



**Marijuana Anonymous
World Services Conference**

<http://mawsconference.org/>

July 10, 2021

Hosted by Marijuana Anonymous World Services

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2021 Conference Program & Agenda

Saturday July 10

7:00am - 7:30am PDT 10:00am - 10:30am EDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Serenity Prayer • Review of Standing Rules • Establish Quorum • Consent Agenda • Begin Third Legacy for Alternate Trustee
7:30am - 8:15am PDT 10:30am - 11:15am EDT	Agenda Item B
8:15am - 9:00am PDT 11:15am - 12:00pm EDT	Agenda Item A
9:00am - 9:15am PDT 12:00pm - 12:15pm EDT	Third Legacy + BREAK
9:15am - 10:00am PDT 12:15pm - 1:00pm EDT	Agenda Item D
10:00am - 10:45am PDT 1:00pm - 1:45pm EDT	Agenda Item M
10:45am - 11:00am PDT 1:45pm - 2:00pm EDT	Third Legacy + BREAK
11:00am - 11:45am PDT 2:00pm - 2:45pm EDT	Agenda Item J
11:45am - 12:30pm PDT 2:45pm - 3:30pm EDT	Agenda Item E
12:30pm - 12:45pm PDT 3:30pm - 3:45pm EDT	Third Legacy + BREAK
12:45pm - 1:30pm PDT 3:45pm - 4:30pm EDT	Floor: World Service Conference 2022
1:30pm - 2:15pm PDT 4:30pm - 5:15pm EDT	Floor: ANLP Bank Account
2:15pm - 2:30pm PDT 5:15pm - 5:30pm EDT	Third Legacy + BREAK

2:30pm - 3:15pm PDT 5:30pm - 6:15pm EDT	Floor: Wants and Needs, Step Seven
3:15pm PDT 6:15pm EDT	Closing

Thanks for your service!



Standing Rules

Marijuana Anonymous World Services Conference of 2021

Rule 1 Purpose

The Conference is the guardian of the Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous (MA), the perpetrators 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. Voting members of the Conference (Members) are the Marijuana Anonymous World

Services (MA World Services) Trustees, duly-elected Marijuana Anonymous (MA) Delegates, and 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. Others (including observers) are not voting members.

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. If new districts are accepted during the course of business, the quorum shall be recounted to include their representatives as voting members. The meeting quorum shall not change during the length of the Conference if voting members leave.

Rule 6 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. The Chairperson has discretion to appoint any MA member as acting chair.

A member who wishes to address the Conference body gets the attention of the Chair by electronically 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 7 Consent Agenda

A consent agenda may be presented by the Chair. A consent agenda groups the routine, procedural, informational and self-explanatory non-controversial items typically found in an agenda. 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 8 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 a member who is recognized by the chair. 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 9 Stating the Question

When a motion has been moved, and seconded as required, the Chair, unless they rule 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 10 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 on 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 11 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 three (3) 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. The Chair has discretion to solicit information from the motion maker to clarify specific questions raised in the debate.

Rule 12 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 13 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 14 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 is done by a virtual show of hands, using the “yes”, “no” or “go slower” to abstain, or in the case of election of Trustees, by secret ballot via email. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum is required for passage of an original main motion or amendment thereto. An abstention is the equivalent of a “no” vote using this voting system.

Rule 15 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 16 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. A point of information must be stated as a question, which, if left unanswered, would impede the Member’s ability to vote on the motion.

Rule 17 Parliamentary Authority

A concise guide to the rules is the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief (emphasis added). This practical handbook will be used at the Conference.

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.

Rule 18 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 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) 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 selects the names of their chosen candidates (from the current eligibility list) on a secret ballot.
4. For each round of voting, voters must select the exact number of names as there are positions to be filled (i.e., if there are three Trustee positions available, Members must select 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 of the 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 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 19 Standing Committees

All registered attendees 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.

SPECIAL STANDING RULES

Special Session July 10, 2021

- These Special Rules shall amend and supersede previous Standing Rules for this session of the Conference.

