

2018

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

BRIDGING

THE

GAP

Spring/Summer
Newsletter

TEMPORARY CONTACTS

the mountains are calling

September 7th thru 9th 2018

What is the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend ?

Since the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A. members have been helping problem drinkers bridge the gap between correctional facilities and hospitals and A.A. meetings in their home town.

The Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend is totally focused on the second half of our primary purpose — helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety . We do this by helping patients and inmates meet with an A.A. contact when they are released.

The BTGWW newsletter, annual workshop and digital resource library are some of the tools that we share to help us learn from each other.

Continued on page 2

register online at www.btgww.org

(This newsletter is meant to be confidential for use within Alcoholics Anonymous)

What is the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend? Cont.

During the weekend you will meet A.A.s just like yourself from all over the U.S.A. and Canada focused on the exact same thing.

This year GSO will be represented by the Correctional Facilities Staff and she will share her own sobriety story, what new things are happening at the NYC office, and how the Corrections Desk works with Bridging the Gap.

There will be A.A. presentations about the BTG successes (as well as the struggles and solutions). There will also be panels of professionals from both the correctional and the treatment fields talk about how we can both help those who get released and discharged find our help. There is always time for questions and answer sessions with each presentation.

And there is always a large hospitality room with refreshments and a place to really have fun and learn more first hand from others.

The elected Coordinator, Alternate Coordinator and committee members invite you to join us in Denver this year and share your experiences with us.

The Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend is fully self-supporting thru registrations and contributions from AA members

What a privilege to continue to be a part of the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend, serving as Coordinator for the 2018 and 2019. It was great to serve as the Alternate Coordinator with Matthew in 2016 and 2017.

Matthew and I had the opportunity to meet in December to transfer information and accounts, but more importantly, to sit and marvel at the journey that AA and Bridging the Gap has taken us on. Thank you, Matthew, for the living example of 12th Step work and for your friendship.

Since the workshop in Minneapolis last September, I have been given the opportunity to share, face to face, the important message of the Bridge the Gap Workshop Weekend with our friends in California, Utah (of course), Nevada, Arizona and Colorado. Since February, I have met monthly with the Area 10 Host Committee, on conference calls and face to face at an Assembly in Colorado Springs. They are energized and are doing a fine job in preparing for our September Workshop. They are excited to meet you!

The GSO representative, Diana L, has been contacted and is eager to be a part of our 2018 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. The attendance and participation of a representative from GSO allows us to learn about the wealth of resources we can use to carry the message, plus, your dedication and positive energy is carried back with them to New York.

The Host committee is providing Spanish translation for our Workshop this year. Please spread the word to our Spanish-Speaking servants that may wish to attend the Workshop in order to learn more about Bridging the Gap in their communities. *Ven y comparte con nosotros como podemos ayudar.* I hope that says something like 'Come and tell us how we can help'. The Host committee has great events in store for us, along with their willingness to share their experience, strength and hope.

It is my sincere hope that you can be a part of the 2018 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in Denver. It is vital to the Newcomer, to your Bridging the Gap committees and to you. Please contact me with any questions you may have or for information on attending and being a part of this important event.

We need a location for the 2019 and 2020 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. Hosting the Workshop is *the* best way to enhance your local Bridging the Gap efforts - meeting Servants from all over the United States and Canada beneath the same roof as your Bridging the Gap Servants. There is no better way to share the Spirit of Fellowship. A Host Bid guide is included in this Newsletter and on the BTGWW.ORG website.

Thank you for allowing me to be of Service.

Pete G.

coordinator@btgww.org

435-590-9126

Hi to Everyone

I first became aware of Bridging the Gap in 2009. This was the year before I sobered up. I was staying at the same hotel as the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend and I stumbled into the wrong room. I sat in the back and listened to them talking about alcoholism and recovery and helping people find their way to A.A. The next year I quit drinking and Corrections and Bridging the Gap was the part of service that I was automatically drawn to because of those couple of hours sitting in the back of the wrong room.

Since 2011 I have attended every Workshop Weekend. From attending this workshop I was able to take back enough information to help implement the creation of our Standing BTG committee in Northern Illinois Area 20. The continued dedication of the members working directly with helping people get to A.A. is always inspiring and energizing. They are absolutely the hand of A.A. that is reaching out.

It is a documented fact that ex-inmates who get to A.A. immediately upon release from a correctional facility are better able to stay ex-inmates and become a productive member of society. If your Area or District does not have a working BTG Temporary Contact committee in place, this is the perfect weekend to find out how to start one in your area and get the support and encouragement you need.

One of the largest requests and discussions across the country is how to conduct a Bridging the Gap meeting—there is no universal suggested guideline and often time areas and districts spend their time, energy and resources by trying to reinvent the BTG wheel. I will have a rough outline for the workshop to review for creating a guide that can be used by any area, district or group for conducting a BTG meeting.

At this workshop I also look forward to reviewing the digital library and creating a plan for making it's content a more user friendly tool for those developing and working with Bridging the Gap.

