

2024/2025

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
BRIDGING
THE
GAP
TEMPORARY CONTACTS

*Winter
Newsletter*

In Alcoholics Anonymous Treatment and Corrections service, Bridging the Gap programs connect alcoholics leaving Treatment or Correctional facilities with Alcoholics Anonymous in their home communities by providing them with temporary contacts.

Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend events are full weekends focused on sharing our experiences, Bridging the Gap, and developing new ideas that enhance our Service to those requesting temporary contacts.

BTGWW Annual Workshops, Newsletters, and Digital Resource Library are tools that help us learn from each other.

Registration fees ensure BTGWW events remain self-supporting.

This Newsletter is confidential and is for use by members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

2025-2026 BTGWW OFFICERS

Coordinator Rob O.

(303) 887-6141

coordinator@btgww.org

Alt. Coordinator Amanda S.

(514) 531-2261 (Canada)

altcoordinator@btgww.org

Non-Rotating Officers

Tech Support Cheri J.

(816) 591-2924

webmaster@btgww.org

Archivist Craig B.

(314) 894-9427

archivist@btgww.org

**BRIDGING THE GAP
WORKSHOP
WEEKEND
2025**

September 5-7, 2025

**Register before July 31st
for Discount**

See the flyer in this Newsletter.

or

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.BTGWW.ORG**

IN THIS ISSUE

From the BTGWW Coordinator

California Here We Come

2024 Workshop Recap

New in 2025

2024 Financial Report

2025 Flyer

A NOTE FROM THE 2025 BTGWW COORDINATOR

Good day to all our fellow Bridgers out there in the land of recovery. Let me introduce myself. My name is Rob O. Your proud BTGWW coordinator of the 2025 Los Angeles and 2026 workshop. What a wonderful ride this adventure has been for me, and of course, I hope, for all who have had the opportunity to participate in this vital service through the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

My experience with BTGWW dates back to Tucson 2016, Minnesota 2017 and as the host committee chair for 2018 in Denver. We had fantastic time in Houston 2023, and a quick shout out to our 2024 Montana crew for hosting in Missoula. Another wonderful weekend filled with new and innovative bridge ideas, experiences, panels, speakers.

I am looking forward to meeting some old friends and making many new ones, as we do at each new Workshop Weekend. Lets not wait to the last second to register. Visit the btgww.org website to get signed up and check this task off on your to do list. See you in California.

In love and service

Rob O.

2024/2025 BTGWW Coordinator

2025 – CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from sunny Greater Southern California Area 5, your host for BTGWW 2025.

As you enjoy celebrating the holidays unwrapping gifts and preparing feasts and festivities, your host committee is excited to write this letter welcoming you to BTGWW 2025. First and foremost, I'd like to say thank you to the steering committee for trusting Area 5 to host the Workshop. It is an honor and a privilege to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous and the committees that continue to do the twelfth-step work.

I wanted to share an update on the amazing work that has been done so far since the last time we met in MT. We have secured a hotel. We will be located airport-adjacent in Ontario, CA. Our host committee is compiling a list of all the fun things to do and great places to dine so that you can make the most of your visit with us.

The steering committee is currently preparing an exciting agenda where you can expect to find presentations, discussions, shared experiences and various breakout sessions on BTG topics. We can't wait for you to join us and experience it all.

While Area 5 is relatively new to the BTGWW, our work in connecting people in hospitals and institutions with members in AA has long been established since AA's inception. The evolution of BTG and H&I in our area has continued to strengthen the bonds between those potential AA members currently living in a facility and AA members ready to answer that twelfth-step call.

The closest airport for arrival is Ontario International Airport (ONT) which offers free shuttle service to the hotel. We look forward to seeing you. Please be on the look out for more details regarding the hotel and registration at btgww.org

Mark S -

Area 5 - BTGWW Hosting Committee Chair

host@btgww.org or 626-238-5073

2024 BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP WEEKEND RECAP

PARTICIPANTS

Seventy-Seven individuals attended the 2024 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in Missoula, Montana. They came from 15 States and two Canadian Provinces, and a total of 20 General Service Conference Areas, as follows:

One from Arizona, Area 3	Two from Southern Minnesota, Area 36
Two from LA County California Area 5	Three from Western Missouri, Area 39
Two from California Northern Coastal, Area 6	Thirty-Five from Montana, Area 40
Seven from California Northern Interior, Area 7	One from Southeast New York, Area 49
One from Southern California, Area 8	Two from South Carolina, Area 62
Three from Colorado, Area 10	One from Southwest Texas, Area 68
One from South Florida, Area 15	Three from Utah, Area 69
One from Northern Illinois, Area 20	Three from Western Washington, Area 72
One from Kentucky, Area 26	Three from Alberta Canada, Area 78
One from Northern Michigan, Area 34	One from Montreal Canada, Area 87

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE PARTICIPATION

For most of our 32 years of events, it has been our pleasure and good fortune to have a member of the GSO Staff in attendance. The participation of GSO staff provides valuable information about how the office works and what happened during the year or might happen regarding Treatment, Corrections and BTG at the Trustees' and Conference levels. This year Kelly C., working the Treatment/Accessibilities/BTG/Remote Communities Desk joined us for the Workshop in Montana. She showed a video of the office and current staff to help put faces to the names we have heard so often. She also opened the Workshop on Friday evening, sharing her experience, strength and hope in recovery and to being a "special worker" for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you, Kelly.

