

Winter Newsletter

# BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP WEEKEND

Our primary purpose is to carry the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.



[WWW.BTGWW.ORG](http://WWW.BTGWW.ORG)

## ON THE PROGRAM

- Presentations ●
- Discussions ●
- Shared Experience ●
- Breakout Groups ●

SEPTEMBER 2026  
DATES TBD



In Alcoholics Anonymous, Bridging the Gap programs connect alcoholics leaving Treatment or Correctional facilities with A.A. in their home communities by providing them with temporary contacts who go with them to their first few meetings.

The Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend events are full weekends focused on sharing our experiences with 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**

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## A NOTE FROM THE BTGWW COORDINATOR

No matter where your position is in our service triangle, regardless of your Bill W milestone date (AKA your sobriety date), to the current fellowship members already doing work with Bridget the Gap, and all professionals who are interested, Greetings to all out there.

I am happy to report that we are still basking in the blessings from the 2025 Ontario, CA weekend. Thank you to Area 5 for all the hard work which resulted in another successful weekend of BTG experience. The blessings keep coming with continued communication from all over the United States and Canada. We have had requests for more information and additional workshop requests. One such invitation was for a panel presentation at the Area 83 assembly earlier this year. All of these stemmed from our weekend in California.

Let me mention again the wonderful work done from Area 5 to help make the 2025 BTGWW a success. I am happy to announce our BTG fix, in 2026, will be achieved in the travel convenient location of Kansas. Olathe KS to be exact, flying into Kansas City, MO. Hotel options are still being worked out, so make sure to stay tuned for more information via [btgww.org](http://btgww.org) and our newsletter updates. From what I'm told and, if memory serves me correctly, one of the many suggestions to the food connoisseurs is to bring an appetite which directly relates to barbecue style food in the region.

Also, something to think about and what our literature tells us, is that we have no opinion on outside issues. Please keep in mind that September through December is prime time NFL season. Choose your attire accordingly. (That was a lackluster attempt at humor.) Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this vital 12th step work. I look forward to seeing each of you in Kansas in 2026.

In love and Service

Rob O.

2025/2026 BTGWW Coordinator

## A NOTE FROM THE BTGWW ALT-COORDINATOR

I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for your participation in the 2025 event and express my immense gratitude for being trusted as a service member of such an awe-inspiring event. If there is one thing I learned from this year's workshop, it is that there is such a passion and drive for Bridging the Gap and that we all face similar obstacles. Just like the promises, I am sure that if we continue to come together and further our outreach we will see the promises being fulfilled among us — sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them!

I am excited to see many familiar faces and to make new connections this year in Kansas!

Yours in Service,

Amanda S.

2025/2026 BTGWW Alt-Coordinator

# A NOTE FROM KANSAS CITY

Those of you who were able to attend the workshop this year in LA (Ontario) know that the group in Canada had to withdraw their bid to host the 2026 workshop because of complications with the hotel contract.

After a wonderful weekend full of information and fellowship we (the steering committee) left wondering "What now – where do we go from here?" We sent out a few inquiries, talked to our home areas and committees, cried to our sponsors, all with no results. I have been trying to write an article for a month confirming that we had no 2026 location. Sometimes procrastination pays off.

With one casual conversation with another longtime member and friend about something else entirely, everything started falling into place. We have a host for 2026.

Toto, we are going to Kansas! A big thank you to District 10 in Area 25 for stepping up and saying that they will host. Just so you don't have to try to find some map, Area 25 is the whole state of Kansas. District 10 is basically the southwest corner of the Kansas City metro area. Although we have had attendees from Area 25, the workshop has never been held in Kansas. I didn't get to attend the district meeting, but I was told there was no hesitation when the idea was brought up. It is now 8 days later and they have a working committee, have located a hotel and should have the contract ready to sign before Christmas.

To avoid conflicting with other AA events in the region we are looking at the last weekend in September (instead of the weekend right after Labor Day).

However, there is one challenge that we haven't had for 20 years. In 2005 the workshop was held in St. Joseph, MO, some 35 miles away from the airport. The prospective hotel for 2026 is the same distance. If you are flying look at flights into KCI Airport uber rides from the airport to prospective hotel are about \$20 one way for a small car or \$35 for a 6-passenger ride. For fliers we will set up a special email to help coordinate flight times with other attendees.

To plan your attendance for next year, here are a few hints that are usually part of the bidding process.

If you are driving plan your mileage to Olathe Kansas. If you are coming in from the north maybe you could stop by the airport and pick someone up, if the times work.

There are lots of historic locations around the KC Area – along with a big cat rescue, pumpkin patches, sunflower fields and a lot more. Hopefully you can join us a couple of days early or stay a couple of days after to explore the sites. And don't forget, Kansas City is the home of the best BBQ !

I look forward to welcoming you all to my home city in 2026.

