentations & Motions, <i>cont'd, if needed</i> Motions from the Floor <i>continued, if needed</i>
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Culmination
3:30 p.m.	<p>Departures or those staying another night can get together on their own.</p> <p><i>Note: Early departures before meeting conclusion is strongly discouraged due to quorum impact and other business needs.</i></p> <p>Thanks for your service!</p>

Standing Rules

Marijuana Anonymous World Services Conference of 2020

Rule 1 Purpose

The Conference is the guardian of the Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous (MA), the perpetuators of the world services of our Society, and the voice of the group conscience of our entire Fellowship.

Rule 2 General Warranties of the Conference

In all its proceedings, the World Services Conference shall observe the spirit of the MA Traditions, taking care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of MA, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Marijuana Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Rule 3 Conference Relation to MA

The Conference will act for MA in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services and it will also be the vehicle by which MA can express its views upon all matters of vital MA policy and all deviations from our Traditions. Delegates, Trustees and Service Committee Heads should be free to vote as their conscience dictates and decide what questions should be taken to the group level, for information, discussion, or their own direct instruction. Any change in the General Warranties of the Conference (see Rule 2 above), 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.

Rule 4 Voting Members

The Conference shall be open to all members of the Society and special workers. The

voting members of the Conference (Members) are the Marijuana Anonymous World Services (MA World Services) Trustees, duly-elected Marijuana Anonymous (MA) Delegates and appointed or elected MA World Services committee heads and coordinators in attendance in person or by meeting the requirements for remote participation as defined in Rule 6. This includes the ANLP Chairperson or another ANLP Executive Director. Each MA District may elect two Delegates. Each Member has only one vote, no matter how many positions they may hold.

Members must be sober. Sobriety is defined as abstinence from marijuana and all mind altering substances, including alcohol.

Rule 5 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Voting Members registered to attend the Conference who are in attendance either in person or by meeting the requirements for remote participation as defined in Rule 6. The meeting quorum shall not change during the length of the Conference even if voting members leave.

Rule 6 Remote Participation

Remote voting members must meet the following criteria:

1. Paid registration as a delegate and/or Trustee and unable to attend due to:
 - a. Family emergency
 - b. Illness
 - c. Injury
 - d. Weather
 - e. Visa and/or Passport issues
2. Voting member is able to serve on a committee, and participate in the break-out sessions via phone call or FaceTime/Google Hangouts on a phone/tablet/laptop if the videoconferencing isn't in the room.
3. Voting member has reviewed and is familiar with the Conference Agenda packet materials
4. Voting members to be counted as part of the quorum must be substantially present, viewable by screen and available for questions via video for all business (general and committee) sessions.
5. Remote voting members are expected to participate in all business activities at the same level of engagement as an in-person participant.

6. If a remote participant does not meet the standard defined above, as determined by the Meeting Manager in consultation with the Board of Trustees, they will be considered an observer only and per Rule 4 they will not qualify as a voting member or be eligible to be elected as Trustee.

In order to bridge communication between in-person & video-conference participants, the host district will establish a service position of Meeting Manager who will be in charge of a team to fulfill the functions listed below. It is suggested by MAWS that the Meeting Manager have at least one year clean and sober.

The responsibilities of the Meeting Manager will be as follows:

- a. Keeping track of “in the room” and “out of the room” presence of both remote and in-person voting members;
- b. Following the Robert’s Rules stacking order procedure, and helping to represent the remote voting members involved;
- c. Keeping an eye on technical difficulties between Internet Committee team and the remote voting members;
- d. Helping to load up presentations (if any) that were given to the Meeting Manager ahead of time.

Rule 7 Chairperson

A Chairperson, often referred to as the Chair, presides over the meeting. The MA World Services President shall act as the Conference Chairperson. If absent, the Secretary shall act as the Conference Chairperson. Otherwise, any Member may be nominated and elected by a majority vote to act as Conference Chairperson.

A Member who wishes to address the Conference body gets the attention of the Chairp by raising a hand, and waits until called upon. This is done in silence with two notable exceptions: “Point of Order” and “Point of Information” (see below).

Rule 8 Consent Agenda

A consent agenda may be presented by the Chair. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one Member. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items shall be taken up immediately after the consent agenda.

Rule 9 Motions

Motions are formal proposals for action. A motion must be offered by a Member or

Standing Committee. Unless offered by a Standing Committee, a motion must be seconded, that is, endorsed for discussion by another Member who calls out “second!” If there is no second, the motion is not put before the group.