FRIDAY EVENING MEET AND GREET SESSION

On Friday evening, we held our annual "Meet and Greet" session. This time is devoted to turning the floor over to workshop attendees who share what they do in their Bridging the Gap programs. They may have Treatment, BTG, Prerelease, Contact on Release or combined Treatment and Corrections and Bridging the Gap programs. Those programs may be part of their Area's or District's structure, part of their local Intergroup/Central Office structure, or part of an H&I structure. This session is always lively and lasts well into the night.

PRESENTATIONS

There were 5 Panel presentations on Saturday. They included "How to Build a Committee by James from Area 26, How to Train volunteers by Marlene from Area 10, BTG Networking in your Area by Heather from area 62, BTG in Hospitals by Angela from Area 40 and Bridging the Gap Online by Danielle from Area 72

Kelly C, GSO Staff, gave a presentation on GSO and how the Treatment Desk works with Bridging the Gap. Saturday Evening Kelly was our Banquet Speaker sharing her personal experience, strength and hope.

2024 BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP WEEKEND RECAP

BUSINESS MEETING

On even years the Workshop has its elections for Coordinator and Alternate Coordinator for the next two years. The new Coordinator is Rob O. from Denver Colorado. Rob served as the Alternate Coordinator during the previous rotation.

Our new Alternate Coordinator is Amanda S. from Lachine, Quebec Canada. This is the first time the Workshop has had a Canadian Officer.

SITE BIDS AND BUSINESS

We had 2 bids for future Workshops. Area 5 (Los Angeles County, California) for 2025 and Area 78 (Alberta, Canada) for 2026.

There was much discussion about the rising costs of hotels for meeting rooms and sleeping rooms.

Area 5 presented a preliminary proposal to hold 2025 in Los Angeles. There were lots of questions from the membership that had not been included in the proposal by the hotel. The Area 5 bid team was confident they could work out the details with the hotel for a financially viable contract.

Area 78 presented a preliminary proposal for 2026. The hotel prices (after conversion to American dollars) seemed more than what the workshop could afford, primarily the requirement for a \$4000 Canadian (~\$2900 American) deposit. Area 78 was going to work more on their bid and resubmit in 2025.

During the business meeting that followed the bid presentation, discussion was held concerning increasing the amount of registration to cover the increased costs of the upcoming years. Cheri gave a detailed list of typical expense items was given to the members along with projections for 2025 and 2026 including the increased costs for meeting spaces. A motion was made to increase the registration costs for the weekend up to \$75 (American) if needed. The motion was seconded and passed. A minority opinion was given that it was too big an increase for one year. The minority opinion did not change any votes. A request was made to consider a one-day pass at a lower fee be included in the registration and that was agreed to.

A new item for discussion was brought up to also make the 2025 weekend hybrid. There was much discussion about the details of how to make 2025 a hybrid event. At 4:40PM the allotted time for the business meeting had already been exceeded and further discussion was postponed until later that evening after the banquet.

TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

Gavin O, from Area 6, gave a presentation on how their area uses AirTable to coordinate their contact list and the facilities they are taking meetings into. For more information on using AirTable you can email Gavin at goconotron@gmail.com

Cheri J of Area 39, who serves a non-rotating position on the BTGWW committee, reviewed BTGWW's website and gave out the user and password for 2025. She discussed her plans for 2025. She also presented an online website add-on for coordinating contact lists. This add-on is designed so it can be added to any existing website. Cheri's email is webmaster@btgww.org

NEW FOR 2025

As requested the BTGWW steering committee, working with the Host committee, has arranged for virtual attendance at the 2025 workshop.

Also available this year will be a day pass (for Saturday) for a reduced rate. Banquets may be added to the day pass with registration.

After much discussion the workshop attendees also approved raising the registration up to \$75 if need be to cover costs in 2025. Because so many people ordered the banquet last year we were comped the meeting rooms. This allowed last year's expenses to be less than estimated and gave a financial cushion for the steering committee to feel safe with only raising the registration to \$60 (\$50 if you register early) and testing how day passes and virtual attendance will the workshop's goal of being self-supporting each year.

A full report and recommendations for future workshops will be given at the business meeting when in-person registration and hotel block fulfillment numbers are available.

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

income			
early bird registrations x \$35	0	35	\$0.00
pre-registrations x \$40	68	40	\$2,720.00
walk-in registrations x \$40	11	40	\$440.00
banquets x \$50	50	50	\$2,500.00
contributions			\$200.00
		total income	\$5,860.00
expenses			
zoom			\$159.90
website			\$125.00
PayPal fees			\$225.82
banquets	50		\$1,624.00
hotel			\$1,133.00
supplies			\$246.73
printing			\$100.00
shipping			\$0.00
literature			\$100.00
committee			\$0.00
GSO speaker			\$232.13
		total expenses	\$3,946.58
net proceeds			\$1,913.42

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

2025

BRIDGING

THE

GAP

Workshop
Weekend

TEMPORARY CONTACTS

September 5th – 7th 2025

Hosted by Area 5

The Greater Los Angeles Area

Sheraton Ontario Airport Hotel

429 N Vineyard Ave Ontario, CA 91764 (909) 937-8000

Room Rates \$155+tax Room Code BTG

The Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend consists of presentations, discussions, shared experiences and breakout sessions.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I would like to volunteer to help

Email _____ Service Position _____ Area _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

breakout session topics you would like

Registration

Before July 1st \$50 EarlyBird In-Person Weekend Registration \$50

After July 1st \$60 In-Person Weekend Registration \$60

Saturday Only Day Pass \$40

Saturday Nite Banquet \$50

Online Attendance \$60

Vegetarian

Total Person One \$ _____

Register Online at BTGWW.org or Mail this form to and a check to:

BTGWW 10001 E Evans Ave #62D Aurora, CO 80247