# SUMMARY

## **Motions Passed:**

1. None.

## **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. 1 Host and 11 people in attendance (10 of those queued for roll call)

## Last Business Meeting Minutes

1. Minutes from Last Business Meeting were read.
   1. Motion to accept the minutes as read.
   2. Motion was seconded.
   3. Approved by acclimation.

# Subcommittee and Service Reports:

## Web Administrator and Internet Subcommittee

1. **Website Updates:**
   1. Updated the Chairperson list.
   2. Adding the optional part about daily reflections in the script announcements.
   3. Inserting the line about, “If no newcomers introduce themselves skip ahead to Meeting Norms.”
   4. Added to script for the 7am meeting, “This meeting uses the Just for Today daily reading from Narcotic Anonymous. Marijuana Anonymous is not affiliated with and does not endorse any other twelve step program.”
      1. That was written just after the meeting by the WA, one other member helped write it and one other member approved it.
2. **Web Administrator Updates:**
   1. Term expires in September.
   2. Last month the WA & WAA proposed to swap roles. They will post a script announcement two months prior to September to see if anyone else is interested.
   3. The annual website fees of **$193.75** will be due on **August 1st**. Look at starting and announcing the fundraiser next month.
   4. No meetings for Internet and Website subcommittee.

## Script Committee (inactive)

## Chairperson Coordinator (CC)

1. Meeting Vacancies/Openings:
2. Nothing much to report. Schedule is always fluctuating. Always a work in progress.
3. Brought this up in the last business meeting, not of any great importance. I’ve been wandering lately if we should change the minimum commitment time.
   1. It seems like every chairperson goes one way or the other:
      1. Almost never complete the whole six months
      2. Or people get to six months and can practically carry on indefinitely, willingly indefinitely.
      3. That’s not at all to say that people…Life is complicated and between work, family life and health concerns and such a variety of reasons, people often bow out a little early. Almost always graciously. Can afford a little lead time. And when they don’t it’s fine too…Getting substitutes and stuff.
      4. The two ideas I’ve had sort of, in my head. I wonder if we would, it would be well served to attract more people to host meetings if we considered saying that the minimum requirement is a **3-month** **commitment,** and you could **reup it 3 separate times for a total of one year**. Which would be similar but different than what we do already.
      5. Or I wonder if we could maybe consider a minimum and a maximum. We could maybe just say, look it’s a **minimum 2-month commitment but feel free to commit for 1 year.**
   2. A strange occurrence has happened in the last 2 weeks. I do not know what to think of this. A person came on the phone meeting about 2 weeks ago. Several of us had never heard this person on the meetings before. And attended the meeting in fellowship, they suggested they would like to host a meeting. And they have, I don’t know, a hundred plus days clean of marijuana. And one thing led to another and that person is going to start hosting a meeting this week. And strangely enough, I’ve been on a lot of meetings in the last two weeks, and I continued to not hear this person at any meetings. I asked them specifically about it, as I was kind of getting them ready to host a meeting, they suggested that they are on more meetings than what the CC realizes because they just listen a lot. I do not know how we would maybe rewrite the minimum requirements. I think it is a one in a million shot, maybe not that drastic, maybe one in a thousand shot, that somebody could be trying to do something nefarious. I give people the benefit of the doubt that everybody is well meaning. I was just wondering if anyone has any thoughts about this. There are a couple of people on this phone meeting that have had somewhat of a discussion about this with. And I am wondering if anyone has any feedback as to anything that has ever gone wrong in this sort of situation? These are my comments, I suppose, on that.
   3. Business Meeting Chairperson asked for comments/discussion.
      1. Discussion:
         1. A member commented thanking both the BMC/CC for their service. In terms of the service time commitment.
            1. One lowering the from 60 days. It used to be 45 days and we changed it because there is still a lot of confusion in the detox. Sixty days is already.
            2. CC interrupted: Let me just say, I did not mean to reference the minimum requirement time for the 60 days. But the commitment for how long they would host.
            3. A member continued: The member thinks that this is a really great idea in the sense that maybe people are really reluctant to walk into any commitment in early recovery. I’d encourage people, my only issue would be, for a long time, lately we’ve seem to have less of this happening. We used to have to play a lot of whack a mole. There were always meetings looking for a chairperson. By lowering the time commitment of how long someone is chairing a meeting this means there will be a lot more turnover and a lot more possibilities of open meetings. But that said, there might be more people willing to do them if there is a shorter time commitment. That might be something to temporarily try and see what happens. In terms of the people chairing the meeting that the phone lines, I was just thinking of the requirements could be the chairperson, I think this is on the Women in Recovery (WIR) side, it’s not on MAWPM**. We have a requirement that they have to attend at least 30 days of phone meetings but I can’t seem to find written anywhere in the MAWPM guidelines**. Generally it would be something that could be a service position. You’d have to be a member of MAWPM for a little while to at least know what a meeting is like before you make a commitment to the group.