Terminology:

- Friendly Amendment:
 - Suggestion from a Member that the Motion Maker modify the Motion before it is spoken by the Chair. [RONR (12th ed.) 4:20-22]

Volunteer Tasks:

- Meeting Manager:
 - non-voting member of the assembly
 - tasked with being the official timekeeper of the session.
 - If Agenda Items extend past designated time limits, will call a Point of Order to bring it to the attention of the Chair.
 - regularly updates a "session status" that shows which Main Motion or Subsidiary Motion is up for discussion.
- Moderator:
 - non-voting member of the assembly
 - Enforces speech times for individual Members, if Member speaks past their allotted time the Moderator will mute them.
 - Provides backup to the Meeting Manager in monitoring designated time limits, updating the motion and individual speaker timers, and "session status" windows and if necessary, call a Point of Order to bring it to the attention of the Chair when the designated time has elapsed.
 - Provide Technical Support as needed to members who send questions via the chat.
- Vote Counter:
 - non-voting member of the assembly
 - Will count the votes for each Motion and Subsidiary Motion, and will report the count to the assembly.
 - If vote count falls below quorum, will Call a Point of Order to bring it to the attention of the Chair.

Remote Conference Decorum

- Designation of “Host” and “Co-Host” Roles
 - To reduce unnecessary use of the chat feature and maintain neutrality, **only** the Chair, Meeting Manager, Moderator, and other **non-voting** volunteers will be given “Host” or “Co-Host” abilities.
- Chat
 - To maintain the neutrality of the non-voting volunteers, anyone with a “Co-Host” or “Host” role should not use the chat for discussion of motions or opinions. The chat should only be used to provide technical support and links to conference materials as needed.
- Screen Sharing
 - If anything needs to be screen shared when discussing or voting on motions, the Meeting Manager, Moderator, or another non-voting volunteer will do so. If a trustee or special worker is presenting and needs to share their screen, the Meeting Manager will temporarily make them a co-host for the duration of the presentation.
- Muting and Unmuting
 - If members are regularly speaking out of turn, the Meeting Manager or Moderator will remove the ability for all participants to unmute themselves and will unmute each member when it is their turn to speak in the queue.
 - When a member’s time to speak has elapsed, the Moderator will mute anyone continuing to speak past the designated time
- Technical Support
 - If members have technical support issues, they can send a message in the chat to the Moderator, Meeting Manager, or other non-voting volunteer who has been designated as a “Host” or “Co-Host”

Modified Privileged Motions:

- Point of Information shall only be referred to as "Request for Information" to better reflect it's actual intended use during the session. Chair may choose to not recognize a Request for Information at their discretion. [RONR (12th ed.) 33:6-10]
- Due to Limits to Discussion and Debate, Previous Question cannot be called for.

Count of Voting Members:

- The count of Voting Members will be established at the same time Quorum is established.
- A count will not be taken again unless the number of votes counted falls below quorum.

Limited Motion Discussion and Debate:

- Each Agenda Item will be assigned 45 minutes in the agenda, this includes the Main Motion and all Subsidiary Motions.
- At the close of the 45 minute interval, the Main Motion and its Subsidiary Motions must be Postponed, Referred to Committee, or Moved to a Vote at the discretion of the Chair.
- Each member can only speak once during the discussion period of an agenda item, each speech will be limited to 1 minute. exceeding this time limit will result in the speaker being muted unless given special dispensation by the Chair.
- Once a Motion is made and seconded, the Motion Maker or it's Original Author may elaborate on the Motion and accept friendly amendments (5 minute lime limit).
- After the Chair has spoken the motion, discussion is opened and **begins** with 2 members opposed to the Motion and 2 members in favor of the Motion.

Voting:

- During voting, only the Chair, Meeting Manager, Vote Counter, and specifically designated volunteers may speak to the process of Voting.
- Requests for Information may still be made only if seeking information to guide their Vote.