Cheri J  
Tech Support



# 2025 BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP RECAP

## Participants

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Eighty-Eight individuals attended the 2025 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in Ontario California. They came from 17 States and 2 Canadian Provinces, representing 23 General Service Conference Areas: 80 In person 14 on zoom! We also had 5 current or past delegates with us this weekend.

Alaska, Area 2	Missouri, Area 39
Alabama, Area 1	New Jersey, Area 45
California, Area 5, 6, 7, 8, & 93	New York, Area 47
Colorado, Area 10	Quebec, CA, Area 87
Connecticut, Area 11	Saskatchewan, CA, Area 91
Florida, Area 14 & 15	South Carolina, Area 62
Hawaii, Area 17	South Dakota, Area 63
Kentucky, Area 26	Utah, Area 69
Michigan, Area 24	Washington, Area 72

## General Service Office Participation

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After 33 years of events, it has always 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 Eileen A., currently serving on the Nominating Desk, previously serving on the Corrections Desk, joined us for the Workshop in California. She shared a presentation made by current Corrections staff member, Nick, which highlighted exciting developments on how outside members can connect with inside members. She also closed the banquet on Saturday evening, sharing her experience, strength and hope in recovery and to being a "special worker" for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you, Eileen.

## Friday Kick-Off

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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 experience with Treatment, BTG, Prerelease, Contact on Release or combined Treatment and Corrections and Bridging the Gap programs. Those committees 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. We also privileged to have Diana A. share her experience, strength and hope with her involvement in Bridging the Gap over the years.

# 2025 BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP RECAP

## Presentations

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There were 2 Panel presentations on Saturday, along with a first ever 'ask-it basket' discussion.

### Professional Panel:

Mike M., Former District Attorney  
for Orange County  
David M., H&I Community Engagement Dir.  
Timothy B., Re-Entry Specialist  
Allan, Current resident at local facility

### BTG Avenues Panel:

Sabrina C., H&I – Area 5  
Danny T., Corrections – Area 9  
Piper N., Corrections – Area 5  
Danielle C., Online BTG – Area 72

Eileen A, GSO Staff, gave a presentation on GSO and how the Corrections Desk works with Pre-Release (Bridging the Gap). Saturday evening Eileen was our Banquet Speaker sharing her personal experience, strength and hope.

## Business Meeting

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Since Alberta had to pull-out their bid for 2026, we did not have any area present a formal bid for 2026. A motion was passed to entrust the selection of the location for 2026 to the BTGWW Steering committee. The deadline for bids was extended to December 2025.

The topic of Banquets was discussed, as it is not financially beneficial and participation is minimal. Future banquet availability will be based on pricing and host area recommendations.

It was mentioned by Diana A. to include the reimbursement of the steering committee officers in the budget for 2026 to ensure they are able to serve. This year the steering committee officers opted not to be reimbursed for travel expenses to keep the workshop in the black. What it comes down to is the level of participation. Please review the final financial report on the next page.

On even years the workshop elects the Coordinator and Alternate Coordinator for the next 2-year rotation. All attending members will be voting on the candidates for those positions

## Technology Presentation

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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 2026. 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. Should you have any questions, Cheri's email is [webmaster@btgww.org](mailto:webmaster@btgww.org)

# 2025 Financial Report

2025 BTGWW Final Financial Report			
income	per person		Count
early bird registrations x \$50	\$50.00	\$950.00	19
pre-registrations x \$60	\$60.00	\$1,800.00	30
walk-in registrations x \$60	\$60.00	\$840.00	14
banquets x \$50	\$50.00	\$1,700.00	34
day pass	\$40.00	\$640.00	16
zoom registrations	\$60.00	\$840.00	14
contributions		\$573.00	175
<b>total income</b>		<b>\$7,343.00</b>	
expenses			
zoom		\$159.99	
website		\$125.00	
paypal fees		\$193.38	
banquets		\$1,426.30	
hotel		\$4,529.66	
meeting room internet		\$150.00	
supplies		\$150.00	
printing		\$150.00	
shipping		\$0.00	
literature		\$300.00	
committee		\$0.00	
GSO speaker		\$100.00	
<b>total expenses</b>		<b>\$7,284.33</b>	
<b>net proceeds</b>		<b>\$58.67</b>	

- Registrations cover the meeting rooms, registration supplies, and technical expenses.
- The host committee provides the hospitality room and all food and beverages in that room.
- Your contributions to the GSB cover the travel and hotel costs for our guest GSO speaker.

## From the Ask-it Basket

Are there PSAs that local committees use for radio and tv?

From the Treatment Desk: the videos and PSAs produced by the GSO and are on the website and these are conference approved. If the committee wanted GSO to create a video or PSA discussing Bridging the Gap, then you might want to submit a Proposed Agenda Item.

*The deadline for submission of a proposed agenda item for the 2026 General Service Conference is the end of September. Look for a breakout session to develop a PAI on the 2026 program.*

**LAST MINUTE UPDATE**  
**Hotel Contract Signed**  
**Sleeping Rooms \$159+tax**  
**September 25-27**

**Flyers will follow and online registration opened Feb 1st**