            4. Another member added to the discussion: The member likes the idea of what the WIR have done. The member thinks that this was an oversight on MAWPM’s part when they were making the job description. The member doesn’t know if it is appropriate or not, or if they have to wait another month for that. How do you really monitor that, that person has really been there for 30 days. It could be monitored, in a way (probably meaning with access to the console). The member thinks it is a good idea to make sure that people who want to do service, know what the service is about. **Maybe we can discuss it some more and move our way over to including those requirements in the job description.**
            5. The CC added that the person they were speaking of, they spoke with them at some length. They feel very confident that this person has the best of intentions. What the CC gleaned is that this person is very committed to a different 12 step program and the CC feels like this person is trying to take a service commitment to satisfy some suggestion from their sponsor of a different program. It’s a weird experience. The CC has been doing this about 6 months and every single person who has hosted a meeting was someone the CC has heard on the meetings before and was a regular attendee and is a part of the community. This is just a one-off weird experience that has been playing out the past two weeks.
            6. The Group Conscience Chairperson added that the CC should go with their gut on this one and they would say that if the CC is feeling a little nebulous about this person then you just hold off for a while on giving that person a meeting to chair. We can find substitutes if it is a meeting that needs it. We have enough people who are willing to step in. I’ve learned that the older I get the more I listen to my intuition.
            7. The CC added that they have already held off for a while and now this person is tentatively committed to hosting a meeting. The CC is considering using the GC Meeting as cover to say that they brought it up in GC and we decided collectively to say no. For whatever it’s worth that person does have the host code. The CC feels this person is well intentioned and isn’t up to anything nefarious. It’s just the CC has had two long and thoughtful conversations on the phone with this person, it just seems so odd that the CC doesn’t hear this person participating regularly on the phone meetings.
            8. Another member added: Thank you for your careful thought on this whole process. As far as qualifications for a chairperson. Here in NY the homegroup I am in the qualifications are 30 days for the chair and 90 days for any speaker. But that does not apply to MAWPM. I like the idea of asking the person to be a member of the MAWPM group for 30 days. So that they could get a sense of what the meetings are like. It’s not an in-person meeting so we can’t see their body movements. We cannot see their behavior or what they look like. We can hear them. For them to know how the MAWPM group functions. We have a script we try to follow it. There is a lot of individual variation in that. When I hear meetings, I hear a general flow. I don’t know how we would know if they were going to 30 meetings and enough people would hear them participating. We don’t know exactly what everyone’s sobriety time is, it’s a matter of trust.
            9. Another member added: What feels right to them is to proceed with caution. This feels like a singling out. I would hate to see somebody be alienated from the group, or even worse to go back out because of something like this. I think before telling someone, “well, we all talked about this.” If we did something like participating in the MAWPM group for 30 days as apart of the service description then that would feel more like something that applies to everyone, instead of being exclusive.
            10. **The GCC added: It sounds like we want to consider adding that to the job description. If someone wanted to make an agenda item for next months’ Group Conscience, which is the process of how we need to make that happen. We can close on that idea. Thanks everyone for their comments.**

## Group Conscience Chairperson Report

1. It has been a year and next month will be the last month they will be chairing, regardless. Next month is the last month they will be available. If they have to they can get a temporary chair, even someone on the meeting could chair, but it would be nicer to have a smoother transition. Please talk to your fellows and mention it ,if you can, that **this position is OPEN**. The GCCP would appreciate it.

## “A New Leaf” Liaison (NLNLL) Report

1. The NLNLL reported that things are going okay. There are very few submissions. The member did get a poem and passed it along. They will follow and see when it gets published.
2. The NLNLL does hear people say, “capital A, capital N, capital L.” The ANL@ma-phone.org is not case sensitive and it does not need to be announced as such. If you are chairing a meeting do not worry about the way you say ANL@ma-phone.org.
3. The NLNLL does keep announcing that people can submit writings about themselves and their recovery.