2021 - Item B

TITLE: Removal of trusted servants

Co-Submitted by: Policies & Procedures Committee and current President of the Board of Trustees

Background/Origin: As currently written the Service Manual does not set forth a specific procedure to remove for cause, members of the MA World Services or A New Leaf Publications Boards.

Motion: That the following text be added to page 48 of the Service Manual v7.0, above the section titled “Actions Without a Meeting: Unanimous Written Consent,” to read as follows:

With a consensus of a majority of the Board of Trustees, written notice may be given to any person holding elected/appointed World Service level positions, including the MA World Services Board of Trustees and members of the ANLP Board of Directors, that they are in danger of being removed from their position. Reasons for such action shall include, but not be limited to, loss of qualifying sobriety, financial malfeasance, unexcused absence from two or more consecutive Board meetings, a persistent and generalized inability to work effectively with others, and/or discriminatory behavior towards others. Such written notice shall be sent by the President or designee giving the recipient time to respond and improve their service, as well as an opportunity to resign.

If said recipient has not acted to correct the problematic behavior within 30 days, the Board of Trustees may vote to remove said trusted servant by a three-quarters super-majority vote. These provisions supersede any provisions to the contrary in the foundation documents, including the ANLP Charter.

2021 - Item A

TITLE: Sponsorship pledge

Submitted by: The Simcoe Group, District 19

Background/Origin: This reading was originally instituted at the Main Hope Group in Toronto; to help new MA members understand what defines a proper and safe sponsor/sponsee relationship. It also serves as a testament to not only attending meetings, but to finding a sponsor and working the steps.

It is important to let newcomers know that sponsorship and working the steps are the purpose of the program of recovery in Marijuana Anonymous, This reading concludes by showing those in the meeting to whom to turn for Sponsorship.

Motion: That the “*Sponsorship Pledge*” be included in “Marijuana Anonymous World Service Manual,” v.7.0, Part 2, Chapter 8: in the following occurrences.

i) pg24: Suggested Format – Part 2 – Participation Meeting, No Break

AFTER: (The Basket is Passed and the 12 Traditions are Read)

Add: Our Journey of recovery is not something we should try by ourselves. Together we can do what we could not do alone. Can I ask _____ to read the “Sponsorship Pledge”

ii) pg 25: Suggested Format – Part 2 – Participation Meeting, With Break

AFTER: (The Basket is Passed and the 12 Traditions are Read)

Add: Our Journey of recovery is not something we should try by ourselves. Together we can do what we could not do alone. Can I ask _____ to read the “Sponsorship Pledge”

iii) pg26: Suggested Format – Part 2 – Topic Meeting, With Break

AFTER: (The Basket is Passed and the 12 Traditions are Read)

Add: Our Journey of recovery is not something we should try by ourselves. Together we can do what we could not do alone. Can I ask _____ to read the “Sponsorship Pledge”

iv) after the Twelve Traditions on Page 29

Add: Additional Readings - Sponsorship Pledge

"A sponsor is a fellow marijuana addict who is working the twelve steps, lives by their principles, and has a solid program they work in their life. With their wisdom and experience, they compassionately guide and inspire us in our journey of recovery. Experience has shown that having a sponsor is of great importance in recovery. We suggest you make it a priority.

Look for someone who is working a program you admire, and who you trust and respect. Avoid anyone with whom there is any possibility of a romantic relationship. If you're unsure about whether a person is the right sponsor for you, don't be afraid to ask whether they would consider being your temporary sponsor. In time you'll know whether the relationship is working and should be made more permanent.

May we please have a show of hands of all those who are available to act as sponsors?"

v) the Sponsorship Pledge be included as a handout as part of the NEW MEETING STARTER KIT

Sponsorship Pledge

A sponsor is a fellow marijuana addict who is working the twelve steps, lives by their principles, and has a solid program they work in their life. With their wisdom and experience, they compassionately guide and inspire us in our journey of recovery. Experience has shown that having a sponsor is of great importance in recovery. We suggest you make it a priority.

