

# The Direct Connection



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

**May Vol. 39 Issue 5**

## **ABPA-SA April Meeting - Presentation** "Backflow Testing and Ethics"

Bac-Flo Unlimited sponsored the April 2025 Meeting. Fred Baird presented the program on Backflow Testing Ethics. The development of the presentation came about with what enforcement has had to deal with for years, and that is falsifying Test and Maintenance Report forms. Fred initially established a group to review all the issues and possible resolutions seen with the falsifying of Test and Maintenance Report Forms and ethics. The group consisted of Bruce Rathburn, Troy Baird, Bill Hamrick and Fred.

The first thing detailed in his presentation was the education of those investigating water quality complaints and how backflow contamination events were discovered. He provided an example with the San Antonio Zoo where a 24" main break supplying eleven water services to the zoo, drained the bear pond and flamingo pond back into the potable water system. Immediately, through a water quality complaint it was realized the water system had been contaminated. Fred then went into how the documenting and reporting of backflow related events are very important in the support of cross-connection programs. Ethics becomes involved with this sometimes and can be career ending as we have seen many times! All events need to be documented and reported to TCEQ. The odd thing about our backflow world he said is if everything is done correctly, nothing happens. Something that has been said for over 50 years ago by the USC Foundation of Cross connection Control and Hydraulic Research.

Discussed were the falsifications of Test and Maintenance Report Forms and determining when a tester and/or company are falsifying reports. There are various methods being used by enforcement agencies to determine if a tester was actually on-site and tested the assembly, e.g., pre-tagging #2 SOV, placing clay in test cocks, tagging assemblies, etc. Fred then described the falsification of a "health and safety" document being classified as a felony by TCEQ. A backflow prevention assembly "Test and Maintenance Report Form" is a health and safety document. Company owners along with the tester, bear a certain amount of responsibility and liability when a tester falsifies a Test and Maintenance Report Form. There have been company owners caught falsifying test reports on testers. One of the things being suggested is enforcement agencies, on an annual basis, require company owners employing testers and testers to sign a statement as to the BPAT's and company owner's responsibility, liability and local reporting procedures.

Also discussed were the enforcement policies of TCEQ when it came to documenting falsifications and enforcement action from the licensing aspect.

In closing, Fred pointed out that the backflow world had really changed from 50 years ago to the present and how all aspects of cross connection control had evolved and improved. In Texas – Thanks to TCEQ and their licensing and enforcement policies. He also stated that there will always be a need for improvement in today's world which includes backflow testing software where there is an opportunity for enforcement agencies to utilize software programs to assist with the elimination of falsifications and the promotion of backflow prevention ethics.

Fred said for questions or comments – his email address is: [f.baird@att.net](mailto:f.baird@att.net).

## May 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 May 8, 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: Backflow Assembly Repair**

**Sponsor: BAVCO**

**No alcoholic  
beverages allowed**

**Next meeting date: June 12, 2025**

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

**Bac-Flo Unlimited for sponsoring the meeting in April.**

**Thank you to Fred Baird for the training presentation on Backflow Testing and Ethics.**

**And thanks for the raffle donation of the Mid-West Test Kit Back Pack...**

## **May 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:**

**After testing a Spill-Resistant Vacuum Breaker, which should be the higher gauge reading. Air Inlet Valve or Check Valve?**

**Answer: Check Valve.**

## "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, April 10, 2025

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

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

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

Agenda Item #3. 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 #4. 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 #5. Newsletter: Bruce Rathburn spoke on several issues from the newsletter, membership tracking, sending meeting notices, getting the meals, and a few other items. The point was that we need people to step up to take one of these duties so that Art does not have to do them on top of his Treasurer duties. It takes a team to run this organization. Please step up and help. OPEN.

Agenda Item #6. Bruce noted that that of all the water in the WORLD, only 3% is drinkable! Think about that! As testers, we are helping to protect that precious resource. INFO.

Agenda Item #7. Meeting Sponsor: Bac-Flo Unlimited sponsored the meeting. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. Meal: Bac-Flo Unlimited sponsored the meal of Jason’s Deli box sandwiches. Art donated and delivered the water and 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: Bac-Flo Unlimited provided a back pack. INFO.

Agenda Item #10. Training: Fred Baird, Bac-Flo Unlimited, will present the training on ethics. 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 they are working on an ethics (code of conduct) guide. A new position statement was approved in January. A new PS statement is being presented to the Board in Little Rock. Conference numbers look higher than last year. INFO.

Agenda Item #13. 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 with testers on anniversary dates so all of a customer's backflows are due at the same time. As testers, we need to communicate with BSI to get this accomplished. Missing backflows or missing addresses in BSI system is something that we as testers need to either add the missing assemblies or, if it is an address, provide the info to SAWS so they can rectify it with BSI. INFO.

