

The Direct Connection



A newsletter dedicated to Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention www.abpa-sa.org

June Vol. 40 Issue 6

Senate Bill 2702

SB 2702 – BPAT National Certification Acceptance – Did Not Pass. The bill was never noted out of the House committee, mainly as a result from strong testimony delivered during the hearing.

SB 2702 was related to ASSE and other National BPAT Certifications having to be accepted by the TCEQ Licensing process without having to take the State BPAT written exam.

Those in the water purveyor industry, in Texas, all testified against this Bill. This included the Texas Water Utility Association, Texas Rural Water Association, Texas Irrigation Association, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, along with the Texas Section of AWWA. A number of concerned citizens representing various water industries were at the session to testify in person before the Senate Committee.

The basic concerns from TCEQ and the water purveyors were the loss of control over what was taught in BPAT Courses and the exam process. The Bill would have circumvented the existing TCEQ BPAT written exam, which assures testers are up to date and understand the rules and guidance documents as established in RG-478.

Additionally, concern was expressed over training manuals that have various backflow prevention assembly test procedures. Water purveyors are generally charged with assuring the assemblies are tested and maintained on a continuing basis. Even though Backflow testing is just 1/5th of a Cross Connection Control Program, it does involve direct contact with water purveyors' customers and protection of the potable water system.

Water purveyors' continuous enforcement and monitoring of the testing and maintenance involves tester oversight to assure testers are performing all aspects of testing and repair which includes NIO. Enforcement agencies will have to meet testers in the field for many reasons that involve testers reporting issues including falsifying Test and Maintenance report forms. Enforcement in Texas knows one Test Procedure and that is USC Field Test Procedures.

There are numerous situations and comments received by enforcement agencies and in BPAT Courses about testers being trained or shown a different test procedure. As established in all National Recommendations of Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention measures, areas under the control of state administrative authorities need to establish a single, acceptable test procedure.

June meeting Details

Meetings of the San Antonio Chapter ABPA are held the second Thursday of every month except December. Dinner and refreshments are served at 6:00 p.m. sharp with the meeting starting at 6:15. This meeting is:

Date: Thursday June 12, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM pre-registration only required to receive a meal

**Place: SAWS Bldg. 2 Conference Room
2800 US Hwy 281 North**

Meeting Sponsor/Training: TBD

**No alcoholic
beverages allowed**

Next meeting date: July 10, 2025

Last meeting thanks to:

Thanks to BAVCO for sponsoring our meeting in May.

And, Thanks for the \$50 gift card donation for the raffle prize...

June Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. General discussion and quorum confirmation
- 5:15 p.m. Call Meeting to order.
- 5:20 p.m. Secretary's Report. Read and approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5:25 p.m. Treasurer's Report. Discussion and approval of the treasurer's report.
- 5:30 p.m. Supply Officer's Report
- 5:35 p.m. Vice President's, Directors', and any other reports for the good of the chapter. Comments, new business, any discussion.
- 5:40 p.m. Training Report. Training & Meal Sponsors
- 5:45 p.m. Webmaster Report
- 5:50 p.m. President's Report. New & old business
- 6:00 p.m. Meal is served.
- 6:15 p.m. General Membership Meeting & Training
 1. Report from the Directors Meeting. President
 2. City, regional, and national reports. James Cantrell and/or any City personnel present.
 3. Training program for the evening.
 4. Raffle prize drawing.

Backflow Trivia:

A passing gauge reading when testing Double Check Valve Assemblies is higher than 1 psid. True or False?

Answer: next page.

"Direct Talk" by the President

The April 10th meeting will be held in the SAWS conference room in the Tower II building located at 2800 U.S. Hwy. 281. The Director's meeting will start at 5:15 PM with the meal beginning at 6:00 PM and meeting starting at 6:15 PM.

Trinidad *Chairez*

Here is a good website for emergency information: www.sanantonio.gov/emergency/

Chapter Chatter

Greg Shean - Your Conference Commando

ABPA International Conference and Trade Show at Little Rock AR

Long title for a great time. Rode Marriott's airport shuttle with, their very chatty driver, pointing out all the places of interest around the hotel. Almost made me want to stay longer. Very interesting. National and the Arkansas Chapter put on a great conference in probably the smallest city that has ever hosted a convention. Down the Marriott's lobby stairs were the vendors and their displays. Despite 30 large round tables, seating 10 each, it was not suitable for the presentations. Four equivalent floors up (Cardio Conference?), serviced by escalators, were the presentation rooms where the layouts were not suitable for the vendors. Next year, at the Las Vegas Orleans, all will be in one room again. The meal buffets and silent auction were held in the vendor area.

