

2017

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
**BRIDGING**  
*THE*  
**GAP**  
TEMPORARY CONTACTS

*Summer  
Newsletter*

*Join Us In  
Minneapolis  
September 8-10<sup>th</sup>*

*register online at*

***[www.BTGWW.org](http://www.BTGWW.org)***

A.A. members, groups, intergroups, districts, conference areas, GSO etc. for many decades have been helping problem drinkers bridge the gap between hospitals, institutions and correctional facilities of all levels and Alcoholics Anonymous. We are an informal group from many of these A.A. entities. The contact points are used to get patients and inmates an A.A. contact when they arrive home. The BTGWW newsletter, Annual workshop and Resource Library are other tools that help us learn from each other. The elected coordinator and alternate, plus committee members invite you to share with us. The workshop is self-supporting.

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

## *In this Issue*

Coordinator's Comments  
Host Committee Activities  
Tech News  
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Greetings Trusted Servants,

I'm Matthew, alcoholic. I am your (BTGWW) Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend Coordinator. I hope this newsletter finds you well. I want to take this opportunity to invite all Corrections Chairs, Treatment Chairs, and those Alcoholic Anonymous members at large that volunteer for their local Bridging the Gap Committees to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual BTGWW. Please see attached flyer.

We are preparing for this years workshop in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 8, 9, 10. We are excited to let you know that our host committee has been doing a great job finding speakers for the workshop, organizing volunteers to help with the event, and working with Hilton Hotel to make sure all of our needs are met.

Please take the time to fill out your registration and send it in as soon as possible. We need to make our hotel reservations soon as well. There is a block of rooms that need to be reserved by August 1<sup>st</sup>, in order for us to meet our agreement with hotel.

We have a full agenda for the workshop this year. Patrick C. from GSO Treatment and Accessibilities Desk will be our guest this year. Look forward to hearing from him and all that is going on with GSO. Also will be holding elections for next panel for the BTGWW. Please let me know if you're interested in being a trusted servant for this event.

If you have any questions for me please give a call, text, or email.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Matthew L.

BTGWW Coordinator

coordinator@btgww.org

## Suitable Substitute

The Bridging the Gap program, especially for those who attend the National Bridging the Gap workshop, practices the parameters directly from Chapter Eleven – A Vision for You.

The part of that chapter that asks "Do you have a suitable substitute?" is answered in the Big Book by "Yes, there is a substitute and it is vastly more than that, It is the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous". Later on the page, it talks about alcoholics dying helplessly near you.

Bridging the Gap can, and does, help to change that. When we take the opportunity to 'Give of Ourselves' by attending National, Area, District or Intergroup events devoted to helping those less fortunate than we are – we *are* practicing the principals spoken of in Chapter Eleven. We make lifelong friends and are bound by 'new and wonderful' ties.

Bridging the Gap, this 'grassroots' part of the Fellowship that has enriched our lives, is all about helping others so that they may rise up and help others. Those of us that are privileged to share one weekend a year together know exactly what it is to see this miracle in practice.

My hope is to see old friends *and* I am excited to make new friends during the 2017 National Bridging the Gap Workshop in Minneapolis this September. Make plans to be there or to have your Area, District or Intergroup represented. Join Us! Bring your unique and vital energy and then share it with your Fellows!

