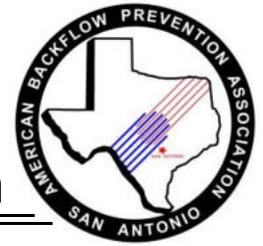


# The Direct Connection



A newsletter dedicated to Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention [www.abpa-sa.org](http://www.abpa-sa.org)

April Vol. 38 Issue 4

**\*IMPORTANT NOTICE:** There are two Bills up for proposal in the current legislative sessions, that could impact our Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing and Enforcement. This is something all should be reviewing and commenting on. The Bill numbers are: H.B. 4293 and S.B. 2702.

## “Newly Installed Assemblies - Repairs (Debris Cleaned) Documented”

The failure rate (fouled checks) of existing backflow assemblies vs. newly installed assemblies are different. Generally existing backflow prevention assembly failure rates are between 9 – 11 % depending on a number of things. Newly installed assemblies, the failure rate is due more to debris and new construction, as we all know.

Testers will test the new assemblies and when one fails, will clean the checks and retest the assembly indicating it passed with no repairs. A passed “Test and Maintenance Report” form is then submitted to the local enforcement agency for their records.

The issue we have, testers are not indicating on the Test and Maintenance Report form that the assembly was cleaned and retested. This results in all newly installed assemblies passing and none failing. When a contamination event occurs, we have heard statements made by some: “Show me where a new backflow prevention assembly has failed – they are warranted for five years!”

Bottom Line – When a new assembly has debris and is cleaned – Be sure to indicate on the Test and Maintenance Report Form. This will support enforcement when an event occurs and regulations that assemblies be tested when first installed.

*"Educating the Public in Backflow Prevention" - March 2025 Spring Bloom at SAWS...*



## **April 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 April 10, 2025**

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

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

**Program title: Cross Connection Control and Ethics**

**Meeting sponsor: Bac-Flo Unlimited, Inc.**

**No alcoholic  
beverages allowed**

**Next meeting date: May 8, 2025**

### **Last meeting thanks to:**

**American Backflow Products for sponsoring the meeting in March.**

**Thank you to Jennifer Segler for the training presentation on Backflow Trivia.**

**And thanks for the Quick Connect Fitting Set donation for the meeting raffle prize...**

## **April 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 incident:**

**December 2024 - Bay County, Florida**

- 150 homes affected
- Cross connection found by local water department, sewer and potable water lines mistakenly connected by a local contractor

## "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/](http://www.sanantonio.gov/emergency/)

**Chapter Chatter**, Greg Shean - ~better cook than tester

*Tailgate Meat & Beans recipe – as made for annual fishing trip.*

1 lb. ground beef  
2 cans (16 oz.) red kidney beans  
1 lb. bacon, chopped (drained and save liquid)  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 cans (16oz.) white Northern beans (drained)  
½ C. ketchup  
2 cans (16oz.) pork & beans  
½ C. bar-b-que sauce  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. pepper  
4 Tbs. yellow mustard  
4 Tbs. molasses  
½ C. brown sugar

In 6-quart Dutch oven, brown beef, bacon, and onion; drain excess fat. Add rest of ingredients, except beans, to meat mixture and simmer for 10 minutes. Add beans and simmer for 20 minutes. Add liquid if necessary.

### MINUTES SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER-ABPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday, March 13, 2025

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

<b>DIRECTORS AT LARGE – PRESENT</b>	<b>DIRECTORS AT LARGE – ABSENT</b>
Robert Stricker - 2 years	
Bruce Rathburn - 2 years	
Fred Baird - 1 year	<b>GUEST PRESENT:</b>
Jeff Hoffman - 2 years	Jennifer Segler (American Backflow Products)
Bob Clark - 1 year	

Agenda Item #1. Trini started the meeting, asked that all turn off their cell phones and then asked for a moment of silence. INFO.

Agenda Item #2. Fred Baird’s Comments: Fred talked about state level ongoing. So much information, it was turned into a front page article. He is also working with TCEQ on an issue that, when appropriate, will be published in the minutes. INFO.

Agenda Item #3. Secretary’s Report: The February minutes were in the newsletter. Robert (as always) made a motion to accept. Passed. INFO.

Agenda Item #4. Treasurer’s Report: Art reported the amount in our checking account. Our bank account balance will be maintained at the current level so the chapter is prepared for emergencies. INFO.

Agenda Item #5. Supply Officer’s Report: No change. We are looking to reduce/dissolve our inventory. The discussion was to keep the attire but need member input and vote. Art will bring a selection of caps and shirts to the next meeting. Caps and shirts are all that is left in inventory. OPEN.

Agenda Item #6. Newsletter: The goal is to get everyone to read it. Fred said there is a quiz in the newsletter with the answers on the next page. Fred brought 40 printed hard copies to judge the response of hardcopy and e-mail. The hands vote was for e-mail. There will be an April newsletter, “This is still an open chapter item.” OPEN.

Agenda Item #7. Meeting Sponsor: American Backflow Products sponsored the meeting. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. Meal: American Backflow Products sponsored the meal of Jason’s Deli box sandwiches. This was the first time for Jason’s Deli. Art donated and delivered the water 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 one if there is a no show. INFO.