Look for someone who is working a program you admire, and who you trust and respect. Avoid anyone with whom there is any possibility of a romantic relationship. If you're unsure about whether a person is the right sponsor for you, don't be afraid to ask whether they would consider being your temporary sponsor. In time you'll know whether the relationship is working and should be made more permanent.

May we please have a show of hands of all those who are available to act as sponsors?"

2021 - Item D

TITLE: Add the word “spiritual” to “We strive for progress, not perfection” in “How It Works.”

Submitted by: John L., District 2

Background/Origin: When “How It Works” was written by Marijuana Addicts Anonymous (MAA, now MA District 2) in 1986, it was done quickly to make new members who had started in AA feel comfortable with the meeting format. Most of the founding members of MAA had an NA background, so had a limited understanding of all the important wisdom contained in the AA version. We wanted to compress the reading to one page as we also read “Who Is A Marijuana Addict” as well as “The 12 Questions.”

The original text of “How It Works” was later modified slightly to restate the first paragraph in the present tense. In February 1990, this version, including the agreed-upon wording of the MA Twelve Steps, was adopted by the MA General Service Conference.

After hearing the AA version many more times since then, I am aware that we neglected to include the word “spiritual” in “progress not perfection” like the AA version. The AA version states, “We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.” We can clarify the meaning in MA’s “How It Works” by adding the word “spiritual” twice so the sentence would read as follows, “We strive for spiritual progress, not spiritual perfection.” This makes clear the goal of our 12 step program which is spiritual growth. This sustains our recovery and allows us to do service.

Motion: Change the third sentence of the last paragraph of “How It Works” to read: “We strive for spiritual progress, not spiritual perfection” in every location it appears in the *Life with Hope* text and the MA Service Manual. Specifically, this change shall be made in the following locations:

- 1) In new printings and/or editions of *Life With Hope*, the first item in the appendices;
- (2) in the MAWS Service Manual v.7.0, page 28;
- (3) in the Spanish translation on page 103 of SM v.7.0; and
- (4) in the French translation on page 107 of SM v.7.0.
- (5) in pamphlet “Working the Program”
- (6) in pamphlet “Introduction to MA”

2021 - Item M

TITLE: Amend all MA literature and publications to be gender neutral, including the MA World Services website.

Submitted by: Heather C, a member of Districts 3 & 7, and co-sponsored by the Policies & Procedures Committee

Background/Origin: Consistent with Tradition 3, which states that “the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using marijuana,” this motion proposes to amend the language in *Life with Hope* and MA World Services’ pamphlets and corresponding pages on the MA World Services’ website to more accurately include and reflect *all* members of the fellowship by removing gendered language (such as “he or she,” “him or her” and “brothers and sisters”) throughout all MA World Services’ Literature, and replacing it with more inclusive and gender neutral language (such as “they” or “them” or “fellow addicts.”)

This motion is important to many members of the fellowship, especially those who do not identify as men or women, and who therefore do not hear or see themselves reflected in all of MA World Services’ current written materials. This motion is another important step towards helping all people feel welcome and included in the fellowship, consistent with Tradition 3.

The long form of Tradition Three states that:

“A person is a member if they say they have a desire to stop using marijuana. **No matter who you are**, where you came from, or what you did, you cannot be denied membership in Marijuana Anonymous. **To make any requirement for membership other than a desire to stop using marijuana could mean that some addicts would be denied the gifts the program has to offer.**”

For many addicts, MA is their last hope for a life free from the insanity of active addiction. **We do not want to create any barriers between ourselves and the addict who still suffers.** We are not willing to pronounce a death sentence on any of our struggling brothers and sisters just because they may not fit the mold of what we think our group members should be like.

The fact that there are no requirements other than a desire to stop using marijuana is a strength of MA. **After all, we learn from each other’s experiences; the more diverse our groups become, the more experiences we have to draw from. We accept young people, senior citizens, criminals, people with mental or**

physical challenges, and people from all religions, nationalities, races, and different walks of life. No one is excluded from MA.”