## 2016-2017 BTGWW OFFICERS

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## 2017 Host Committee

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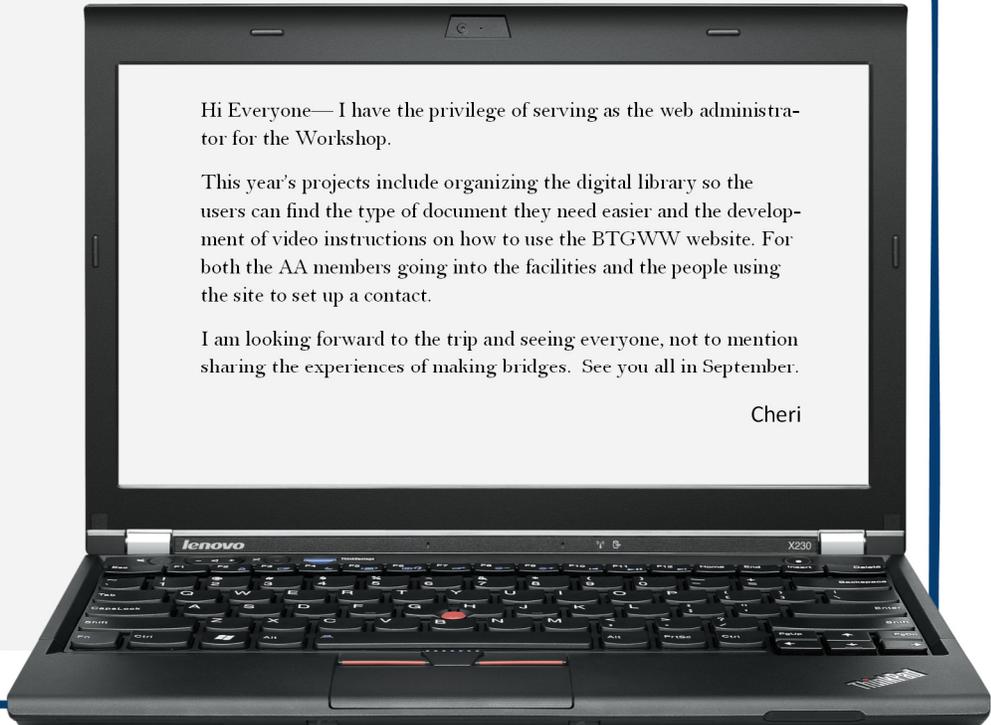
Greetings from Minneapolis, location of this year's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. My name is Laura S. and as Host Committee Chair, I, along with my co-chair, Jim V., will make every effort to ensure that your experience in our city is an enjoyable one. Upon your arrival at the Minneapolis airport, a hotel shuttle will meet you and bring you to the hotel and take you back to the airport for your return trip home. The hotel shuttle will also be available to take you to the nearby Mall of America should you desire to shop, dine, or do some general exploring while you are here. Our hospitality suite at the hotel will be serving nutritious snacks and meals throughout the weekend, and an on-site restaurant and in-room dining will also be available. If you have any questions, you will be able to find us at the registration table; we will be happy to help you in any way that we can. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, please let us know if you would like to attend an AA meeting on that day and we will gladly make the necessary arrangements for transportation.

I attended my first Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend two years ago in Park City, Utah. That experience fueled my passion and I have since become heavily involved in bridging the gap between alcoholics in Corrections facilities and Alcoholics Anonymous on the outside. It is my mission to do what I can to help provide a pathway for a sober transition from inside to outside and continued recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. I have seen first-hand that it works! Many AA members have approached me and told me they remember me coming to the facility to help them obtain an AA contact and that this was how they got started in Alcoholics Anonymous after they left their facility. Bridging the gap is just another way that AA can reach out and help the still suffering alcoholic in Corrections and Treatment facilities. If you have an interest in being of service in this way, I encourage you to attend the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. Not only will you have a chance to make an impact in an area of need, you will leave with the tools and resources necessary to design a program on your own if you do not currently have one in your area or district. For those of you who are already involved with or who have existing committees, your attendance places you in a position to share valuable experience with others.

Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend features an exciting line-up of presenters, including the Treatment/Accessibilities representative from the General Service Office. He will also be the speaker for the Saturday Night Open Speaker Meeting. You will hear from professionals in the fields of Treatment and Corrections, AAs who are doing this work, and those who have benefited from our local bridging the gap program.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend provides time for innovation, creative problem-solving, education, and fellowship. I am looking forward to seeing old friends from past BTGWW events and meeting those of you attending for your first time. I am available to answer any questions you have about your stay and help with concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact me at the phone or email below.

Laura Skaalrud  
Area 36 Correction Chair  
BTGWW Host Committee Chair



Hi Everyone— I have the privilege of serving as the web administrator for the Workshop.

This year's projects include organizing the digital library so the users can find the type of document they need easier and the development of video instructions on how to use the BTGWW website. For both the AA members going into the facilities and the people using the site to set up a contact.

I am looking forward to the trip and seeing everyone, not to mention sharing the experiences of making bridges. See you all in September.

Cheri

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
*27th Annual*  
**BRIDGING**  
*THE*  
**GAP**  
Workshop  
Weekend  
TEMPORARY CONTACTS

**September 8-10 2017**

**Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport,  
3800 American Boulevard, Bloomington, MN 55425**

Hosted by Area 36 Southern Minnesota  
For hotel reservations call (952) 854-2100. Refer to Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend  
for special rate of \$105.00 plus tax for single/double occupancy

The 27th 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 for purchase, even if you are unable to attend.

\$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, 6200 Rustic Hills Drive, Rocklin, CA, 95677

Any questions contact Matthew L. at (916) 899-1908 [coordinator@btgww.org](mailto:coordinator@btgww.org) or  
Host Committee Chair [host@btgww.org](mailto:host@btgww.org) and register at [www.BTGWW.org](http://www.BTGWW.org)