Agenda Item #9. Raffle: American Backflow Products provided a full set 1/4 - 3/4" Quick Connect test cock fitting adapters. INFO.

Agenda Item #10. Training: Jennifer Segler, American Backflow Products, will present the training using a Jeopardy type game format. INFO.

Agenda Item #11. Webmaster: The chapter website must be updated at 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 website host, be paid for her efforts. OPEN.

Agenda Item #12. National ABPA: Troy said that the agenda for May 5 to 7 Conference in Little Rock, AR finalized for Little Rock. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. INFO.

Agenda Item #13. SAWS: The SAWS Backflow Section is advertising for backflow tester inspectors. February meeting input - Dan Crowley, SAWS Director of Governmental Relations, reported that "things are moving along pretty well" in the transition from the SAWS T&M web app to BSI's On-Line. Jeff Stricker said those submitting CSI reports that to only send one email for each address. This makes it easier for SAWS to input the info. INFO.

Agenda Item #14. City of San Antonio (COSA) Plumbing Inspection: Mike Morales, Chief of Plumbing Inspectors, thanked all the testers for all we are doing in the new BSI T&M reporting system. There is a new 24 Code and T&M paper submission will not be accepted after March 30th. INFO.

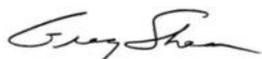
Agenda Item #15. San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA): No report. INFO.

Agenda Item #16. SAWS Spring Bloom: Trinidad and Keith maned the ABPA-SA booth at the SAWS Spring Bloom. This is a free public event for homeowners who enjoy planting. About 1500 attend. Home gardening organizations sponsored many booths with many give aways. Trini and Keith spoke of how important to protect our water supply when using water hoses. They stressed the importance of hose bib vacuum breakers. They gave out over a hundred hose bib vacuum breakers to people, courtesy of Hugh Cunningham INC and Watts. They had Bill Hamrick's display that demonstrated how the vacuum breakers worked. INFO.

Agenda Item #17. Gauge Testing, Carl reminded everyone that each tester is responsible for submitting their gauge re-certifications to BSI themselves. INFO.

Agenda Item #18. Hands-On Training: Fred said that the training is scheduled for September 16th. Five meetings per year, for three years attendance qualify for the free 8-hour course provided by Bac-Flo Unlimited, Inc. This is for those, whose BPAT expires next year. Requirement is partially dependent on meeting CEUs. Fred had a sign-up sheet. INFO.

Agenda Item #19. Training - Jennifer Segler, American Backflow, Tallahassee FL conducted a Jeopardy type game but not like their previous game. Players needed a smart phone and camera for QR code that is on the screen. Players showed up on screen as they were able to access the game. 27 players were able to access the game. There were 30 trivia, true/false, or multiple-choice questions. More points were given to how quickly the correct answer was given. Frank Snyder won with 23 correct answers.



Adjournment. Adjourn the meeting at X:XX PM for the raffle.

## **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:**

Cleaning anything involves making something else dirty, but anything can get dirty without something else getting clean.

*Lawrence J. Peter*

### **'Good' German Potato Salad Recipe**

*10 lb. Potatoes*

*½ cup onions*

*½ cup Pimentos*

*1 Cup Dill Pickles*

*½ cup Celery*

*½ cup vinegar*

*1 Cup Vegetable oil*

*3 ½ Tab. Salt*

*1 Tab. Pepper*

- **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).



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## PHCC- SAN ANTONIO UPCOMING EVENTS

**13  
FEB**

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**PRESENTER: CAST IRON SOIL PIPE INSTITUTE**  
MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY 17603 I-10  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78257  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



**27  
FEB**

**SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT**  
**THE "PLUMBER PROTECTS THE HEALTH OF THE NATION"**  
5931 ROFT RD, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78253  
CHECK WEBSITE FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
AND REGISTRATION FORM  
11:00 AM LUNCH / 1:00 PM SHOOT BEGINS  
4:00 PM AWARDS RECEPTION & GUN RAFFLES



**27  
MAR**

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# 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.

# QUIZ

## (True or False)

1. A hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker can be installed under constant pressure for 24 hours.
2. According to TCEQ regulations, a BPAT has no authority to place backflow prevention requirements.
3. When testing the #2 check on a double check valve assembly with a leaking #1 shut off valve - the tester could compensate for the leak by opening up #2 test cock.
4. The first thing tested on an SVB is the check valve.
5. When testing an RP, a leaking #2 shut off valve can be compensated for by opening the by-pass control valve no more than 1/4 turn.

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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## ABPA-SA member benefits include:

- -- Hands-on training every three years
- -- Annual gauge certification
- -- TCEQ license credits earned
- -- Monthly meeting meal
- -- State/local updates & valuable knowledge
- -- Opportunity to serve on Board of Directors
- -- Support and company recognition



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Published by the ABPA-SA Chapter

Editors include: Fred Baird, Bruce Rathburn, Robert Stricker, Joff Hoffman, Troy Baird

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Troy Baird – ABPA President  
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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.

**Click QR Code to Join**



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.

**Click QR Code to Renew**



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.

**Thank You for Your Membership**



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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- International Membership \$79
  - Sustaining Membership \$300.00
  - 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](http://abpa.org) or call the National Office at 979.846.7606. **Membership in the Association constitutes paying National dues.**

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