In 2016, a motion passed 14-1 to change language in the Marijuana Anonymous preamble from “fellowship of men and women” to “fellowship of people” for the same reason. This motion seeks to make the same type of change with respect to other types of gendered language that have been subsequently identified such as “he or she,” “him or her,” and “brothers and sisters” in all MA World Services’ materials, specifically in MA World Services’ pamphlets, including “About Sponsorship,” “Introduction to MA: A Meeting Format in a Pamphlet,” and “For Loved Ones.” *Even Tradition 3 itself* retains gendered language (“brothers and sisters”) that is in need of revision, so this motion seeks to change this language in the long form of Tradition 3 in the next printing of *Life with Hope* from “brothers and sisters” to “fellow addicts.”

To retain exclusionary gendered language such as “he or she,” “him or her,” and “brothers and sisters” is to violate Tradition 3 by creating a barrier between the fellowship of MA and many addicts who still suffer. Such exclusions weaken our fellowship, which is strengthened by the diversity of our members; most importantly, such exclusions deny the gifts of the program to many addicts who desire recovery.

In addition to the change made in 2016 to the preamble from “fellowship of men and women” to “fellowship of people,” many individual meetings throughout the fellowship have already made similar changes to their meeting formats and readings to remove phrases like “he or she” and “brothers and sisters” which are not inclusive. By amending the MA World Services’ pamphlets, website, and long form of Tradition 3 to be more inclusive of people of all genders, more new meetings would default to using inclusive language, helping to make *all* people who have a desire to stop using feel more welcome; these amendments avoid creating barriers to membership in violation of Tradition 3.

Motion: To implement the following changes to MA World Services’ pamphlets and corresponding pages on the MA World Services’ website immediately, and the following changes to *Life with Hope* in the next printing, the 4th edition:

1. Amend the “About Sponsorship” Pamphlet and corresponding page on the website immediately from:

“...a sponsor is a special person with whom **he or she** can discuss problems, ask

questions, and through whom **he or she** can gain an understanding of recovery through the 12-step programs.”

to

“... a sponsor is a special person with whom **they** can discuss problems, ask questions, and through whom **they** can gain an understanding of recovery through the 12-step programs.”

2. Amend the “About Sponsorship” Pamphlet, in the last sentence of the *What is the proper approach to sponsorship?* section and corresponding page on the MA World Services’ website immediately from:

“A sponsor is not responsible for anyone's sobriety but **his or her** own.”

to

“A sponsor is not responsible for anyone's sobriety but **their** own.”

3. Amend “Why H&I Panels?” Pamphlet P-07, under the *What is a Panel?* section and corresponding page on the MA World Services’ website immediately from:

“Each panel member shares experience, strength, and hope by telling **his or her** own story:....”

to

“Each panel member shares experience, strength, and hope by telling **their** own story:....”

4. Amend the “For the Loved Ones of Marijuana Addicts” Pamphlet P-15, in the first sentence of the *What is Marijuana Anonymous?* section and corresponding page on the MA World Services’ website immediately from:

“Marijuana Anonymous is a fellowship of **men and women**...”

to

“Marijuana Anonymous is a fellowship of **people**...”

5. Amend the “For the Loved Ones of Marijuana Addicts” Pamphlet P-15, in the *Who is a Marijuana Addict?* section and corresponding page on the MA World Services’ website immediately from:

“A marijuana addict’s life is controlled by marijuana. **He or she** loses interest in all else, their dreams go up in smoke. Marijuana addiction is a progressive illness often leading to addiction to other drugs, including alcohol. The lives, thinking and desires of marijuana addicts center around marijuana—scoring it, dealing it and finding ways to stay high.

Addiction is a progressive, long-term continuing problem. When an addict tries to stop using and fails because life without the drug is just too hard, that is addiction. Once an addict is convinced **he or she** cannot live without marijuana, the dependency becomes an obsession. When the addict uses even though **he or she** promised themselves they wouldn't, this is compulsion..."

to

"A marijuana addict's life is controlled by marijuana. **They lose** interest in all else, their dreams go up in smoke. Marijuana addiction is a progressive illness often leading to addiction to other drugs, including alcohol. The lives, thinking and desires of marijuana addicts center around marijuana—scoring it, dealing it and finding ways to stay high.

