

The Direct Connection



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

MAY Vol. 34 Issue 5

Backflow Assembly Improperly Installed – Test or Do Not Test?

There are comments being made about some enforcement agencies (Water Purveyors & Plumbing Inspection Departments) telling testers if an assembly is not installed correctly, they should fail the assembly and do NOT test the assembly until the installation is corrected.

Let's give that some thought! A tester has been hired to test a backflow prevention assembly by a facility. The installation has changed from what was approved initially by the local enforcement agency. Something we often see in the backflow world. So, in accordance with the local enforcement agency, the tester does not test the backflow prevention assembly because – let's say it is installed 12' above grade instead of the 5' maximum requirement. It's an R/P with toxic chemicals back-pressured against the R/P – any other scenario. A backflow situation occurs and a contaminate enters the potable water system through the assembly that "Was Not Tested".

Who will be held liable in such an event???

First – Is it safe to test – tester's decision – Obviously, if not safe to test then the enforcement agency needs to be notified IMMEDIATELY.

Second – The facility hired a tester to test the backflow prevention assembly and the tester did not test the assembly due to the local enforcement agency policy.

When the chips fall and lawsuits are filed because someone became ill or died from the backflow event – who's responsible? The Facility – Tester – Local Enforcement Agency

The facility? After-all it was their hazard that contaminated the potable water system. However, they did what the city required and contacted a tester to assure the assembly was working as designed.

The tester? The tester was hired to test the assembly and the tester refused to test the assembly because the enforcement agency's policy has established criteria that if an assembly is improperly installed – Do Not Test and Fail the Assembly.

The Enforcement Agency? – The local enforcement agency regulation (and or software) are telling testers not to test an assembly until the installation is corrected. There are considerations here with new installation that have not been inspected and approved by the enforcement agency. The scenario being discussed here are existing installations that get modified through the years.

This is a question enforcement agencies should be asking their legal staff and testers need to be discussing.

Teaching backflow courses and comments being received from testers, this has become an issue in some cities.

Fred Baird – Bac-Flo Unlimited – f.baird@att.net

Gauge testing for members starts at 5:00 PM at SAWS

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. The next meeting is:

Date: Thursday May 9, 2024

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

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

Program: Michael Masters with Hugh Cunningham will present the training on General Backflow Knowledge

Meeting Sponsor: Hugh Cunningham

**No alcoholic beverages
allowed**

Next Meeting: June 13, 2024

May Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. General discussion and quorum confirmation
- 5:15 p.m. Call Meeting to order.
- 5:16 p.m. Secretary's Report. Read and approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5:20 p.m. Treasurer's Report. Discussion and approval of the treasurer's report.
- 5:25 p.m. Supply Officer's Report
- 5:30 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.

Big Thanks to

Michelle Bever & Jody Hill with BSI Online for sponsoring the April meeting and for providing the training on their on-line T&M reporting system.

BSI Online for providing a \$50 gift card for the raffle.

Ongoing Goals of ABPA-SA Chapter

1. Educational Outreach with public by presenting at PHCC meetings, engineering firms, schools, and neighborhood associations. Continuing goal.
2. Greater use of TCEQ website. Tracking of CEUs, Services available. Personal education.
3. Increase member awareness of importance of chapter meetings. Increase attendance and public awareness.
4. Increase website resource information. More detailed links to more information like TCEQ, COSA, and any place that would be helpful to our members

"Direct Talk" by the President

The May 9th meeting will be held in the SAWS conference room in the Tower II building located at 2800 U.S. Hwy. 281. Gauge testing starts at 5:00 PM and is iffy after 5:30 PM. The meal will start at 6:00 PM and the meeting will start at 6:15 PM. You may attend the meeting **without** pre-registering, however, if you would like a meal, you will have to register via the email you received about 10 days before the meeting. Stay safe.

