

# 2023

## Summer Newsletter

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

# BRIDGING THE

# GAP

TEMPORARY CONTACTS

Bridging the Gap is a program through Alcoholics Anonymous that helps individuals leaving correctional or treatment facilities become acquainted with A.A. and attend A.A. meetings in their hometown after they leave their facility.

The Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend event is focused on sharing our experiences and developing new ideas.

The BTGWW Newsletter, Annual Workshop and Resource Library (available on our website at [www.btgww.org](http://www.btgww.org)) are tools that help us learn from each other.

Our committee members invite you to join us and share your experiences bridging the gap.

This workshop is self-supporting through registration fees.

This newsletter is confidential for use within  
Alcoholics Anonymous.

## Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend 2023

## September 8-10 Houston, TX

### *In this issue...*

2023 Hotel Information  
2023 Workshop Information  
2024 Workshop Information  
2023 Registration Flyer

**Register online at**  
**[www.btgww.org](http://www.btgww.org)**



Sheraton North Houston  
George Bush  
Intercontinental Hotel

15700 John F Kennedy Blvd  
Houston, TX 77032

Reservations 281-442-5100  
Group ID: Bridging the Gap

Guest Room Rate \$89 (plus tax ).  
Free Parking and WiFi.  
Free shuttle from the airport

Cutoff date is August 25, 2023.

Rate is also available 3 days before and  
after the workshop

*New in 2023*  
*Saturday Night*  
*Banquet*

*\$5 discount when*  
*you include the*  
*banquet*

*Banquet reservations must be*  
*received by August 20<sup>th</sup>*

**2023-2024 BTGWW OFFICERS**

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**HOUSTON HOST COMMITTEE**

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## ***From the BTGWW Coordinator***

We look forward to seeing you at our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in Houston Texas from September 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. Presenter Areas in the US and Canada will share how they Bridge the Gap, focusing on how they've formed their committees and the steps they take to connect those in Treatment and Corrections facilities to Outside Alcoholics Anonymous and how they cooperate with professionals in facilities.

You will hear from speakers who have benefited from Bridging the Gap programs and those involved in Bridging the Gap Twelve Step service work. The General Service Office Corrections Assignment Representative will talk about their work and will be the speaker at the Saturday evening Speaker Meeting. Our Technologist has been hard at work creating a Bridging the Gap App for your devices and she will discuss how the app can be used. As always, we have our business meeting open to all attendees. The Houston host committee is preparing to welcome you. They will have a generous hospitality suite and are offering a Saturday dinner banquet. Please read their article in this newsletter.

Whether you have a combined Treatment and Corrections program, or the term for your program is Bridging the Gap, Temporary Contact Program, Prerelease, Contact on Release, our weekend workshop is for you.

Lastly, we want to hear from you if you are interested in giving a presentation on your Bridging the Gap program.

If you have questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [coordinator@btgww.org](mailto:coordinator@btgww.org). You can register online at [www.btgww.org](http://www.btgww.org).

Laura S, Coordinator, Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend

## ***From the BTGWW Alternate Coordinator***

Good day to all the past, present, current, and potential future Bridge the Gap family members. My name is Rob O and it is a pleasure to reach out and introduce myself as alternate coordinator for the 2023 BTGWW in Houston, TX. Bridge the Gap has played an important role in my sobriety. When In 2015 the opportunity came about for me to sit on the Denver Central office operating committee as part of the treatment committee and was given another opportunity to rotate into the Bridge the Gap treatment chair where that committee was put in the position to host the 2018 BTGWW in Denver Colorado. Since then, another opportunity came about to do some work with Area 10 (Colorado) corrections committee also as a Bridge the Gap Chair. As the date gets closer to the next BTGWW Houston September 8-10 we are getting the weekend sorted out and events in place for an informative, interactive, and exciting weekend. We're talking panels, speakers, presenters, both current and former attendees which will include a review and go over what's happening in the Bridge world to date. Both corrections and treatment play a part in this vital road of recovery, and each will have a role in the weekend's festivities. Hope to see as many of you as possible to help us all make the bridging process as effective as possible when the hand of AA is reached out to.

Rob O, Alternate Coordinator, Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend

## *From the BTGWW Webmaster*

Lately I have been getting more questions about the workshop website BTGWW.org. So here are some current statistics and some ideas for going forward.

Total visits over the last 12 months - 18,083 of which 10,000 were visiting for the first time. Another 8,000 people were return visitors.

48% of the visitors use a computer – the rest are accessing the site on a mobile device. 31% of the people coming to the site find us on Google.

We have had hits from all 50 states and Canada. More people visit from New Jersey but visitors from California spend more time on the site.