Addiction is a progressive, long-term continuing problem. When an addict tries to stop using and fails because life without the drug is just too hard, that is addiction. Once an addict is convinced **they** cannot live without marijuana, the dependency becomes an obsession. When the addict uses even though **they** promised themselves they wouldn't, this is compulsion..."

6. Amend the "For the Loved Ones of Marijuana Addicts" Pamphlet P-15, in the last sentence of the *Suggestions to Family Members and Friends of Marijuana Addicts* section and corresponding page on the MA World Services' website immediately from:

"Addicts often try to manipulate loved ones through the use of guilt, fear, and anger. This is a very common tactic used (both consciously and unconsciously) by the addict to get what **he or she wants** by taking advantage of the emotions of those closest to **him or her.**"

to

"Addicts often try to manipulate loved ones through the use of guilt, fear, and anger. This is a very common tactic used (both consciously and unconsciously) by the addict to get what **they want** by taking advantage of the emotions of those closest to **them.**"

7. Amend the Long Form of Tradition 3 on Page 77 of *Life with Hope* in the next printing (4th Edition) from:

"We are not willing to pronounce a death sentence on any of our struggling **brothers and sisters** just because they may not fit the mold of what we think our group members should be like"

to

“We are not willing to pronounce a death sentence on any of our struggling ***fellow addicts*** just because they may not fit the mold of what we think our group members should be like”

2021 - Item J

TITLE: Allow all MA members to observe and participate in MAWS Conference free of charge

Submitted by: Cheyney S, former MAWS Trustee

Background/Origin: The 2020 MA World Services Conference was held virtually (at long last). However, members who did not have the resources to pay \$100 were unable to attend, observe, participate, etc.

When the conference is held at a physical location, not only are any and all members allowed to participate, they are allowed to speak and participate free of charge. Why would we have it any other way for remote meetings of the Conference body?

The MA World Services Conference should remain free for any member who wishes to attend. The inverted pyramid dictates our members at large are the most important voices of all. Nothing should prevent these voices from being heard, especially something that unjustly penalizes socio-economic status.

Motion: Add the following statement to page 55-56 in Service Manual 7.0:

Although registration costs for the delegates and trustees may be set by the Conference Committees to cover the expenses of hosting a MAWS Conference, any member who wishes to attend and participate shall be allowed to do so free of charge, regardless of whether the Conference is held virtually, corporeally, or both.

Revised section shall read thusly

Conference Members

The Members of the conference are the trustees, delegates, and appointed or elected MA World Services committee heads and coordinators. Each district, under present rules, can send two delegates to the conference. In addition, there are trustees that were elected at the previous year's conference. Trustees are elected at the conference according to the Third Legacy procedure. (Appendix II—The Third Legacy Procedure).

Each conference Member has only one vote, no matter how many positions they may hold. Voting procedures are set forth in The Conference Charter of Marijuana

Anonymous and the Bylaws of MA World Services (see Appendix I: Foundation Documents).

Although registration costs for the delegates and trustees may be set by the Conference Committees to cover the expenses of hosting a MAWS Conference, any member who wishes to attend and participate shall be allowed to do so free of charge, regardless of whether the Conference is held virtually, corporeally, or both.

Contextual Statement from World Services Conference Agenda Committee: We recognize that last year's costs were too burdensome for some fellowship members so the fee has been reduced to \$25 for voting members and participating observers this year. We also anticipate a free tier of accessibility to the Conference for anyone who wishes to observe.

2021 - Item E

TITLE: Update language about sex and sponsorship in the sponsorship pamphlet
Submitted by: Amy, Member of District 8

Background/Origin: Language in the MA pamphlet “About Sponsorship” and on the [website](#) could be more inclusive to people who are LGBTQ and non-binary.

The current language is:

Should a sponsor be of the same sex?

Yes. In most cases this works best because it reduces the chances of emotional involvement and family complications that might arise. Often, the same-sex sponsor will better understand our gender-related issues.