Trinidad Chairez

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

Chapter Chatter

from your ABPA-SA Conference Commando, Greg Shean

In short, it was called ABPA 2024. It was ABPA's 39th Education and Trade Show. It was held at the Hilton in Charlotte, NC. I thought it would be difficult to replace Vegas, but the ABPA and Region 3 took care of that concern. Fred and Troy Baird; Bruce Rathburn, his wife, Liela, and son, Trenton; Frank Snyder; and yours truly, attended. The Conference was another huge main hall, like Vegas' New Orleans, with 188 attendees and 78 vendors. Thirty vendor's booths lined all four sides except for the area in front of the two large screens and presentation platform. The Region 3 director, Kathy Riley, the sport that she is, said that Region 4 (that's us) had the most attendees. Joining us at the table was Katherine McGlaughlin with TCEQ Backflow, and Wednesday Smith, the very personable, speaker, and "do it all backflow guru" from Washington State. It's called Networking.

First up was the ABPA Meritorious Service Award. Fred Baird was our first awardee in 2006 and Bruce Rathburn, our second awardee in 2012. We now have our third – Bill Hamrick, awarded in 2024. Fred secretly coordinated with Bill's wife, Lorraine, and his daughter, Katrina on the nomination. Bill had no idea. He could not attend because of health considerations. However, he was "on the call" when pictures of his life history and nomination were read. So much deserving and we are very proud of him. He is a very private person.

Keith Waldrep and I received Gold Eagle awards. Keith's for his leadership in our chapter and the San Antonio Irrigation Association. He is involved in everything. Troy Baird accepted Keith's award. Do not know who nominated me. I do what I do because I enjoy it. It's not work. The chapter also received a 2024 PACE award. That's 21 consecutive PACE awards since 2004. Region 3's Carolina and Tennessee chapters also received PACE awards.

Troy is now ABPA VP and will become president effective July 1st. Kathy Riley will be his VP with over 30 years' experience at Charlotte Water. Silent auction: our Mako digital gauge was a huge hit. Winning bid was \$1,200. This was not bought with chapter funds. Trenton Rathburn was in the hunt when another tester took all the time remaining to very slowly write his name and amount that lasted until the 1:15 PM closing, thus shutting out Trenton. I have seen this done before at other conference silent auctions. I talked to Kathy Reily and Patti Fauver, ABPA management, that, although this was according to the rules, it was not fair in raising more money for the ABPA education fund and not competitive. Over \$5,000 was raised. They agreed. Should be "Until closing and all have an opportunity for final bids." Another Mako digital gauge will be donated next year in Little Rock, AK – ABPA 25.

We cannot have a complete summary without talking about the food. For the three breakfasts – the pastry, bagels, five types of sliced melons, four types of berries, many types of yogurts, three fruit juices, tea, and coffee that never ran out. All excellent choices with plenty of condiments. Morning and afternoon breaks were snack food: popcorn, cereal bars, churros, always available bagels with cream cheese, always available yogurt, and pretzel nuggets with cheese sauce. No one went hungry.

Monday lunch – real flamed grilled quarter inch steak with roasted onions and peppers, roasted sliced chicken breast, beef stew with gnocchi, sweet potatoes, green beans with root vegetables, creamy slaw, creamy potato salad, and peach cobbler.

The vendors sponsored the Monday dinner of roasted prime rib and peeled, deveined, seared shrimp with Cajun seasoning with grits and brown gravy. Dessert - cheesecake.

Tuesday lunch – a totally excellent Mexican buffet of corn tortillas, corn chips, seasoned rice, black beans, roasted cut up chicken, and Pico de Gallo (not cooked salsa), and sour cream. All made for a super large and tasty chalupa. It all worked.

Tuesday evening dinner was at the Ole Mecklenburg Brewery's beer garden. It was Pay-as-you-go beer and German food. About 80 attended.

The ABPA and Region 3 did it all so very well. The ABPA conferences should be at least a, once in a life time, event for all testers. The presentations varied in level of interest. All presenters did not need binders, cue cards, or Teleprompters, or helpers. All were enthusiastic.

I'm all in for Little Rock 2025. San Antonio follows for ABPA 2026. See you at both!!

The fishing event this year will be on October 11-13, 2024. More information later.