If desired by the Chair or any other Member, any main motion, or amendment thereto, shall be reduced to writing, delivered to the Chair and stated before it shall be debated. Until the Chair states the question, the maker has the right to modify the motion at will or to withdraw it entirely. There may be only one main motion active, or “on the floor,” at a time.

Rule 10 Stating the Question

When a motion has been moved, and seconded as required, the Chair, unless he rules it out of order, immediately states the exact question that is before the Conference body for its consideration and action. Motions that have been moved, seconded as required, and stated by the Chair are no longer the property of the maker, but of the Conference body. Therefore, the original maker no longer has the sole right to withdraw or change the motion.

If the text of a motion has been distributed to the Members in advance and with sufficient time for careful reading, the motion need not be read in its entirety when moved or stated by the Chair.

Rule 11 Amendments

Amendments are subsidiary motions that modify the wording, and often the meaning, of the main motion. Amendments made and seconded are debated and voted upon (or accepted by unanimous consent) by the Conference body before the vote for the main motion occurs. Amendments should say exactly where in the main motion the change is to be made, and precisely what words to use. The Conference body must adopt any amendment either by a vote or by unanimous consent in order to attach it to the main motion. This is true whether or not the amendment is endorsed by the maker of the main motion.

Rule 12 Debate

No motion shall be debated until seconded, as required, and stated by the Chair. Debate is the discussion on the merits of a pending question to determine if the issue should be adopted or not. Debate shall be managed by the Chair in an impartial manner. Members may participate in debate only when they are recognized by the

Chair. Debate may be interrupted, e.g. a Member may interrupt another Member who has the floor to make a motion to Recess or Adjourn, to raise a Point of Privilege, a Point of Information, or a Point of Order. The Member making a motion is entitled to speak first; Members who have not spoken on the issue shall be recognized ahead of those who have previously spoken.

A Member may speak twice to a motion, and twice to any subsidiary motion, on the same day, but the Member may take their second turn only after everyone who wishes to speak for the first time has spoken. If debate on the motion is continued on another day, the Member's right to debate is renewed. Each Member may speak for five (5) minutes on each turn. Unless extended by a two-thirds vote, debate on any main motion, together with any amendments, shall be limited to forty-five (45) minutes.

Rule 13 Previous Question

When recognized by the Chair, a Member may offer a motion to close debate and require a vote on the pending motion. The proper wording is, "I move the Previous Question." A motion for Previous Question must be seconded, is not debatable, and may be adopted by an immediate two-thirds vote or by unanimous consent.

Rule 14 Postponement of Motions

The following methods of postponing pending motions are subsidiary motions that require proper recognition by the Chair, must be seconded and require a simple majority vote.

1. A motion to **Postpone to a Certain Time** is debatable, and temporarily sets the motion aside until the designated time.
2. A motion to **Postpone Indefinitely** is debatable and, in effect, "kills" the motion.
3. A motion to **Refer to a Committee** is debatable and may be used to facilitate informal discussion.
4. A motion to **Lay on the Table** is not debatable, and sets the motion aside in order to take up something else of immediate urgency. The original motion remains set aside until a member moves to bring it back up.

Rule 15 Voting

When the Chair determines that the Conference body is ready to vote, the Chair again states the exact question that is before the Conference body.

Unanimous Consent—If it appears to the Chair that a motion or amendment is uncontroversial, it is proper for the Chair to ask if there is “any objection” to adopting the motion or amendment. If no objection is made, the Chair declares the motion or amendment adopted. If even one Member objects, however, the motion or amendment is subject to debate and vote.

Votes—Voting may be by voice, by a show of hands, by rising, or in the case of Election of Trustees, by ballot. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members present is required for passage of an original main motion or amendment thereto.

A Member who “abstains” is choosing not to cast a vote. The effect of abstaining is to make it incrementally more difficult for a motion to pass; a Member may instead choose to leave the room before a vote is taken.

Rule 16 Point of Order

Upon noticing a breach of order that may do harm if allowed to pass, a Member gets the Chair’s attention by calling out, “Point of Order.” Without waiting for recognition, the Member immediately addresses the rules violation. The Chair then rules on the point of order, briefly giving reasons. No second is necessary and no vote is taken.

Rule 17 Point of Information

A Member may, at any point, get the Chair’s attention by calling out, “Point of Information.” The Member then inquires as to facts relevant to the business before the body, but not related to parliamentary procedure. It is not used to give information; instead, one must wait to be recognized and make the informative point as part of debate. No second is necessary and no vote is taken.

Rule 18 Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Conference in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the Society and these standing rules.

Members desirous of a concise guide to the rules are directed to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised **In Brief*** (emphasis added). This practical handbook will be used at the Conference as needed.