Although the explanatory text includes “in most cases,” beginning with “Yes” favors straight people. In addition, “emotional involvement” and “family complications” are rather vague. Further, “gender-related issues” excludes people who do not identify as either/or male or female.

For comparison, NA and AA use more inclusive language, although both could be clearer and more inclusive:

NA

https://na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/litfiles/us_english/IP/EN3111.pdf

“A good rule of thumb is to look for someone with similar experiences who can relate to our struggles and accomplishments. For most, finding a sponsor of the same sex makes this empathy easier and helps us feel safe in the relationship. Some feel gender need not be a deciding factor. We are free to choose our own sponsor. It is, however, strongly suggested that we avoid getting into a sponsorship relationship that may lead to sexual attraction. Such attraction can distract us from the nature of sponsorship and interfere with our ability to share honestly with each other.” (pg. 3)

AA

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/p-15_Q&Aonspon.pdf

“A.A. experience does suggest that it is best for men to sponsor men, women to sponsor women. This custom usually helps our members stay focused on the A.A. program. Some gay men and lesbians feel an opposite-sex sponsor is more appropriate for similar reasons.” (pg. 10) and

“In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” (pg.12)

Motion: Change the paragraph on page 2 of the “About Sponsorship” pamphlet, on the MA app under Pamphlets, and on the [website](#).

From:

Should a sponsor be of the same sex?

Yes. In most cases this works best because it reduces the chances of emotional involvement and family complications that might arise. Often, the same-sex sponsor will better understand our gender-related issues.

To:

Should a sponsor be of the same sex or gender?

Some members find that they relate better to someone who is similar to them. Others feel that sex and gender aren’t deciding factors. However, it is strongly suggested that we avoid unhealthy attachments, including a sexual relationship, which could detract from the primary purpose of recovery.

FLOOR: The 2022 World Service Conferences to be Held Remotely

Submitted by: Nina S. (District 2), current MA World Services Secretary

Background/Origin: In 2013, the MA World Service Conference passed a motion to amend the Bylaws allowing remote participation at future conferences. In 2018, the Internet Trustee began a trial allowing remote participation for a small number of conference members whose extenuating circumstances prevented their in-person participation. This was continued in 2019 in the same hybrid form. In 2020, as a result of the COVID pandemic, the Board of Trustees was forced to quickly transition to an all-remote Conference using the Zoom platform. In December 2020, the Board of Trustees voted that, due to the pandemic, the 2021 World Service Conference will again be held remotely.

Our experience with the 2020 Conference demonstrated that it is not only possible but preferable to hold our World Service Conferences remotely to allow greater participation and benefit from significant cost savings to MAWS and to the Districts. The cost to World Services alone for the last two in-person conferences was an average of \$9,000. This does not include the expenses incurred by the host districts or by all the districts which sent delegates to these conferences. For the remote conference, the only costs incurred were minimal fees paid to the virtual platforms used to host the conference. World Services pays an annual fee to Zoom of \$149 for a full year of access (which includes at no extra expense free YouTube streaming which the Board plans to make available to the entire Fellowship at the 2021 Conference.) There was also a fee of \$37.50 to pay for an additional program to allow secret ballot Third Legacy voting for the Trustee elections. Although the cost of sending delegates to the Conference varies from year to year depending on factors such as distance and whether one or two delegates are sent, it is common for at least a quarter of District 2's annual expenses in years when it has not hosted the conference to go to sending delegates to the World Service Conference. In other In other words, had there been a virtually held conference in those years, District 2 could have contributed 75% more than it did to World Services.

The 2020 Conference was able to get through an extraordinarily full agenda and the virtual format allowed unprecedented participation by a large number of observers, in addition to the voting members (delegates, 1 ANLP Board member and trustees). The

average attendance for the last three in-person Conferences was 32 participants. Last year at the remote conference we had approximately 68 participants. Members of our Fellowship from as far away as Israel were able to observe and participate. The prohibitive cost of sending delegates from our more remote, new and/or financially challenged districts no longer was an obstacle to their full participation. Additional benefits of meeting remotely include the savings of travel time, allowing more meeting time, and avoiding diversion of funds to the conference which could otherwise be used to carry the message.

