# SUMMARY

## **Motions Passed:**

1. **Motion Tabled from 3/14/21**: to submit the following minor script change to include an optional paragraph (such as the following) to help inspire people to contribute to the MA Daily Reflections book (to be read only if time permits).
   1. *Optional*: Do you have a favorite quote from MA literature? You can write a brief personal reflection inspired by the quote. There’s a worksheet on [marijuana-anonymous.org](http://marijuana-anonymous.org/) under Literature - Daily Reflections Book (MADRB). You can submit as many as you want.
   2. **Motion was seconded. Vote: Yes:17, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passes unanimously.**
2. **Amended Motion:** There is a section in the meeting script that beings with “We suggest newcomers attend six meetings or more…” We add the following instruction, in italics before this section*. If no newcomers introduce themselves skip ahead to Meeting Norms*.
   1. The amended motion was seconded. **Vote: Yes:17, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passes unanimously.**
3. **Motion:** That GC gives permission to the Script Committee to write “that we do not endorse Narcotics Anonymous in the script.” The information will be posted on the Meeting Script website.
   1. The chairperson approved. **Motion was seconded**. **Vote: Yes: 17 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

## **Motions Failed:**

1. None.

## **Motions Tabled:**

1. None.

# Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer at 1:10 pm Eastern

## Readings:

1. [Read 12 Traditions](https://marijuana-anonymous.org/how-it-works/the-twelve-traditions/)
2. [Reconciliation Prayer](https://ma-phone.org/prayers)

## Roll Call:

1. 21 people in attendance (17 of those queued for roll call)

## Last Business Meeting Minutes

1. Minutes from Last Business Meeting were read.
2. Motion to approve as read. Motion was seconded. Approved by acclimation.

# Subcommittee and Service Reports:

## Web Administrator and Internet Subcommittee

1. Web Administrator Update:
   1. Website changes:
      1. Added 10 pm Thursday Meeting Listing to our meeting schedule and topics. Also added it to the MAWPM Script, Women in Recovery Script and added a script announcement for 3 weeks.
      2. Sent a request to MA World Services, which was confirmed, to add the Thursday Meeting to the Meeting Finder.
      3. Also put in a request to put in a request to change the verbiage on the Meeting Finder for Friday 10pm LGBTQ+ to be inclusive of all. Just like we use the wording for the Young People’s meeting.
      4. Added announcement page link to the MAWPM announcements with the MA Website Events Page, that came out recently, in the Carry the Message Newsletter.
      5. Updated the Speaker Tapes page per a member request and put MA Speaker Tapes with quotation marks so that the name of the podcast is more apparent.
      6. Updated the Chairperson List.
   2. Update as Web Admin
      1. Four months’ notice that the annual website fee will be $193.75 due on August 21, 2021. Notified a member, who had previously served as the Treasury Subcommittee Chair, they are aware and texted with the person who took up donations last year.
      2. A member is ready to collect the funds for this year.
      3. That is something that can be brought up for discussion. We collected the money in several weeks last year. We do not need to take up a collection anytime soon.
   3. Web Administrator term expires in September 2021.
      1. The current Web Administrator Assistant added a discussion to express an interest in the Web Admin position.
         1. Both Web Administrator (WA) and Web Administrator Assistant (WAA) end in September 2021
            1. If no one else wants to step up and be voted in the WAA has agreed to switch positions with the WA. The WAA would be the WA and the WA would then be the WAA.
         2. Want to have the positions of Web Administrator and Web Administrator Assistant posted to see if anyone in the group wants to step up and serve.
2. Comments from the group:
   1. Would it be possible to put in the announcements that the positions of Web Administrator and Assistant Web Administrator be listed as Open positions in the meetings for a couple of weeks or a set amount of time? Just in case someone else wants to step up and take one of those positions?
   2. The service positions are required to be read as a service announcement 2 months prior to current servants’ term expiring, which is September. Would like input from the Group Conscience.