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

1. Inactive.

## Podcast Administrator and Speaker Tapes Subcommittee (PCA/STS)

1. A member was deputized earlier and is speaking on behalf of the PCA/STS.
2. There is nothing to report with the podcast.
3. They have been recording every speaker on Saturday. They have the speaker tapes all ready and up on the Google Drive ready to go. In a timely fashion they are being posted. It usually takes 2-3 weeks to get recordings posted.
4. The recordings are going well.
5. They will probably end up having a spreadsheet where people can look to allow people who are Speaker seekers, podcast administrator and the recorder and the chairperson will know in advance if it is okay to record and broadcast recordings. This will help the work processes flow better.
6. Does anyone want to do any recordings or be apart of the committee just speak up.
7. A member asked what the recordings entail.
8. The deputized podcast administrator explained that it would mean showing up on the phone meetings every Saturday night. The recording is generally done by the chairperson. Once it is recorded it goes into editing, which takes editing software. That is basically what the recorder position is. It is someone who makes sure it is recorded. Like right now for example: They do a backup recording just in case it does not get recorded. And takes out other noises or anything that needs to be edited out and then joined back together. Then, once it is edited it’s put into a shared drive and then the shared drive is accessed by the Podcast Administrator who posts it in podcasts. Also, the recorder makes sure that the broadcast is available for MAWPM. The member said that they could talk offline to see if the member would be interested in doing any part of the recording/broadcast functions.
   1. **A member suggested that there be a brief announcement because they are sure that this is a skill set that a lot of our fellows have and might be interested in getting involved in a service commitment where they can work within their own schedule vs being a chairperson where they are required to work at a specific time**. We could just put an announcement out there and people with editing and music experience might jump at this position.
   2. **The GCCP asked the deputized podcast administrator to draft an announcement to be placed in the announcements portion of the script.**
   3. The deputized podcast administrator said that because the person would have access to the control panel that the person needs to be a member of the group for a while and add trusted servant as well. And add time parameter as agreed upon by the Group Conscience. A person in this position could do many nefarious things. As a group we need to decide – or as a subcommittee – we need to decide and bring it back to the group.
   4. **The Group Conscience Chairperson said that we should get this on the agenda for next months meeting.**

## District Service Subcommittee

1. A member said that there isn’t much to say. Hopefully this will be the shortest Group Conscience Meeting ever. No one is really talking about the group becoming a district and we do not have an announcement to raise awareness about this subject. Therefore, nothing has really happened.
2. Related to this. On **May 28-30th is the annual MAWS conference**. If we were, if we were a district, we would send a delegate to vote on our behalf on any issues. Basically, this is the Group Conscience Meeting for MA as a whole. There is already an agenda available. This year, because it’s on Zoom, observers are welcome to attend. Anyone in MAWPM who is curious as to what a district does and what happens at a business meeting at the MAWS level, anyone can attend. This year it’s going to be on Zoom. There are two different ways to participate: You can be a **participating observer**, this means, you can speak and comment on motions, you can make amendments on motions, you just cannot vote). As we are not a district, we have no vote. There is also a **viewing observer**. This means you will be sent a link watch the proceedings. It is mandatory that you attend the training to attend the conference. There are two more training sessions. They had one yesterday (5/8/21). If you don’t complete the training, they won’t let you in. This is because this really will mess up and complicate the voting process and the order of things. It’s three days of non-stop business. If people do not know what is happening and we get bogged down with questions, it can really affect how proceedings go. They recommend that you have a **service sponsor**. If you have never been to a MAWS conference before, that you have someone you can touch base with that has attended in the past, that you can take question to or get clarification if you are confused about procedures. That is what the member wanted to announce. If anyone from MAWPM wants to attend as a viewing observer, the member would be happy to help in any way that they can. If you have any questions. It is an interesting experience, and it might allow us to get some interest in becoming a district. Or at least get some idea of what it means to show up as a delegate and what it entails.

# Old Business

1. None.

# New Business

1. None.

## Motion to Adjourn. Seconded.

## Meeting Ended at 1:46 pm Eastern Time

## Serenity Prayer