This was my, about the 15 conferences, and I always judge the food. The first, with a hot buffet breakfast and not continental carbs. Scrambled eggs, Applewood smoked bacon, sausage, grits, fruit bites, and others breakfast items. Mexican eggs and breakfast items on Cinco De Mayo. Separate dessert tables with pies, bread pudding, ice cream, and many other great selections. Nothing was missing or ran out. Lunch and dinner were the same professional selections. Best overall food of any conference and I cook. Buffets had theisms – BBQ, Mexican, Italian, American, and breakfast diner. Come for the food, stay for the conference.

For an off-campus trip, we were bussed to the Clinton library for a tour. However, time was limited, and we made our way in the rain back to the site Hotel. Another session was on the ability of a dog smelling a chlorine leak in the ground, supposedly up to two feet deep. A demonstration was given, and it was amazing of the dog's abilities. There were training sessions and one session on a backpressure incident that allows chemical back in the potable water. What a great session on lessons learned. Troy Baird needs to be praised for being present every place and available round the clock. Many thanks to the attendees and vendors for being there supporting ABPA International this year.

MINUTES SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER-ABPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday, May 8, 2025

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT
Trinidad Chairez - President	Greg Shean – Secretary
Jeff Stricker - Vice President	Art Trejo - Treasurer
Keith Waldrep – Past President	
OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER – PRESENT	OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER - ABSENT
Carl Michaud – Gauge Testing/Certification	Supply Officer - Vacant
Jeff Meeks - Sgt. At Arms	Joe Young - Program Director
Matt Wilgen - Webmaster	

DIRECTORS AT LARGE – PRESENT	DIRECTORS AT LARGE – ABSENT
Robert Stricker - 2 years	Fred Baird - 1 year
Bruce Rathburn - 2 years	
Bob Clark - 1 year	GUEST PRESENT: None
Jeff Hoffman - 2 years	

Agenda Item #1. Trini started the meeting at 6:01pm in the Tower 2 Conference Room at SAWS HQ. He asked that all turn off their cell phones and then asked for a moment of silence. INFO.

Agenda Item #2. Secretary’s Report: The April minutes were in the newsletter. Robert (as always) made a motion to accept. Passed. The chapter was awarded a President’s Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) at the Conference. This was our 15 consecutive PACE award as submitted by our secretary. INFO.

Agenda Item #3. Treasurer’s Report: Art reported the checking account amount. Our bank account balance will be maintained at the current level so the chapter is prepared for emergencies. INFO.

Agenda Item #4. Supply Officer’s Report: Not discussed. We’re looking to reduce/dissolve our inventory. Discussion was to keep the attire but need member input/vote. Art will bring a selection of caps and shirts to the next meeting. Caps and shirts are all that are left in inventory. OPEN.

Agenda Item #5. Issues: Bruce Rathburn spoke on several issues. Bruce described how impressed he was with the conference, both in attendance and National’s and the Arkansas’s Chapter support. The conference presentations were on line at the cost of \$220 per tester. The food and buffet presentations were extraordinary with a hot breakfast buffet – the first time for this service. He talked about the two Texas bills that are working way through the Texas legislature. If passed, this would bypass the current BPAT license process in Texas. Bruce said there will be a new ABPA manual and an MOU with Australia. INFO.

Agenda Item #6. Meeting Sponsor: BAVCO sponsored the meeting. INFO.

Agenda Item #7. Meal: BAVCO sponsored the meal of Jason’s Deli box sandwiches. Art donated and delivered the water and sodas for the meeting. Please e-mail Art before 5 PM on Monday. The order is input at 5 PM. If you do not order – you will only get a meal if there is a no show. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. Raffle: BAVCO provided a \$50 gift certificate. INFO.

Agenda Item #9. Training: Bruce will provide the training, House Bill 4293 and Senate Bill 2702 on non TCEQ certified testers, testing backflow prevention assemblies in Texas. INFO.