The last major revision of the BTGWW website was in 2012. The look of the website was refreshed. An interactive map was developed and we began using the area service structure for requests. Requests for a temporary contact that come thru BTGWW.org are automatically forwarded to the designated area BTG/corrections/treatment person that each area has elected/appointed for that position. The digital library was moved from CD format to the website to make the information more readily available between workshops. In 2017 we added online registration for the annual Workshop Weekend.

After looking at the stats I believe it's time for another update. Originally the site was designed with the idea that the staff professionals in the correctional and treatment facilities would be submitting the requests on behalf of the clients or persons in custody. With 52% of the site visits being from a mobile device, that concept seems to have changed. In correctional facilities the case manager or release coordinator is probably submitting the requests from their office. But with HIPPA rules it would make sense that clients in treatment facilities are submitting their own requests from their own phones. I can't prove it. The site stats don't get that specific. But that would be my best guess.

Over the next three months I will be looking at making the site more mobile friendly. The map works fine on a desktop. Not so much on a phone. The request form and the digital library also need to be more usable from a phone.

If you have other ideas for additional information that could be added to the site to help the hand of AA be available for people wanting help getting to a meeting please email me at [webmaster@btgww.org](mailto:webmaster@btgww.org) with your suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you all in September in Houston. Everyone be sure to pack your phones so you can check out the new mobile friendly site at the workshop. 😊

Cheri J  
BTGWW Webmaster

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**2024 BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP WEEKEND**  
Area 40 Montana  
September 6-8  
FairBridge Inn, Suites and Big Sky Convention Center  
Missoula MT

## **From the Host Committee Chair**



### **Greetings From Houston Texas where we will be hosting the 2023 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend.**

*The Southeast Texas Area 67 (SETA) Treatment Facilities Committee (TFC) and Correctional Facilities Committee (CFC) are working hand in hand to provide you a Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend (BTGWW) to bring about a motivating experience sure to inspire enthusiasm. Bridging the Gap (BTG) programs are used to connect individuals leaving treatment and correctional facilities with Alcoholics Anonymous through temporary contacts.*

*SETA's TFC program has been active for twenty years. The Committee works with multiple facilities to provide BTG meetings as well as facilitating the process of 'Bridging'.*

*The BTG program was initiated in 2011 with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) by the Intergroup CFC. BTG is adapted in our Area's CFC through what is known as "prerelease" and the temporary contact program. SETA CFC hosted the National Corrections Conference in 2019 where attendees shared experiences about carrying the message on the inside and BTG.*

*Both of our Committees match the person in a treatment or correctional facility with an outside AA volunteer by using the BTG volunteer database and the prerelease program. The evolution of BTG in our Area has strengthened the bonds between all SETA Committees dedicated to caring the message that best serves those coming out of either a treatment or correctional facility.*

*We are honored to have the opportunity to host the 2023 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend this year and encourage you to register for the Workshop and to secure your room at the hotel for the group rate of \$89 per night as soon as possible. Ask for the BTGWW room rate. You will also want to get your Saturday evening banquet ticket at the time of your registration to ensure you benefit from the full experience. The Sheraton North Houston Hotel is near the George Bush Intercontinental Airport and offers a shuttle 24 hours a day. For those driving or renting a car, parking is free. Come enjoy our Texas hospitality September 8<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. It's an experience you won't want to miss. "Life will take on a new meaning."*

*If you have any questions or concerns – reach out to Roy by calling the phone number or emailing Roy at the contact information below.*

Roy E.

(832)998-4992

[ryocover@aol.com](mailto:ryocover@aol.com)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
**2023 BRIDGING**  
*THE*  
**GAP**  
Workshop  
Weekend  
TEMPORARY CONTACTS

**September 8th - 10th 2023**

**Sheraton North Houston**  
**15700 John F Kennedy Blvd Houston TX 77032**

**Hosted by Area 67 Southeast Texas**

For hotel reservations call Reservations at 1-281-442-5100  
Refer to Group **BTGWW** for special workshop rate of **\$89 plus tax**

The Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend consists of presentations, discussions, shared experiences, and breakout sessions on BTG topics. Go to [btgww.org](http://btgww.org) for online registration and more information about Bridging the Gap and the workshop

**\$35 Early Bird Registration only**       **\$40 Registration only after July 31st**

**\$90 \$85 Registration & Banquet**      *Banquet Registrations must be received by August 20th*

Total Submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  I am interested in purchasing recordings

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Area #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Accommodations-Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Return registration form and check to: BTGWW, 2107 Watson Ave St. Paul MN 55116

*Any questions contact Laura S. at (612) 309-8385 or email [coordinator@btgww.org](mailto:coordinator@btgww.org)*