**MINUTES
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER-ABPA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 2024**

Trinidad Chairez, President, presided over the meeting. The ABPA San Antonio Chapter meeting started at 6:01 PM in the Tower 2 Conference Room at SAWS HQ.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – ABSENT
Trinidad Chairez – President	Greg Shean – Secretary
Art Trejo – Treasurer	Jeff Stricker– Vice President
Keith Waldrep – Past President	
OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER – PRESENT	OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER – ABSENT
Carl Michaud – Gauge Testing/Certification	Supply Officer - Vacant
Bill Hamrick – Membership and Newsletter	
Joe Young – Program Director	
Matthew Wilgen – Webmaster	
Jeff Meeks – Sgt. At Arms	
Jim Cantrell – Liaison to SAWS	

DIRECTORS AT LARGE – PRESENT	DIRECTORS AT LARGE – ABSENT
Bruce Rathburn – 2 years	Robert Stricker – 2 years
Fred Baird – 1 year	
Jeff Hoffman – 2 years	
Bob Clark - 1 year	
Guests: Michelle Bever and Jody Hill BSI, Chicago, IL	

Agenda Item #1. Trinidad started the meeting at 5:58 and then asked for a moment of silence. He then went through the open items in the March minutes. INFO.

Agenda Item #2. Secretary's Report: March minutes were in the newsletter. Keith made a motion to accept. Seconded. Passed. INFO.

Agenda Item #3. Treasurer's Report: Art reported the amount in our checking account. Jeff made a motion to accept. Seconded. Passed. INFO.

Agenda Item #4. Supply Officer's Report: Vacant. Art brought a selection in styles and colors. Proposal: Show styles and colors on website, notify Art on selection, bring selection to next meeting for sale. OPEN.

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

Agenda Item #7. Meal: Firehouse Subs box lunches of turkey, beef, or ham subs with potato chips, pickle spear, and a cookie. Art Trejo provided the water and sodas for the meeting. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. Raffle: BSI provided a \$50 gift card. INFO.

Agenda Item #9. Webmaster: Website does not work with the host's upgraded software. Matt is going to "reconstruct" it. OPEN.

Agenda Item #10. SAWS: Dan Crowley, Director Governmental Relation and Regional and Federal Affairs, invited BSI to present their Online.com website that will eventually replace the SAWS webapp. INFO.

Agenda Item #11. San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA): Keith reported that the 1st Annual Irrigation Competition, scheduled for April 4th, has been postponed until the Fall. Next SAIA meeting will be on April 30th from 5 PM to 8 PM. Rick McNabb will present the program "Understanding Master Valves". INFO.

Agenda Item #12. ABPA National: Bruce reported that the Education and Trade Show is really shaping up to be a very good show. Bruce said that he, Fred, and ABPA have been exchanging e-mails about "what's going on with the membership?" How can membership go from over 4,000, when Bruce was ABPA president, to just less than 1,000 today? "How is ABPA going to continue to function in the backflow world?" "What questions can we ask why testers left and how can we get them back." ABPA is re-establishing the memorandums of understanding to get all the water purveys and trade organizations back together. Bruce said it starts with the members. Other chapters are going through the same membership issues as our chapter. He confirmed that our chapter is still the largest chapter in ABPA. ABPA got their trademark back for Buster Backflow. Bruce said the backflow manual is finally done – a work in progress for over 10 years. The manual addresses everything related to backflow. It is in agreement with USC. OPEN.

Agenda Item #13. There were several students from a PHCC plumbing class who attended the meeting including additional SAWS employees.

Agenda Item #14. City of San Antonio (COSA) Plumbing Inspection: Mike Morales, COSA Plumbing Inspections, mentioned that there is an update coming to the IPC plumbing code and will share it later. INFO.

Agenda Item #15. Membership: Bill sent letters to those whose membership expired in February and those which will expire in March and April. Bill asked the members to check their ABPA account for their e-mail addresses. Some members use their company addresses where they may not receive chapter correspondence. Bill is working with the ABPA so members can have two e-mail addresses – company and personal. Please e-mail if you have any questions or concerns. INFO.

Agenda Item #16. Gauge Testing: Carl reported that there are no problems. Be there at 5 PM to have your gauge tested. Carl said, "We're here, we're set up – we'll take care of you." INFO.