Agenda Item #10. Webmaster: Not discussed. The chapter website must be updated at a more expeditious rate. It has been discussed that Ashlyn Letourneau, Bruce’s daughter, who is very family with the new hosting software required by our webse host, be paid for her efforts. OPEN.

Agenda Item #11. National ABPA: The ABPA National Conference and Trade Show will be at the Orleans in Las Vegas next year May 4-6, 2026. ABPA National has discussed possibly alternating years between Las Vegas and another location in the US. INFO.

Agenda Item #12. SAWS: Dan Crowley spoke on the transition year that is in progress with BSI and stated that there are still some things being worked out. Please be patient. BSI is working on staggering test dates, and that the tester should e-mail BSI. Dan said the \$9.95 test fee is locked in for 5 years. Dan passed out the SAWS backflow compliance hand out. Dan explained that it may be thought easier paying the yearly enforcement fee for backflow owners not having testing done, but they run the risk having water turned off. INFO.

Agenda Item #13. City of San Antonio (COSA) Plumbing Inspection: No report. INFO.

Agenda Item #14. San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA): The SAIA is sponsoring "delicious food, exciting casino games with provided tickets, and you might just walk away with some amazing prizes." This will be at Mr. Jim's Trading Post, 7393 US Hwy 87 E, China Grove, TX 78263, Event time will be from 2pm – 5pm on June 7th. Entry: \$20 per person, \$30 for two. INFO.

Agenda Item #15. Gauge Testing: Carl reported that, starting in July/August, gauges will go to BAVCO and will test with possible small repairs while you wait. This will be free if there are no problems. There will be a charge for more extensive repairs. INFO.

Agenda Item #16. Hands-On Training: Fred said training is scheduled for Sept. 16, 2025 (Tues.). At least five meetings attended per year for three years, to qualify for the free 8-hour TCEQ required hands-on training, attend year before BPAT expires. Fred had a sign-up sheet. INFO.

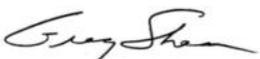
Agenda Item #17. Training – House Bill 4293 was introduced to basically allow recognition of a BPAT (backflow preventer assembly tester) in or out the state of Texas without taking a state of Texas (TCEQ) Texas Commission of Environmental Quality hundred question exam. This bill was created by Representative Paul out of the Houston area. It was also being pushed by SWPTA (Southwest Pipe Trades Association) also out of Houston, along with IAPMO (International Association of Plumbing Mechanical Officials). There's many fighting against the bill including TXIA, TXAWWA, TWUA, etc. It would bypass the TCEQ license BPAT process in Texas.

Senate Bill 2702 is carrying the same agenda and was contested in senate committee chambers on Wednesday May 14th by several individuals. This included Fred Baird, Bruce Rathburn, and DJ Seager among others. Also in opposition was TRWA (Texas Rural Water Association), a landscape architect firm, and others from the gallery, along with TCEQ. For the bill was the same folks that passed HB 4293. This is of great concern if passed could result in health and safety concerns for citizens of TX. These new testers would not have passed the TCEQ required test. Not to mention testing fee prices would possibly triple. Plumbers typically charge significantly more than TCEQ certified non-plumbers(understanding overhead plays into this equation). Currently the bill is pending until further notice from the senate committee.

At the ABPA-SA meeting Dan Crowley spoke of SAWS opposition to SB 2702.

Back to the Conference, the ABPA International Conference was held in Little Rock this year. The Arkansas Chapter of ABPA did one fantastic job with all local logistics. With well over 233 attendees and 32 vendors booths on site this year with great displays, information, and knowledgeable people. The Board of Directors held their meeting on Saturday morning, and it ran through early afternoon. Plans are already in the making for Las Vegas in May 2026.

Adjournment. Adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM for the raffle.



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA San Antonio Chapter

BPAT ETHICS

"I CERTIFY, UNDER PENALTY OF LAW, INCLUDING POSSIBLE LOSS OF LICENSE, FINES AND PENALTIES, THAT I HAVE TESTED THE BFPA LISTED ABOVE AT THE TIME AND DATE LISTED AND ALL INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS ACCURATE AND I HAVE PERSONALLY COMPLETED THIS FORM IN FULL".