## Script Committee (inactive)

## Chairperson Coordinator

1. Current open meetings
   1. **Tuesday 10am** (2 volunteers are chairing the meeting every other Tuesday through April). This meeting will need a chairperson beginning 1st Tuesday in May.
   2. **Wednesday 8pm** is open. Current chair might be willing to chair every other week.
   3. **Saturday at 12 noon** has a temporary chair every other Saturday through end of April. Will need a new chair every other week in May, or shortly thereafter.
   4. **Sunday Men’s Meeting** at 3pm EST is needing a new host soon. Current host has fulfilled the 6-month commitment.
2. Introduced the subject of writing an informational document to answer all the questions for people who are considering hosting a meeting. Would like the document placed on the website as a promotional/informational guide.
3. Once every 2 months have a meeting to invite all the chairpersons/hosts to review procedures for hosting a meeting.
   1. Example: sometimes people try to find a replacement host. The Chairperson Coordinator might have information pertaining to an interested candidate who would be a good fit in the schedule and the current chairperson is not privy to this information. The hosts have the best intentions; however, this can create confusion for the Chairperson Coordinator.
4. Discussion
   1. A member would like to create/help the subcommittee make the Q&A information document to be posted on the website.
   2. Host Meetings are also a good idea. Would like input from the Group Conscience for this idea.
5. Another suggestion by Chairperson Coordinator
   1. Every other Sunday, it is a requirement that every host should attend the Group Conscience meeting. Although people may have prior commitments.
   2. Proposes a both a weekday and weekend meeting for chairpersons/hosts to allow for varying schedules.
   3. Every two months produce a Newsletter for the meeting chairpersons/host of what is on the Group Consciences’ mind to inform those who cannot attend regularly.
6. Discussion Continued
   1. It is required for Meeting Chairpersons/Hosts to attend the monthly MAWPM Group Conscience Meeting.
   2. The Newsletter is a good idea.
   3. The Chairperson duties are already quite heavy. It would seem like something to be added to the description of the Chairperson Coordinator to add a Chairperson Roundup, bi-monthly. An hour meeting where the Chairperson can anonymously share feedback they are getting from the group. An opportunity for chairpersons to be aware of issues and how to handle them.
   4. Go over guidelines as a reminder to add to the Chairperson Coordinators responsibility.
   5. This meeting would be a venue to relay a lot of information about script changes or technical issues of the meetings.
   6. Guidelines already address many of these issues.
   7. An explanation to express why it is a good opportunity to be a chairperson.
   8. A member likes the idea of a Chairperson Roundup and wants to know if the group is ready to set a tentative date for that meeting?
   9. The position of Chairperson Coordinator is available. Reluctant to set a date because not everyone can attend. Wants to leave it up to the Group Conscience on how to coordinate the meeting.
   10. Would rather obtain every Chairpersons/Hosts Newsletter to send out a newsletter the 1st of every other month. The Chairperson Coordinator is tired of repeating the same information.
   11. Expressed concerned about time commitments for a meeting and Chairpersons/Hosts:
       1. are not showing up 5 minutes early to meetings or
       2. keeping time to 4 minutes for speakers and
       3. people who do not know how to use \*5 to mute.
       4. Not asking people to mute themselves.
       5. Or knowing how to stop interlopers from disrupting the meeting.
       6. Guidelines need to be reviewed and reinforced.
   12. Are there volunteers willing to serve on the Chairperson Roundup Subcommittee?
       1. 4 people volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.
       2. Chairperson Coordinator will chair the Chairperson Roundup meeting
   13. Chairperson Coordinator expressed their appreciation for all the volunteers who chair meetings.
       1. However, he wants to reinforce the guidelines and assist volunteers in proper execution of the meeting.
   14. Discussion
       1. A member expressed that they would like to have a meeting instead of a newsletter. A meeting would allow for an exchange of ideas.
       2. Asks if anyone else would like to volunteer for the temporary subcommittee to establish a meeting for all Chairpersons/Hosts once every couple of months or so.
       3. Another member stepped forward to volunteer. With a total of 5 volunteers.
       4. If you would like to join you can contact one of the volunteers or the Chairperson Coordinator.

## “A New Leaf” Liaison Report

1. Has been announcing the New Leaf Newsletter at meetings. Encouraging poems, short prose, your story in 1200 words and sobriety date (which is an eligible entry in the newsletter).
2. The NLNLL (New Leaf Newsletter Liaison) would submit the submissions to MA World Services in California. This submission would include the submitters’ email and MA World will respond to them via email.
3. Has only had 2 submissions.
4. The NLNL (New Leaf Newsletter) is always looking for submissions.
5. Would like someone to step in and chair the Friday 10 am meeting on 4/16. If anyone is available to be a substitute, please let the NLNLL gave out their phone number.

