

The Direct Connection



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

May Vol. 50 Issue 5

BAVCO Donates to 'Bill Hamrick' Scholarship Fund

At the April meeting, BAVCO generously donated \$10,000 to a really special scholarship fund. The scholarship will be awarded to a nominee of an annual amount determined by the Board.

Joe Young with BAVCO, presented the check to the ABPA-SA Chapter. In his presentation he did an excellent job describing about Bill. From the meticulous equipment he built over the years, to his personal (detailed) practices, and to all the support he provided to ABPA locally and nationally.

About BAVCO, a backflow parts distributor, has supported ABPA-SA since its formation in 1979. A special thanks goes to Jim in California and BAVCO for the donation. Bill's dedication and contribution to the "backflow world" will be remembered for many years and cannot be overstated.

At the meeting Joe described in detail the lessons he learned from Bill having witnessed first hand the many benefits that come from being as scrupulous as Bill was. For one, Bill would *thoroughly* go through each test kit submitted for certification no matter how long it took. Bill always focused on three points: take pride in your work, pay attention to details, and follow through with problem solving. He provided selfless customer service aimed at perfection as indicated in his company name ATB Services (Always The Best). Bill loved working with people, sharing what he had designed and built over the years, and coming up with future solutions to any existing problem. With 'living life', he always managed to put his family first including his wife, Loraine and two daughters, Katrina and Marcy. Bill was always focused on learning, education, and passing it on.

Bill's daughter Katrina Hamrick came up with the great idea for a scholarship in her dad's name, to be awarded to a new BPAT each year who has passion and desire entering the 'backflow' field. Through self taught experience, Bill's shared knowledge continues with many of us and will be long remembered through the Bill Hamrick Scholarship Fund. Bill's legacy will definitely continue.

Thank you Joe, Katrina, Jim, and BAVCO...



May Meeting Details

Meetings of the San Antonio Chapter of ABPA are held the second Thursday of every month except December. Dinner and refreshments are served beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6:00.

Date: Thursday May 14, 2026

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

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

Meeting Sponsor and Training: TBA

Presentation Title: TBA

No Alcoholic Beverages Allowed

Next meeting date: June 11th, 2026

Special thanks to:

Mike Lueck with Mid-West Instrument for his presentation last meeting on Analog and Digital Backflow Test Kits.



**Mid-West[®]
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May Agenda

- 5:00 pm General discussion / quorum confirmation - Call Meeting to Order
- 5:02 pm Secretary's Report. Read and approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5:05 pm Treasurer's Report. Discussion and approval of the treasurer's report.
- 5:10 pm Vice President's, Directors', and any other reports for the good of the chapter. Comments, new business, any discussion.
- 5:15 pm Training Report. Training & Meal Sponsors
- 5:20 p.m. Webmaster Report
- 5:25 pm President's Report. New & old business
- 5:30 p.m. Meal is served.
- 6:00 pm General Membership Meeting & Training
 1. Report from the Directors Meeting, President.
 2. City, Regional, and National Reports. Reports from any City personnel present.
 3. Training program for the evening.
 4. Raffle prize drawing.

Nightmare of Year Award:

Members: submit your 'true' testing nightmare story that happened to you in 2026 to info@speackbackflow.com.

The story judged best will be awarded a \$200 cash prize at the upcoming November meeting!

"Direct Talk" by the President

The June 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 approximately 5:00 PM with the meal beginning at 5:30 and meeting at 6:00 PM.

Jeff Stricker

Check license information here: https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/lic_dpa/index.cfm?fuseaction=licall.searchindiv

MINUTES

ABPA - SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday, April 9, 2026

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CONT. – PRESENT
Jeff Stricker - President	Greg Shean - Secretary
Tim Sales - Vice President	Art Trejo - Treasurer/Membership
Trinidad Chairez – Past Pres; Program Director	
OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER – PRESENT	OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER - ABSENT
Webmaster - Open; Troy Baird - Newsletter	Supply Officer - Vacant
Jeff Meeks - Sgt. At Arms	
Carl Michaud – Gauge Testing/Certification	
Mark Schnur - Liaison to SAWS	

DIRECTORS AT LARGE – PRESENT	DIRECTORS AT LARGE – ABSENT
	Jeff Hoffman - 2 years
Bruce Rathburn - 2 years	Robert Stricker - 2 years
Bob Clark - 1 year	
Fred Baird - 1 year	
GUESTS PRESENT: Mike Lueck with Mid-West Instrument, Sterling Heights, Michigan	Joe Young with BAVCO, Katrina Hamrick

Agenda Item #1. Agenda Item #1. Jeff started the meeting asking that all turn off cell phones, then reviewing meeting agenda and introduced guests Mike Lueck w/ Mid-West Instrument to present the training. Joe Young, BAVCO; and Katrina Hamrick also. Jeff thanked them for being here. Jeff went over attendance sign up list needed after training for BPAT CEU credit. Member must review as this reflects their chapter membership. The member must be current with National and chapter assessments to get CEU credit, free hands on, and free gauge certification. Members should check the chapter website if they need to renew their memberships.

