

## AT THE MEETING

Take time to introduce the person to as many AA members as possible. Try to include an introduction to the secretary and/or chairperson. Beyond this, try not to push your contact - some people are very shy.

Suggestions for additional literature include:

Do You Think You Are Different (P-13)  
A Newcomer Asks (P-24)  
Questions/Answers on Sponsorship (P-15)

AA at a Glance (F-1)  
Is AA for Me (P-36)

## AFTER THE MEETING

Using the meeting schedule as a guide, make arrangements with your contact for attending additional meetings.

The importance of establishing a home group and sponsorship should be explained to the newcomer who should be urged to obtain a sponsor (even if “temporary”) without delay.

*Please note that “Bridge the Gap” is not to be confused with sponsorship. It is best if that word is not used in anyway to describe your service.*

The BTG volunteer lets go of the newcomer once a sponsor is found or the period of initial contact is ended. (whichever comes first)

## WHAT AA DOES:

Attempts to help people with a desire to stop drinking find a solution to their problem.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help the alcoholic who still suffers

## WHAT AA DOES NOT DO:

Offer/find jobs, housing, money, clothing, transportation, etc

Offer professional counseling

Solicit members

Charge dues or fees

Accept money from non-members

Keep membership records

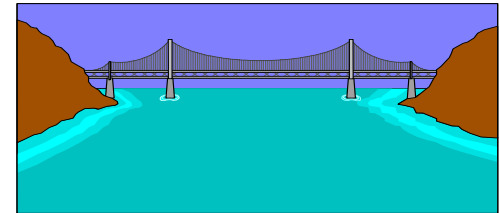
Operate clinics or drying-out facilities

Practice medicine, psychiatry or nursing services

Offer religious services

This pamphlet prepared, published and approved by the Treatment Facilities Committee of the W. Wa. Area 72 of Alcoholics Anonymous (10/97)

## WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA TREATMENT COMMITTEE



## BRIDGING THE GAP VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

**I AM RESPONSIBLE.**  
**When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help I want the hand of AA**  
**always to be there. And for that:**  
**I am responsible**

***A SHARING OF  
EXPERIENCE***

## **BRIDGING THE GAP VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES**

### ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of **Bridging the Gap** is to provide a “Bridge” for treatment facility patients (both in-patients & out-patients) that reaches from their treatment to AA meetings in their home communities. ....AA Bridging the Gap is a group of alcoholics helping other alcoholics. ....***We are part of AA and are not connected with any treatment facility or institution.***

### **VOLUNTEER**

AA BridgeVolunteers are “bridges” to the AA community. You introduce the newly released alcoholic (if in-patient) to other winners so they have a broad, healthy base for their recovery program. Men meet men and women meet women. ...Like all 12th step work there is no payment for this service work. ***..It is suggested that the volunteer have at least one year of continuous sobriety.***

### **SOME READING MATERIAL**

Bridging The Gap (GSO Pamphlet P-49)  
Primary Purpose Card (F-17)  
AA at a Glance (F-1)  
Information on AA (F-2)  
44 Questions

## **VOLUNTEER’S COMMITMENT**

As a volunteer member of Bridging the Gap, your act of service consists of introducing your new contact to AA Groups or meetings in your local community. ....It is suggested that the volunteer commit to taking the newcomer to at least 3-4 meetings over a two week time period. Anything beyond this is your own choice. ....***We don’t offer or imply any other service unless we personally want to perform such service.***

## **MAKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Information will be given to you about a treatment facility patient who has requested to go to an AA meeting with another AA member who lives in their community. ... We have found through experience that it is most important to make the initial contact as soon as possible. You should arrange to take them to a meeting within 48 hours of this initial contact. Many distractions are common. When calling your contact, instead of asking if they want to go to a meeting , it is OK to say: “I’ll be over at 7:30PM to go to an AA meeting.” ....***If they really do not want to go they will let you know.***

## **THE 12TH STEP CALL**

***....The responsibility for making the arrangements for the 12th step call will be entrusted to you as a BTG volunteer.*** ....You may be the first outside AA your contact meets. It is important that you be affable, friendly and interested. Be on time for whatever arrangements you make. Be sure you know ahead of time exactly where you will be meeting the contact; whether it is their home or other mutually agreed place.

Ideally, it would be best to contact the in-patient client while they are still at the facility. However; this has become increasingly difficult to do, primarily due to the limited length of stay at in-patient treatment facilities. ***...In any case, it is important that the new person be contacted as soon as possible. Experience has shown that the first day (s) out of treatment are most crucial.***

The BTG volunteer is expected to keep the general conversation to AA related matters, avoiding discussion or opinions about the newcomer’s treatment. (AA has no opinion on outside interests)

The volunteer should familiarize the newcomer with AA books, pamphlets, meeting schedules, the intergroup, etc.