Agenda Item #17. Training: Michelle Bever has been with BSI for 15 years. Jody Hill, who was BSI's second hire along with Michelle presented training on their OnLine.com backflow test and maintenance website. BSI headquarters is in Chicago. They presented what a tester would see on the BSI website. They asked that questions be held to the end of the presentation. BSI is in 34 states and 4 Canadian

providences. They have live, call any time, customer service. There is no voice mail. BSI handles all customer notifications. They help the purveyor do the paperwork so their customers can work on inspections, failed tests, and installations. Michelle went over the four on-line slides that are described below as to what a tester will see on the portal. No problem if registered. If not, the tester must fill out a form with their credentials. BSI only needs the BPAT license number because TCEQ has the rest of the information in their database. Michelle walked through the program. From the dashboard, she created a sample building to show all the assemblies. Testing many assemblies or only one at one location. She showed what can be done. Replacing or adding an assembly requires purveyor permission. New tests reports will first be verified with purveyor. Testers cannot remove existing assemblies as they must first need to get purveyor approval. New test reports are directly entered into system by BSI. BSI then confirms with purveyor. Inactive assemblies are never removed from database.

Test data can be added with date, serial numbers and readings. There is the ability to add next set of readings after a repair if repair is necessary. The information goes to the purveyor. Checking out with one or multiple tests will bring the tester to a payment Cart. The charge per test report will be \$9.95 to the tester's credit card or account. SAWS does not charge the tester. The information is updated, via e-mail, to the tester, purveyor and the customer, if the customer provides their e-mail. A pdf file of the test report can also be downloaded. The purveyor can add or disable a tester with the information forwarded to BSI.

BSI Online.com is adaptable to any Ipad, Microsoft chrome, cell phone and laptop screen. Improvement automatically updated. BSI assigns a Customer Configuration Number (CCN). The tester can search by address, assembly, or CCN. BSI will send all rules and info at a later date to help to ID the property. A tester cannot see another tester's test results unless permission is granted.

The purveyor does the enforcement. BSI only manages the data. The purveyor can see if too many tests are done in a single day. Finding falsified data is a purveyor responsibly. The tester will be able to access Customer Survey Inspections (CSI) thorough the BSI portal. The form is basically the same as TCEQ's. There is no charge for CSIs.

There were many questions on how to handle failed/repared assemblies and remove replace assemblies. There seems to be many e-mail exchanges between BSI and purveyor and tester. Jody said they need more talk at a later date. The same response was given to the question of a reading on the #2 check valve. Jody said it was optional to record it. It is not allowed in USC test procedures as it requires an extra step. Fred Baird said all courses in Texas teach the basic USC procedure, meaning no reading is to be recorded for #2 check on an RP. It is just check 'closed tight'. The T&M report should not include the ability to enter a reading for the #2 Check on an R/P

BSI is trying to get the information to the testers. Tentative info from SAWS will update later. BSI registers a testing company. The purveyor administrator decides if the tester can be added into the BSI database. BSI said that most purveyors have only one or two testers. BSI Online is not custom software as they may or may not be able to modify their software. They do have an in-house staff of IT professionals. BSI will be listening and are going to adjust to accommodate what we need. BSI has an 800 number only for testers. BSI's customer service staff will answer water purveyor and customer calls.

Jim Cantrell, SAWS Backflow Prevention Supervisor, said they are up to about 50,000 records being cleaned up. They are working on more, before converting to BSI. Converting to BSI will take 4 to 5 months. Many of the calls SAWS gets are unrealistic. They need ideas to improve. He envisions improvements over the years. Dan Crowley commented this new online system should be better for SAWS, the tester, and the customer.

The following is taken from the four interactive BSI training presentations.

SAWS contracted with BSI to replace the SAWS designed, built, and maintained test and maintenance (T&M) backflow report portal. The presentation was to demonstrate how to enter a T&M on the BSI website. The presentation was all done live with the BSI website, walking the audience through the steps of entering a T&M to the BSI website. The BSI website will take the place of SAWS portal once BSI goes on-line with SAWS data. The presentation was in four sections. Only the steps are presented here because the four slides used were interactive and cannot be copied to a Word document. Once the tester uses BSI Online a few times, the steps will be intuitive.