Agenda Item #14. City of San Antonio (COSA) Plumbing Inspection: No report. INFO.

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

Agenda Item #16. Gauge Testing, Carl reported that only two backflows to certify tonight. He reminded everyone that once ABPA certifies your backflow and gives you the certification, you are responsible for submitting it to BSI, VEPO, or any other water purveyor that you due testing. INFO.

Agenda Item #17. Hands-On Training: Fred said that the training is scheduled for September 16, 2025 (Tuesday). Five meetings per year, for three years, attendance qualify for the free 8-hour TCEQ required hands-on training. This is for those, whose BPAT expires next year. It is not dependent on meeting CEUs. Fred had a sign-up sheet. INFO.

Agenda Item #18. Training – Fred Baird presented the program on Backflow Testing Ethics. Fred initially established a group to review all the issues and possible resolutions seen with the falsifying of Test and Maintenance Report Forms and ethics. The group consisted of Bruce Rathburn, Troy Baird, Bill Hamrick and Fred. An article on this will be in the June newsletter. INFO.



Adjournment. Adjourn the meeting at 8:10 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:**

I never did give anybody hell. I just told the truth and they thought it was hell.

*Harry S. Truman (1884-1972)*

## ***Terrific Cole Slaw Recipe***

Combine following put on stove and bring to boil – Cool down

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar

1 table spoon. Salt

1 table spoon. Celery Seed

1 cup white vinegar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup vegetable oil

Pour over and refrigerate overnight

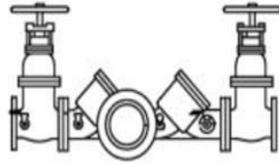
1 medium head of Cabaage shredded

1 med. Onion chopped

1 cup chopped bell pepper

4 oz. jar Pimentos

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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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# 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)

- T F 1. A hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker can temporarily withstand 5 psi back-pressure.
- T F 2. While testing a PVB – the tester accidentally opens the high side needle valve while testing the check valve. This would indicate a leaking shut off valve.
- T F 3. A pressure reducing valve can create a closed system.
- T F 4. The national plumbing codes require an R/P on water softeners.
- T F 5. A backflow testing license issued by TCEQ allows the tester to do CSI's if the water purveyor approves.

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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**NOTICE: Mail Address: ABPA-SA - P.O. Box 47820 - San Antonio, TX 78265**

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



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

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Troy Baird – ABPA President  
[info@speackbackflow.com](mailto:info@speackbackflow.com)



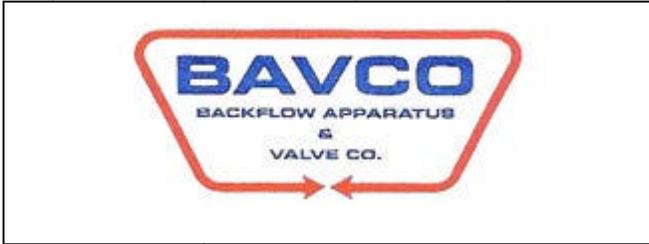
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## How to join the ABPA-SA Chapter

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**



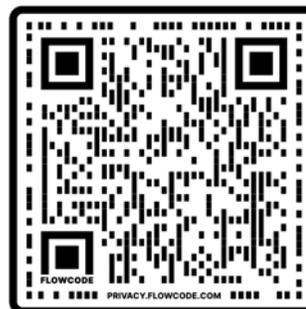
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

## 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

- US Membership \$65
- 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.**

### 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.

## Please Print Legibly or Type

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| Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc                        | First Name   | MI                       | Last Name (Include suffix) |
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| ABPA-SA                                    |              | \$ 60.00                 |                            |
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| Name as it appears on card | Signature              |            |

## 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<br/>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<br/>Florida Suncoast 12.00<br/>Peach State "1788" 30.00<br/>Tennessee 20.00</p> <p><b>REGION 4</b></p> <p>Arkansas \$10.00<br/>Central Texas 20.00<br/>Corpus Christi 23.00<br/>Lower Rio Grande Valley 25.00<br/>North Texas 23.00<br/>San Antonio 60.00</p> | <p><b>REGION 5</b></p> <p>Colorado \$15.00<br/>Utah 12.00</p> <p><b>REGION 6</b></p> <p>Arizona \$20.00<br/>Central Coast 10.00<br/>Central Valley California 10.00<br/>Hawaii 23.00<br/>Silver State 23.00<br/>Southern California 15.00</p> <p><b>REGION 7</b></p> <p>Oregon \$20.00<br/>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<br/>Michigan 40.00<br/>Northern Illinois 23.00</p> <p><b>REGION 12</b></p> <p>Eastern Nebraska \$10.00</p> |
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