Rule 19 Election of Trustees and Alternate Trustees

Trustees, also referred to as Directors, are elected using the Third Legacy Procedure to one two-year term with an option for two additional one-year terms. No Trustee may serve more than a four-year consecutive maximum. Alternate Trustees, also referred to as Alternate Directors, are elected to one-year terms as described below.

To qualify to serve as Trustee or Alternate Trustee a member must have a minimum of two years sobriety, which means abstinence from marijuana and all mind-altering substances including alcohol. A Trustee's name may be placed on public records of MA World Services and therefore Trustees and Alternate Trustees must be prepared to accept that their name may be revealed publicly.

A member must be present at the Conference, in person or by remote participation according to the criteria defined in Rule 6 above, to be elected Trustee. All qualified Conference attendees shall be eligible to be elected as Trustees or Alternate Trustees, subject to their right to withdraw their names from consideration, and provided they have substantially attended the Conference at which they are being considered. A quorum must be present, and two-thirds of the voting members present are needed to elect a Trustee.

a) Procedure

1. At the opening general session of the Conference, the names of all persons who meet the Trustee requirements are placed on an eligibility list, subject to view by all Members for the duration of the Conference.
2. Candidates may strike their name from the list at any time.
3. To vote, each voting Member writes the names of their chosen candidates (from the current eligibility list) on a secret ballot.
4. For each round of voting, voters must write the exact number of names as there are positions to be filled (i.e., if there are three Trustee positions available, Members must write the names of three candidates on their ballot). As positions are filled, the number of names required on each ballot will change.

5. Errors made by voters regarding item numbers 3 or 4 above shall require that the vote be discarded, and a new vote taken.
6. The final two candidates eliminated by these procedures will serve as Alternate Trustees. The person with the most votes will serve as the first Alternate; the other will be the second Alternate.

b) Voting Process

1. The first vote is taken. Any candidate receiving two-thirds or more of the votes is elected. Note that this vote may result in no one being elected.
2. A second vote is taken (if required). Any candidate receiving two-thirds or more votes is elected. If all available positions are not filled, “automatic withdrawals” begin. The names of candidates receiving one-fifth or fewer of the votes are removed from the eligibility list. However, the number of candidates remaining on the list must not be less than the number of positions still available plus one (to satisfy this requirement, candidates receiving the most votes are not automatically withdrawn; there may be cases where candidates who did not receive one-fifth of the votes remain on the list).
3. A third vote is taken (if required). Any candidate receiving two-thirds or more of the votes is elected. If all available positions are not filled, the names of candidates receiving one-third or fewer of the votes of the votes are removed from the eligibility list. However, the number of candidates remaining must not be less than the number of positions still available plus one (candidates who received the most votes are retained to satisfy this requirement; there may be cases where the candidates who did not receive one-third of the votes remain on the list).
4. A fourth vote is taken (if required). Any candidate receiving two-thirds or more of the votes is elected. If, at this point, positions remain unfilled, the names of candidates receiving one-third or fewer of the votes are removed from the eligibility list. However, the number of candidates remaining must not be less than the number of positions still available plus one (to satisfy this requirement, candidates receiving the most votes are not automatically withdrawn; there may be cases where candidates who did not receive one-third of the votes remain on the list). The Chairperson

then entertains a motion to:

- a. Stop balloting and draw remaining names from a hat. Positions are filled in the order that the names are drawn; or
- b. Conduct a fifth and final vote. Any person receiving two-thirds or more of the votes is elected. If positions remain unfilled, remaining names go into a hat, and positions are filled in the order that the names are drawn.

Rule 20 Standing Committees

All Members are assigned to one or more Committees, except for the MA World Services President who is an ex-officio member of all Committees. Members are expected to continue their Committee participation throughout the following year. The Committees and their responsibilities are:

a) Literature Committee

The Literature Committee is responsible for drafting and recommending for approval all of Marijuana Anonymous' literature and media. Good quality literature is one of the most important service responsibilities of MA. The Literature Committee must obtain and approve a proof prior to publication. New Conference Approved Literature and media should be forwarded to A New Leaf Publications in a timely manner. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for Literature or appointee.

b) Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is charged with the responsibility of organizing the financial affairs of Marijuana Anonymous World Services. The committee drafts an annual budget and recommends other financial priorities for MA World Services. The Committee also supervises the work during the year of the MA World Services Treasurer and the office staff. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for the Treasurer job or appointee.

c) Policies and Procedures Committee

The Policies and Procedures Committee is responsible for issues concerning the structure and organization of Marijuana Anonymous World Services. The Policies and Procedures Committee debates and recommends changes in the structure of MA. The committee also considers the relationship between MA,