First, log in to www.bsionline.com. If you need to register, scroll to the middle of the page and click on the orange button **SIGN UP TODAY**. Once you create a company profile with your username and password, select **SIGN UP**. You will be prompted to proceed to the next step. Select on the orange **LOGIN** button under **TESTING COMPANIES**. Upon your first time logging in, you will need to add and upload copies of your credentials. You can do that directly from the dashboard by selecting **LICENSES, TESTERS, OR TEST KITS**. Select **Enter Test Report** on Dashboard. Search for **any property or assembly** by entering an address, name, assembly serial number or by the CCN (customer confirmation number). Hover your mouse over the correct property from the list, select with your mouse to proceed.

Second: Find the correct assembly serial number to enter a test. Select the green button **ENTER TEST**. A smart form will pop open, fill in pertinent information. Once finished, select **SUBMIT TEST AND ADD TO CART**. After you enter a test and add it to your cart, you have the option to proceed to your cart, enter a test for another assembly at the same property, or find another property.

Third: Cart: A key provision to BSI Online is a filing fee assessed per test report submitted. To pay for tests entered, proceed to the **CART**. This can always be accessed on the top right of the screen in orange or on the left side panel. Confirm the items in your cart and select **CHECKOUT**. You will select a payment method. BSI Online can store and accept any major credit card or you can operate off a balance. Select **REVIEW ORDER**.

Fourth: Review order. You will review the order one more time and click the blue button **SUBMIT ORDER**. Your credit card will be charged or the amount deducted from your balance for the transaction amount. A receipt will be available within a few seconds to download by selecting **DOWNLOAD RECEIPT**.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM for the raffle.



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA San Antonio Chapter



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PHCC- SAN ANTONIO UPCOMING EVENTS

**9
MAY**

2024 PHCC-SA GOLF TOURNAMENT

BRACKENRIDGE GOLF COURSE
2315 AVENUE B, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78215
7:00 AM BREAKFAST | 8:00 AM SHOOT BEGINS

**23
MAY**

LUNCH AND LEARN TRAINING

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: BRET BARTLEY
MOORE SUPPLY
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SAN ANTONIO, TX 78247
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**30
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Quote of the Day

"Backflow World - What we have learned and know about this field - is that - the more we know the more we realize we don't know!"

After over 50 years in the Backflow World - I came to realize this. Are there really - any experts in this field?

Fred Baird



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Published by the ABPA-SA Chapter

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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



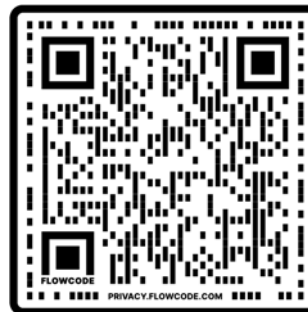
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

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

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.**

- ☐ US Membership \$65
☐ International Membership \$79
 ☐ Sustaining Membership \$300.00
 ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal - Member # _____

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

Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc	First Name	MI	Last Name (Include suffix)
Organization (Agency/Firm)		Department/Division	Title
Address:			
City:	State / Prov	Zip + 4 Code/Postal Code	Country
Daytime Phone	Fax	Email	
ABPA-SA		\$ 60.00	
Local Chapter (if joining a local chapter)		Local Dues Amount	

Method of Payment

☐ Charge \$ 125.00 to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Invoice Me

Credit Card Number	Card Expires (MM/YYYY)	CVC Number
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

REGION 1 New England \$12.00 Rhode Island 18.00	REGION 5 Colorado \$15.00 Utah 12.00	REGION 9 (USD)
REGION 2 Virginia \$25.00	REGION 6 Arizona \$20.00 Central Coast 10.00 Central Valley California 10.00 Hawaii 23.00 Silver State 23.00 Southern California 15.00	REGION 10
REGION 3 Carolinas \$10.00 Florida Suncoast 12.00 Peach State "1788" 30.00 Tennessee 20.00	REGION 7 Oregon \$20.00 SRC4 20.00	REGION 11 Indiana BPA \$25.00 Michigan 40.00 Northern Illinois 23.00
REGION 4 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	REGION 8 (USD)	REGION 12 Eastern Nebraska \$10.00

Please make checks payable to: ABPA
6672 S 1570 W, West Jordan, UT
(801) 436-7238
Email: membership@abpa.org