## Treasury (7th Tradition) Subcommittee - (Inactive)

## Podcast Administrator and Speaker Tapes Subcommittee

1. Unable to publish past speaker recordings and more recent recordings but is managing to start those tasks now.
2. Checked the Podcast Administrator (PA) service description to confirm service commitment terms. It is 6 months with an optional 6 months. The PA has been in this position for 8 months to date. They will continue to keep the position. If anyone is interested in the position, please give it some consideration now.
3. When the subcommittee met several weeks ago, they discussed contacting someone from MAWS.
4. Discussion: A member has written to them twice with no response. They may have the wrong point of contact. A member sent an email and again had no response. A member will go back to the Administrator of the MAWS Offices to get more information and start the process over again.
   1. We have archives from past conventions that we would like to put on the podcast, but we need permission from MAWS to publish these recordings.
   2. Communication has been unsuccessful with a trustee at MAWS. Therefore, a member will contact the Administrator at MAWS for assistance with this matter.

## District Service Subcommittee

1. A member did not have any new information to report.
2. Their name was offered up as a contact in MAWPM becoming a district. They have not heard from anyone. Please keep in mind they are not announcing anything regarding this matter. Unless you attend the business, meeting there would not be awareness of this opportunity.
3. The conference has been scheduled for the end of May.
4. We still have an opportunity to make a motion from the floor to become a district.
5. However, the agenda for the conference is exceptionally large.
6. A member is not sure what that means, the conference may not have time to take a motion from the floor.
7. The member is still open assisting in this opportunity. The member cannot chair this subcommittee.
8. We are running out of time. This may be something we will have to wait until next year to resolve. If we decide to move forward.

# Old Business

1. Motion Tabled: to submit the following minor script change to include an optional paragraph (such as the following) to help inspire people to contribute to the MA Daily Reflections book (to be read only if time permits).
   1. *Optional*: Do you have a favorite quote from MA literature? You can write a brief personal reflection inspired by the quote. There’s a worksheet on [marijuana-anonymous.org](http://marijuana-anonymous.org/) under Literature - Daily Reflections Book (MADRB). You can submit as many as you want.
2. A member spoke to the motion again. A member explained that there was a workshop that they attended to help write submissions for the MADRB. Writings are based upon a persons’ favorite quote out any MA approved literature. That is the starting point of writing a reflection. There is a worksheet you can use, and you only need a minimum a paragraph to write for a reflection.
3. They want the optional script announcement to be motivating. The announcement is currently worded in a way that is not informational or inspiring. It does not offer enough information about how to proceed with the process.
4. A member has the same feelings about many of the announcements. An audio announcement is different than when you are reading it.
5. For example: The announcement for the newsletter starts with instructions on how to email the NLNLL but that is said at the beginning of the announcement. A listener isn’t sure why the email is being given out. Then the explanation as to why the email was given out is stated. By then, the email has gone in one ear and out the other.
6. The motion was read as written above by the Group Conscience Chairperson.
7. Discussion:
   1. It only took 10 seconds to read.
   2. District 7 has a writing workshop for the MA Daily Reflections Book
8. **Motion was seconded. Vote: Yes:17, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passes unanimously.**

