

## **Marijuana Anonymous World Services and Hazelden Publishing**

The Literature Committee (LitCom) of Marijuana Anonymous World Services (MAWS), the MAWS Board of Trustees, and A New Leaf Publications (ANLP) have created this document to explain the relationship between LitCom, ANLP, and Hazelden Publishing, a subsidiary of Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.

Currently, LitCom creates and proposes changes to literature of Marijuana Anonymous (MA), and ANLP carries out the actual physical changes. The ANLP Board is the publishing arm tasked with publishing and distributing MA literature. The ANLP Board is made up of fellowship members who are approved and appointed by the MAWS Board of Trustees. The Literature Trustee works with the ANLP Board to ensure that the work that needs to be done for our MA literature is being carried out.

Hazelden Publishing handles many types of books to address physical and behavioral addictions and related problems, and offers literature for the recovery from these problems. Hazelden reaches a large audience and it was thought that an association with them would help the publications of MA reach a much larger population than our current distribution and publication by ANLP. ANLP has experienced significant challenges in the past with fulfillment of book orders and *A New Leaf* newsletter distribution. This is thought to be due to a lack of enough volunteer MA members to be of service and burnout of members who have been in service for a long time.

Hazelden Publishing offers 12 step recovery books (publishing and distribution services) for the fellowships of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, and prints books for a variety of subgroups of people seeking recovery. Hazelden's catalogue of literature is seen by countless people each year. In addition, Hazelden works with vendors (Amazon, etc) to boost the visibility and availability of recovery books to the addict who still suffers but has not yet found MA or our website. Associating with Hazelden Publishing would result in wider visibility for our literature and our fellowship, and ensure reliable distribution of literature to the addict who still suffers inside and outside our rooms.

The ANLP Board and MAWS Literature Trustee have worked for over two years on a proposal to outsource ANLP's publishing and distributing functions for the *Life with Hope* (LwH) book and *Life with Hope 12 Step Workbook* to Hazelden. From a concept, to a research committee, to a dedicated Hazelden project committee, every aspect of the project has been discussed, reviewed, and contemplated by dozens of trusted servants. The 2018 MAWS Conference body approved the project to move forward without further Conference approval. Detailed discussions have continued since that time, weighing the pros and cons of all aspects of the proposed migration to Hazelden Publishing.

A draft contract has been presented by Hazelden for our consideration which the ANLP Board has reviewed and is currently seeking legal counsel to assist with final review. We

are considering a two-year agreement with clauses to terminate if there are breaches in contract by either side. Under the proposed contract, MA will retain full rights to and control the content of all MA literature, and Hazelden will publish and distribute LwH and the LwH 12 Step Workbook. This publishing agreement would not allow MA to continue to provide downloadable versions of our literature (LwH book and workbook) online for free. In the proposed contract, we retain full control of the management and content of the MA mobile app which includes full versions of the LwH book and workbook (though not downloadable).

We do not know yet if the prices for our books will change. As of this printing, Hazelden is offering to pay MA a revenue share of 50% of Net Profits on print editions of works, and 60% of eBook editions. MA will be able to buy a generous quantity of books at cost to have available for Public Information (PI), Hospitals and Institutions (H&I), and at MAWS events (Conferences and Conventions).

There will be no changes to the text of LwH and the LwH 12 Step Workbook initially; however, the plan is to redesign the cover of LwH when a new printing is done. This proposed redesign includes a multi-colored, glossy cover for LwH.

In summary, LitCom and ANLP believe that the association with Hazelden, due both to their professional alliance with addiction and recovery and their business capability that exceeds our current volunteer model, will benefit MA because our literature will reach a much larger audience, which is in service to our primary purpose. This is an important consideration because there is an increasing number of addicts desiring recovery who are not familiar with MA; this would reach out to many of them. MA seeks to uphold our traditions and to maintain group conscience in service to our fellowship first and foremost. Hopefully it is clear that we have thoughtfully and carefully addressed these concerns, and will continue to do so because unity is paramount to our fellowship.

Yours in service,

*Marijuana Anonymous World Services Board of Trustees*