MA World Services, and the legal rights and obligations imposed by the communities in which MA exists. The Policies and Procedures Committee is also responsible for the Service Manual, and all other documents which affect the organization and structure of Marijuana Anonymous. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for Policies and Procedures or appointee.

d) Hospitals and Institutions Committee

The H&I Committee is responsible for setting forth guidelines to districts on service at hospitals and institutions. This includes review of the H&I Handbook, related pamphlets and literature, helping districts establish H&I committees and more effectively carry the message of MA to the marijuana addict who is confined, in treatment, or has no other way of hearing our message. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for Hospitals and Institutions or appointee.

e) Public Information Committee

The PI Committee is charged with setting forth the guidelines to the districts on organizing and maintaining MA's outreach to the general community. The function of this committee includes creating and recommending for approval: Public Information manual, public service announcements and guidelines to be used by district PI committees as well as the MA World Services Administrator when communicating with the public at-large. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for Public Information or appointee.

f) Conferences and Conventions Committee

The Conferences and Conventions Committee acts as liaison between previous, present and future host district conference and convention teams to facilitate communications, information sharing and collaboration. The Committee works closely with other responsible committees to distribute information (e.g. mawsconference.org), develop an information repository and related tasks such as online registration, budget development, and district support. The Committee bears primary responsibility for developing and implementing remote conference attendance and voting, a project which was authorized at the 2013 Conference. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for Conferences and Conventions or appointee.

g) Internet Committee

The Internet Committee's responsibility is to serve all of MA World Services' Internet-related functions and to investigate and develop ways to carry the message of recovery to marijuana addicts worldwide. The Committee is chaired by the Trustee responsible for Internet or appointee.

h) Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee supports the primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery to marijuana addicts by facilitating correspondence with meetings and districts throughout the world. The committee will continue to facilitate international growth and connection through communication. The function of this committee includes investigating and developing ways to carry the message of recovery to marijuana addicts worldwide and to ensure that meetings and districts are aware of the support made available by MA World Services. The Committee is Chaired by the Trustee responsible for Outreach or appointee.

i) Correspondence Committee

The Correspondence Committee is responsible for facilitating responses to the 800 helpline and, as needed, other requests for support and general information. The Committee maintains a log of its contacts and the Committee's responses to them as well as other data collection as deemed useful. As determined by the Board of Trustees, the paid administrator or a Trustee may be appointed to chair this Committee.

Guidelines for Conference Motions, Recommendations, and Reports

MOTION: A proposal for action

Motions are brought to the floor, discussed, and voted on by the conference body in General Session. Committees may submit motions that arise out of their committee business. Items that generate great debate or have not been resolved by committees are often brought forward to the conference body. Districts and MA members may also submit motions for consideration by the Conference.

Examples of motions:

- Motion to accept the 2004 MA World Services budget as written.
- Motion to amend the Service Manual, Chapter XX, p x, to add the following at the end of Item 11: “when Conference recommendations are quoted or summarized outside the Conference minutes, the source or presenter of the recommendation shall be prominently identified.”

RECOMMENDATION: Presented as deserving acceptance or trial

Recommendations are offered by committees. If no action is required of the conference body, a recommendation can simply be made during a committee report. If action on a specific issue is sought, the committee should submit a recommendation in the form of a motion. When citing recommendations, it is imperative to attribute who made the recommendation and under what circumstances to avoid misuse or assumptions that the recommendation represents the conscience of the conference body, when, in fact, it may not.

Example of a recommendation in a report:

- Recommendation from P&P Committee: Delegates present minutes of MA World Services Conference to their district.

Example of a recommendation in a motion:

- Motion to recommend that meetings add the “Break the Buck Barrier” reading to their format.

REPORT: A detailed account of what occurred and was discussed

Reports inform the General Session of what issues were discussed and voted on in committee. They do not require action by the General Session.

Example of a report:

- Finance committee voted to raise the price of chips to \$0.35 to help cover increased costs of sales tax and shipping chips.

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, bong, 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

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

literature 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

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Order books, etc. at
www.anewleafpublications.org

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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.

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Dangers of Cross Addiction



MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

A Twelve Step Program of Recovery for Marijuana Addicts

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Order books, etc. at
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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.

2019 MA World Services Conference Minutes

The 2019 Conference Minutes are part of the Consent Agenda to be considered first thing in the morning, Day 2, at the 2020 Conference. Please use the link/URL below to review the minutes prior to the conference as there will not be time to read them at the conference:

[MAWS 2019 Conference Minutes](#)



Note: If you know of someone who should be getting a copy of Conference-related emails but has not, please notify agenda@mawsconference.org.