# New Business

1. **Motion** - There is a section in the meeting script that begins with "What happens at an MA meeting?" I propose that we add the following instruction (in italics) before this section. *If no newcomers introduce themselves, skip ahead to "Meeting Norms".*
2. A member spoke to this motion. I encourage anyone who can just pull up the script. That will help to understand what I’m getting at here. I will read a little bit of the script. So that it makes sense. We have this newcomer section: Before we begin sharing, we want to welcome any newcomers to the meeting… We will allow newcomers time to join the queue.
   1. Very often when this person is chairing there are no newcomers who enter the queue to introduce themselves. While there may be newcomers who are just reticent and just listening. I think there also might not be any newcomers. In that case, there really is no way for the chairperson to know. So, I would like the chairperson to skip ahead to the section: What happens at an MA meeting? People discuss their problems and what they did to recover. Within 4 minutes. If you just continue listening. You are going to hear what happens at an MA meeting. If you are in fact a newcomer who is just listening in, if you are not a newcomer and have attending MA meetings before, you know what happens at an MA meeting.
   2. Then this subsequent stuff about we suggest newcomers attend six meetings or more. Again, I think that if there are in fact, no newcomers on the meeting, its unnecessary. That is the motivation for the motion. A member read the motion once again and reiterated where in the script that person would like to skip a part of the script and move ahead.
3. Motion was seconded.
4. Discussion
   1. After reading the script. A member understands not wanting to read those portions. And not being a chairperson very often, the member does not have a whole lot of leg to stand on in that, it does not make him feel weird reading that portion of the script. A couple of things came to mind:
      1. When people are new to the meeting a lot of times they do not know how to use \*61 to get into the queue, even though it is announced, or are ashamed, afraid, or just shy to participate in the meeting.
   2. Another member directed one member to the portion of the script that the motion wants to omit. Then the Group Conscience chairperson reiterated the meaning and location of the motions’ intended omittance. Which are two paragraphs and a sentence.
      1. Discussion continued: A member said they would personally vote against editing the script. Then read part of the script. The reason for disagreeing for this change, the member attends singular/multiple meetings a day, they have heard this repeated, however, hearing it reminds the member that they are in a group and that they can do it with the group and that the members’ problems with marijuana.
      2. Sometimes people think they are not newcomers after six months. The member would want to hear this part of the script after several decades of hearing this part of the script.
      3. A member was open to talking about suggesting how many meetings people go to and stay on the line to receive support and all that. A member thinks that it might be strange to read that section, but it still hits home with someone who goes to a lot of meetings, this section still hits home.
   3. A member discussed that they were not sure how the felt about this motion the more they listened to the discussion about it. A member stated that they were one of those newcomers who stayed silent on the lines for a long time. A member came in and just listened. A member did not introduce themselves until they felt comfortable. Just because people are not introducing themselves does not mean they are not there. Also, that addition to the script was not just for newcomers. The script committee discussed the fact that at the time there were a lot of meetings where people were sharing about topics unrelated to recovery. That was a reminder as to what we are all doing here and what we did to recover. The reason a member is torn is that the script is long. There are a lot of announcements, there is a lot of verbiage at the beginning. Ten whole minutes of talking, bookend. To start the meeting and to end the meeting. Anything we could do to make the script smaller a member supports.
   4. A member thinks that the What happens at an MA meeting is more general and even kind of goes with meeting norms and that the next paragraph and the “We suggest newcomers” and “please join us Wednesdays” that is specific to newcomers. Maybe that should be optional at the discretion of the host. Not a hard and fast rule that you omit it. But if there is no one who announces they are a newcome, that it could become optional.
   5. A member thought to suggest the same things. To leave in “What happens at an MA meeting,” and if no newcomers introduce themselves to keep in the original motions’ wording. But take out or have it optional “We suggest newcomers attend six meetings or more” as well as, “Please join us Wednesday.” It is only 4 sentences. But as another member has pointed out, every sentence takes time.
   6. The meeting chairperson asked the member who brought the motion to the floor if they would like to amend their motion to reflect the discussion?
   7. A member agreed to amend their motion.
   8. The meeting chairperson proposed If no one introduces themselves as a newcomer, to skip ahead to Meeting Norms. To be placed after repeatedly.
   9. The chairperson asks again if the member is willing to amend their motion?
   10. A member agrees.
5. **Amended Motion:** There is a section in the meeting script that beings with “We suggest newcomers attend six meetings or more…” We add the following instruction, in italics before this section*. If no newcomers introduce themselves skip ahead to Meeting Norms*.
6. The amended motion was seconded:
7. Discussion continued:
   1. What a member wanted to know what is behind this? We suggest newcomers attend six meetings or more to help determine if this group might be right for you. It might sound a little weird. But I think is language to get newcomers into the meetings. It could be five or four. It is just so the newcomer will have a better grasp on our fellowship. Also, there is a second part: “To help determine if this group might be right for you.” I think that is the language the member sees very often in the literature to help get the newcomer in a meeting. A member thinks that this is one of the primary purposes we have. To get newcomers in. A member thinks getting rid of apart of that, of course it is good to check if newcomers are in a meeting, and then we make sure we read that. But a member is not sure we should take it entirely out or get rid of some part of it.
   2. Meeting chairperson reiterates the motion and explains it to the member for clarification. Only to skip ahead if no newcomers introduce themselves, not to permanently remove anything from the script.
   3. A member understood the explanation.
   4. A member made a comment that there is an awful lot of option and stuff in italics in the script and they do not know how confusing that is to chairpeople. The more complicated they make it, the more optional pieces in the script could become confusing.
   5. Point of Order: A member wanted to know if we can ask for opposition before the vote.
   6. Is there any opposition to this motion? No opposition.
8. **Vote: Yes:17, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passes unanimously.**
9. **Motion** - To remove Narcotics Anonymous’ literature from our morning 7:00 am meetings.
   1. It is clearly breaking tradition.
10. Tradition 6 from *Life with Hope*: “Likewise, we do not endorse other Twelve Step fellowships. It is true of course that we share the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and work in a spirit of cooperation with each other. However, we are entirely independent. The use of literature, speakers, or announcements from other fellowships at our meetings may constitute an implied endorsement of an outside.”
    * + - 1. A member discussed that they put this motion to order because there are two paragraphs in Tradition Six. The member has been to many meetings. MA helped saved their life. Reading a meditation every morning is great. The member read Tradition Six third or fourth paragraph in full. (Which is about affiliation and endorsement.) When a member goes to the morning meetings they are disturbed by the readings from another fellowship.
          2. The member has no replacement for the daily readings currently.
          3. Reading Narcotics Anonymous literature in our meetings is a clear violation of the Sixth Tradition.
        1. **Motion was seconded**.
11. Discussion:
    1. A member commented on the home page of MA-Phone.org there is a statement about suicide prevention. Because it is an issue. We have the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number, stating they are available 24x7. There is a disclaimer, and it says, “MA-Phone.org and Marijuana Anonymous do not endorse the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Information provided for convenience. Likewise, we have a disclaimer on our Speaker Tapes page that says, “In keeping with the Sixth Tradition MA and MA Phone meetings are not affiliated with and do not endorse any podcasting platform. Member proposed that we continue to use the NA literature and write a piece for the script that says, “This is not an endorsement of Narcotics Anonymous.” The member thinks a lot of chairpeople ad lib, because we do not have a daily reflections book. Perhaps we could add a little piece to the script just as an introduction for the 7am meeting.
       * + 1. A member commented that they whole heartedly agree with the last commenter. They think it is considered an endorsement. But if we put the caveat on there, just like our Doctor’s Opinion about marijuana addiction, there is a caveat on there that says this is not an endorsement of MA for Dr. Seppala or Hazelton. The member thinks that until we have our own literature, this is the thing that is the big issue, if we are using the Big Book but we have Life with Hope, then why would we be doing that? We have wonderful literature. But in this case, we do not have a daily meditation book yet. Putting the caveat would be the first start. Secondly, looking at the other traditions. Were we are autonomous accept in matters affecting other groups or MA as a whole (Tradition Four), Tradition Six talks about, “As long as it doesn’t divert us from our primary purpose.” And the reading is all about recovery. The member does not think it necessary diverts us from our primary purpose. The member went to a meeting in New York last week and thought for sure they would be using the MA Literature and instead they were talking about the Big Book like it was our literature and the only thing that bothered me about it was that they did not put that little caveat on there (I’m going to reference from our grandparent program). When people share, they can do that, in terms of our meeting. We are autonomous and we can technically it is breaking tradition, but at the time we do not have our own meditation reader. I think putting the caveat on there might be the way to handle it.
           2. The chairperson asked the member who brought the motion to the group what they thought about the idea of adding the caveat to the script.
           3. The member who brought the motion agreed and said this was why they brought this motion to the group. The member chose to rescind the motion with the caveat that we make those changes right away. Discussed whether to write it out in this meeting or get someone on a subcommittee to write out the information. Rescinded the motion and left it up to the Group Conscience to figure it out.
           4. Chairperson asked what was needed to add it to the script as it is for the speaker tapes. The chairperson thought that we did not make a motion or vote on adding this information to the script. The chairperson asked if it could be added by the Script Committee?
           5. A member replied, if GC gives us permission to write the announcement and post it, then yes, we can do it.
12. **Motion:** That GC gives permission to the Script Committee to write “that we do not endorse Narcotics Anonymous in the script.” information and post it.
    1. The chairperson approved. It will make sense in the full discussion on this.
    2. **Motion was seconded**. **Vote: Yes: 17 No: 0 Abstain: 0**

## Motion to Adjourn. Seconded.

## Meeting Ended at 2:20 pm Eastern Time

## Serenity Prayer