This statement was developed by Bill Hamrick and Katrina Hamrick, Atty at Law, and was a result of numerous meetings between Troy Baird, Bruce Rathburn, Bill Hamrick and Fred Baird. There were many suggested enforcement modifications for water purveyors and plumbing inspection departments to control ethics and backflow testing.

Quote of the Day:

Weather forecast for tonight: dark.

George Carlin

Jalapeno Corn Bread Recipe

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Have all ingredients room temperature. Put 2 tablespoons butter in pie pan and place in oven until sizzling.

Mix together:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder

2 tablespoons sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$ tablespoon salt

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup yellow corn meal

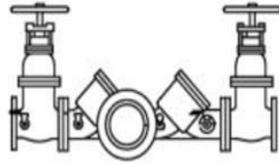
In separate bowl:

1 egg, mix into 2-3 tablespoons melted butter

Mix with 1 cup chunky salsa

Pour the liquid into the dry ingredients. Combine with a few rapid strokes. Place the batter in the hot pan. Bake for about 25 minutes, or until golden brown.

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PHCC-SAN ANTONIO CALENDAR

**10
APR**

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY 17603 I-10
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78257
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



**28
APR**

PLUMBING & MECHANICAL 2024 CODE AMENDMENTS

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PRESENTATION
1901 S. ALAMO STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78204
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



CITY OF
SAN ANTONIO

**1
MAY**

NIGHT AT THE MISSIONS BASEBALL PHCC-SA & SUBCONTRACTORS(ASA) ARE TEAMING UP!

NELSON W. WOLFF MUNICIPAL STADIUM
5757 W. US HIGHWAY 90, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78227
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 18



**8
MAY**

GOLF TOURNAMENT CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP INFO

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YOUR BACKFLOW PRODUCTS CONNECTION

NOTICE

ABPA-SA is saddened by the heartfelt loss of Bill Hamrick, of **ATB SERVICES**.

ATB Services, Inc. has been the Mid-West Instrument factory service center in the San Antonio area since January 1995. Bill's dedication to the Chapter over the years along with the top notch service he always provided to those needing their backflow gauges serviced, will be sorely missed.

The new service center for Mid-West Instrument for the San Antonio branch is **BAVCO**, located at **6017 Randolph Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78233**.

Phone (210) 451-7564. You may also contact them through (866) 318-0274.

- ABPA-SA Hands-on Training: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 -
Members that have attended 5 meetings per year (min.) for the past three years are eligible to receive free hands-on CEU training offered by Bac-Flo Unlimited, Inc. The member is required to verify and provide print-out of their earned hours the morning of attendance. Hours are on TCEQ's web site and must be shown to instructors the morning of Sept. 16th. (*Note: this course was previously scheduled for Weds. Sept. 17, 2025).

QUIZ

(True or False)

1. A "passing" RP could have following as acceptable test results: relief valve opening at 2.0 psid; #2 check close tight; and #1 check closed tight at 4.5 psid.
2. A leaking #2 check on an RP with backpressure would be indicated by relief valve discharge and a low reading on the pressure differential gauge across #1 check.
3. The abbreviation NIIO stands for Notify, Identify, Inspect, Obstruction.
4. A Spill-Resistant Vacuum Breaker is a high hazard backflow prevention assembly that can be installed under constant pressure.
5. Extreme backpressure on check valve will cause a water hammer condition.

Answers on next page.

ABPA-SA Board of Directors 2024 - 2025

- 1) President – Trinidad Chairez
- 2) Vice President – Jeff Stricker
- 3) Treasurer – Arthur Trejo
- 4) Secretary – Greg Shean
- 5) Immediate Past President – Keith Waldrep

Special Officers to the Association

- 6) SGT-AT-ARMS – Jeff Meeks
- 7) Liaison to SAWS – James Cantrell
- 8) Program Director – Joe Young
- 9) Gauge Testing and Certification – Carl Michaud
- 10) Membership & Newsletter – Open
- 11) Webmaster – Matthew Wilgen

Directors at Large

Two-year term

1. Jeff Hoffman
2. Bruce Rathburn
3. Robert Stricker

One-year term

4. Fred Baird
5. Robert (Bob) Clark

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#1 F, #2 T, #3 F, #4 T, #5 F



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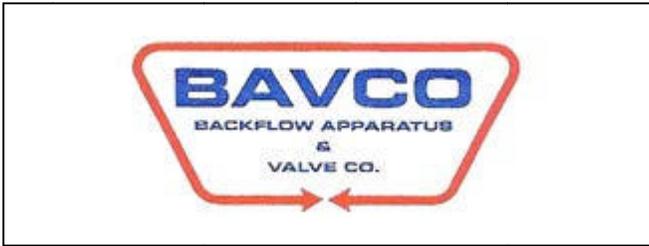
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How to join the ABPA-SA Chapter

There are two ways to join the San Antonio Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association.