The future of Bridging the Gap is what I strive for. As your alternate coordinator, that is my mission. Please bring your BTG experience, or lack of experience, to the workshop and help us shape the future of Bridging the Gap.

Dan L.
Alternate Coordinator

We are excited to host the 2018 Bridge the Gap Workshop Weekend in beautiful Denver, Colorado September 7th thru the 9th. Registration is open! The conference is for everyone! If you interested in learning more about Bridge the Gap and this important 12-step work, please plan to attend.

The conference will be held at the Westin – Westminster which is an easy light rail ride from Denver International Airport. Greeters will be on hand to get everyone to the conference with ease. To book your hotel room, please call 303.410.5000 and refer to the Bridge the Gap Workshop Weekend for the special rate of \$129.00 plus tax.

The host committee is busy planning speakers and panels to discuss both the treatment and corrections aspects of Bridge the Gap. During the weekend you will hear from those who do the work of bridging the gap, professionals in the fields of treatment and corrections and also from those who have benefited from this important work.

On Saturday, District 32 will host a pot-luck picnic close by for a Fellowship lunch!

Bridge the Gap efforts by Alcoholics Anonymous go back as far as 1934 and there is a rich interesting history, this saga of sobriety will be presented during the weekend.

We hope you will take part in the opportunities of the weekend to network and build relationships with trusted servants doing this important work so we may continue to carry the message.

Please register early!! The registration form can be found online <http://www.btgww.org> Pre-Registration is \$35

Rob O.
Host Coordinator

Greetings Trusted Servants,

In the spirit of rotation, it's been an honor and pleasure serving you as your coordinator for the past two years. This has been the best opportunity for me to serve and grow in my sobriety. Through all the phone calls, emails, and conversations with you all, this journey has truly helped this Alcoholic.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Laura, and the host committee from Minneapolis, MN. You made last year's workshop by far one of the most memorable. Also want to thank Patrick C. from GSO Treatment, Special Needs Desk for attending and sharing with us his journey in Alcoholics Anonymous. As a group of people that love to serve others, I think we all do a great job.

At this years BTGWW, the body elected Pete G. as the next Coordinator for 2018 & 2019. He has served with me the past two years as my Alternate Coordinator, and will do an excellent job I know. Thank you Pete for helping me this year with everything and I wish you the best with your new position.

Last, I'd like to thank Cheri for her continued support and hard work keeping the website updated and running smoothly. Much of your efforts go unnoticed, but I want to say personal "Thank You" for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous. You make a difference to many!

We had a total of 80 registrations at this year's event. And with the all the expenses incurred with traveling, lodging, and paperwork we still came out ahead of last year's totals. This is great news! Thank you all again for everything and allowing me to serve you.

Matthew— BTGWW Coordinator 2016-2017

2018-2019 BTGWW OFFICERS

Coordinator

Pete G.

435-590-9126

coordinator@btgww.org

Alt. Coordinator

Dan L.

630-913-8888

altcoordinator@btgww.org

Non-Rotating Officers

Webmaster

Cheri J.

(816) 591-2924

webmaster@btgww.org

Archivist

Craig B

(314) 894-9427

archivist@btgww.org

Host Committee

Chair

Rob O.

host@btgww.org

The digital library has not been updated for a few years. The library is a collection of documents that the different Areas use for Bridging the Gap. Please send anything you use for holding a BTG meeting for treatment clients, inmates or professionals to we can continue to share information.

Send to webmaster@btgww.org.

Also a method for keeping track of the results of requested contacts has been talked about for several years. A new system will be presented by Area 36 during the website portion of the workshop.

From the

**Web Administrator's
Keyboard**

Westin Westminister Denver

10600 Westminster Blvd,
Westminster, CO 80020

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
28th Annual
BRIDGING
THE
GAP
Workshop
Weekend
TEMPORARY CONTACTS

September 7-9 2018

Westin Westminster Denver

Hosted by Denver Area Central Committee

For hotel reservations call (303) 410-5000 or

The 28th Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend will consist of presentations and discussions on BTG topics of interest to the registered participants. Those who attend are AA's involved or interested in 12th step work through various General Service and Intergroup Committees like Treatment, Corrections, CPC, PI, H&I, etc. A.A.'s from across the U.S. and Canada will attend, many sharing their experiences on BTG topics. This is a self-supporting workshop supported by contributions for the printing, mailing and coordinating expenses through the year as well as hotel meeting room. CDs will be available

\$35 Pre-Registration Donation \$40 at the Door \$25 Day Pass

Total Submitted: \$ _____ I am interested in purchasing CD's

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Service Position: _____ Area#: _____ District #: _____

I am willing to give a presentation on the following topic: _____

Accommodations-Special Needs? _____ Staying at hotel: Yes No

Return registration form and check to: BTGWW, P O Box 1194 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Any questions contact Pete G. at 435-590-9126 or coordinator@btgww.org or

Host Committee Chair host@btgww.org you can also register online at www.BTGWW.org