When it came time to elect our new 2020-21 Board of Trustees, there were many more qualified candidates to choose from. As a result of the expanded number of candidates and an amendment to the Bylaws allowing a flexible number of Trustees, we were able to elect a full Board of 11 Trustees and 2 alternates. In the past, there has often been a dearth of eligible candidates willing to serve, and people ended up on the Board who weren't able to fulfill the demands of the position. This year, on the other hand, we have an energetic and motivated Board which has been able to accomplish much more than has been the case in recent years.

The benefits to the Fellowship as a whole of having a more accessible and more economical conference are substantial. Those opposed to this change may argue for the value of the fellowship created by working together at a 3-day in-person conference. This is undoubtedly true but, experience has shown that it is also possible to build this camaraderie through a remote conference. The benefits greatly outweigh the disadvantages, and it is in the interest of the Fellowship as a whole to make this change.

Motion: That the 2022 Marijuana Anonymous World Service Conferences be held solely remotely, using a virtual platform, accessible through computers, tablets, and smartphones.

FLOOR: Ratify the MA Board of Trustees recommendation from the 1995 Conference that A New Leaf Publications be able to establish and maintain its own bank account, using the MAWS tax ID.

Submitted by: Thor H., current A New Leaf Publications Chair

Background/Origin: A New Leaf Publications (ANLP), under the ANLP Charter (Charter), is “the general publishing arm of Marijuana Anonymous World Services”. The Charter was adopted by the MA World Services Board in 1995. The Conference approved entry of the Charter as an appendix to the MA Service Manual in 1998, without ratifying its content.

The By Laws of MA World Services, through which the corporation derives its authority, makes no reference to ANLP, except as a historical source of voluntary contributions. ANLP has neither a Director/Trustee status, nor is it a designated committee of the Corporation. Neither the ANLP Board, nor any member thereof, is required to attend or has a voting authority at any meeting of the World Services Board of Trustees. The Charter, otherwise, provides for the independent operation of ANLP, except for the appointment of three (3) of its five (5) Directors by the Corporation.

At The 1995 MA Conference, the MA Board of Trustees reported that it had approved ANLP’s ability to establish its own bank account(s) using the MA World Services tax ID. ANLP has so operated since that time, and has been financially independent and solvent since its inception. It provides financial reporting to the Corporation and to its assistant accountant and bookkeeper, consistent with other entities (MA districts) using the MAWS tax ID.

Motion: Ratify the MA Board of Trustees recommendation from the 1995 Conference that A New Leaf Publications be able to establish and maintain its own bank account, using the MAWS tax ID.

FLOOR: Wants and Needs - Step Seven

Submitted by: Anonymous

Background/Origin: The understand of Gods wills and Self Will is sometime confusing, and was in my early recover. “Is this God’s will, or My will?”

I’ve heard it said that, “my will is what I **want** to do, God’s will is what I **need** to do”. The paragraph in Step Seven seems to contradict this statement. Saying that “As long as self-gratification and acquisition of our wants and needs was our number one priority, we could never gain a working faith in a Higher Power”

We suggest the following change.

Motion: change page 30 *Life with Hope, A Return to Living through the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Marijuana Anonymous 3rd Edition*

From:

As long as self-gratification and acquisition of our wants and **needs** was our number one priority, we could never gain a working faith in a Higher Power. This was impossible, even if we came to the program with the belief that God exists. As long as we relied first on our own selfwill, and based our lives around the pursuit of what we were convinced our needs were, reliance and faith in a Higher Power were out of the question.

To:

As long as self-gratification and acquisition of our wants and **self centered needs** was our number one priority, we could never gain a working faith in a Higher Power. This was impossible, even if we came to the program with the belief that God exists. As long as we relied first on our own selfwill, and based our lives around the pursuit of what we were convinced our needs were, reliance and faith in a Higher Power were out of the question.