The easiest way is to click on the QR Code and follow the instructions to set up your account and be presented with an invoice that you can pay with a credit card on-line or check the box to pay with a check. If you don't use QR Codes, click on this address. <https://www.abpa.org/page/Join> **IMPORTANT** Be sure to select the chapter/s (San Antonio Chapter) you want to join before selecting the payment method. If you elect to pay with a check, you will be able to print the invoice so you can send it with your check to the address on the invoice. If you pay with a credit card on-line, you will be able to print a receipt.

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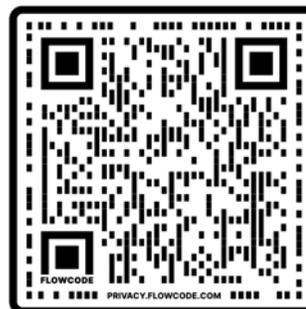
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

How to renew your ABPA-SA Chapter Membership

There are two ways to renew your San Antonio Chapter membership of the American Backflow Prevention Association.

The easiest way is to click on the QR Code and follow the instructions to renew your membership and sign into your account and follow the instructions. If you don't use QR Codes, click on this address. <https://www.abpa.org/page/RenewNow> The program will present you with an invoice that you can pay with a credit card on-line or check the box to pay with a check. **IMPORTANT** Be sure the chapter/s (San Antonio Chapter) is/are selected that you want to renew before selecting the payment method. If you elect to pay with a check, you will be able to print the invoice so you can send it with your check to the address on the invoice. If you pay with a credit card on-line, you will be able to print a receipt.

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- International Membership \$79
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 - New Member
- Renewal - Member # _____

To join the American Backflow Prevention Association, simply fill out the membership application form and mail it with your check to the address listed below, or if paying by credit card you may fax the completed form to 979.846.7607. Local chapters have additional fees. Below is a listing of chapters by region. To find out if there is a local chapter in your area, please review the chapter information on our website at abpa.org or call the National Office at 979.846.7606. **Membership in the Association constitutes paying National dues.**

Sustaining Member:

- Must be a company or organization
- Assign only one person as the member of ABPA
- A Sustaining Member must submit a letter that designates their Voting Representative.

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Additional Information

How would you like to receive your Membership Renewal Invoice Notification? Email US Mail (Not available for International Membership)

Local Chapter Dues Listed by Region

<p>REGION 1</p> <p>New England \$12.00</p> <p>Rhode Island 18.00</p> <p>REGION 2</p> <p>Virginia \$25.00</p> <p>REGION 3</p> <p>Carolinas \$10.00</p> <p>Florida Suncoast 12.00</p> <p>Peach State "1788" 30.00</p> <p>Tennessee 20.00</p> <p>REGION 4</p> <p>Arkansas \$10.00</p> <p>Central Texas 20.00</p> <p>Corpus Christi 23.00</p> <p>Lower Rio Grande Valley 25.00</p> <p>North Texas 23.00</p> <p>San Antonio 60.00</p>	<p>REGION 5</p> <p>Colorado \$15.00</p> <p>Utah 12.00</p> <p>REGION 6</p> <p>Arizona \$20.00</p> <p>Central Coast 10.00</p> <p>Central Valley California 10.00</p> <p>Hawaii 23.00</p> <p>Silver State 23.00</p> <p>Southern California 15.00</p> <p>REGION 7</p> <p>Oregon \$20.00</p> <p>SRC4 20.00</p> <p>REGION 8 (USD)</p>	<p>REGION 9 (USD)</p> <p>REGION 10</p> <p>REGION 11</p> <p>Indiana BPA \$25.00</p> <p>Michigan 40.00</p> <p>Northern Illinois 23.00</p> <p>REGION 12</p> <p>Eastern Nebraska \$10.00</p>
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