Agenda Item #2. Secretary's Report: The March minutes were in the newsletter. Carl made a motion to accept. Robert was not in attendance. Second. Passed. INFO.

Agenda Item #3. Treasurer's Report: Art said that members must be registered and current at National and the chapter. Art reported on the chapter membership was "solid" with 93 active members. INFO.

Agenda Item #4. Meeting Sponsor: Mid-West Instruments sponsored the meeting meal of a Jason Deli sandwich of choice of ham, roast beef, turkey, or salami sandwiches. The chapter provided the 1 oz chip packages and cookies. sodas and water. INFO.

Agenda Item #5. Supply: Art brought extensive supply of remaining chapter attire w/ sizes and prices. Get yours before they're gone. Reorder will be just caps. Still need to decide on the unsold inventory. OPEN.

Agenda Item #6. Raffle: Mid-West Instrument sponsored 2 sets backflow test quick disconnects. INFO.

Agenda Item #7. Newsletter: Troy brought and distributed about 30 hard copy (printed) copies. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. Training: Mike Lueck to present on Analog and Digital Backflow Test Kits. INFO.

Agenda Item #9. SAWS: Mark Schnur reported that Eddie Gonzales passed his BPAT exam, making nine licensed BPATs on their team. Issues with BSI and residential irrigation assemblies have been resolved. SAWS and BSI continue working together to improve processes. Testers encountering missing assemblies in BSI should search by serial number before creating another CCN. SAWS also asks testers to update the location information for backflow assemblies to make them easier to find on customer properties. SAWS is revising backflow guidelines are nearing final draft form. The final draft version will be on SAWS website for review in the near future. The SAWS backflow team is at backflowprevention@saws.org or 210-233-2910. Mark can be reached at mark.schnur@saws.org or 210-233-3451. INFO.

Agenda Item #10. Gauge Testing: Carl told members to tell BAVCO you're with ABPA-SA for free gauge test. Member verification required. Member should keep white copy as Carl will pick up the other two to verify membership. You are allowed one potable and one non potable certification in one calendar year. INFO.

Agenda Item #11. ABPA National. Troy reported all national nominations for even number regional directors, will be filled. There will be a run-off in Region 2. Current Region 4 director, Stephen Bitely will be VP, and Belinda Pattison will move to Region 4 Director. National is still adjusting new website. New ABPA manual is available at abpa.org. Conference is coming up May 4th to 6th at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. INFO.

Agenda Item #12. Webmaster: Jeff brought up the chapter website on the screen to review the updates that he had programmed. The website now has the last four years of chapter newsletter. He showed how to use our website to join or renew chapter membership which is linked to the national ABPA.org website. He asked the members to go to our website, abpa-sa.org, and give him feedback. INFO.

Agenda Item #13. Training: Mike Lueck is president of Mid-West Instruments. He started with his relationship with Bill Hamrick. Bill was the National ABPA Chairman of the Election Committee. He was responsible for the Internet voting of directors. Mike was, and is currently, a Director at Large. He said that Bill was very organized. He would design tools and send pictures to Mid-West who would manufacturer them.

Mike outlined the presentation goals. He will define the main components of pressure-sensing instruments which is the basis of both analog and digital gauges. The analog pressure gauge has an elastomer diaphragm with a magnetic coupling. The digital pressure gauge has capacitive differential sensors.

All gauges have a pressure containing element which keeps system pressure and processes the fluid inside the instrument. Next is the pressure sensing element which converts the pressure changes into an "output" that can be measured. Last, is the indicator which is the "mechanism" that converts the "output" of the pressure sending element to an indicated value of known units.

Mike said he would present "inner workings" of both analog and digital gauges. The goal is to understand how each works differently but has the same result – measuring the pressure differential inside a backflow assembly. First, was the mechanical differential pressure gauges or known as the analog gauge. Mike presented color projections of analog gauge components of a 5-valve backflow test kit. He pointed out each interior component as it did the following: 1. Pressure containing elements: the sensing element separates high pressure and low-pressure housings that contact and contain the media. 2. Pressure sensing element: an elastomer diaphragm that converts the pressure differences between the high and low sides into linear motion via magnetic coupling. 3. Indicator: converts linear motion of the diaphragm into rotary pointer motion indicated against a graduated dial arc. The gauges inner working seemed very simple yet required a considerable amount of engineering, manufacturing, and a yearly certification test to ensure accuracy.

Then Mike presented a digital pressure gauge test kit. First he outlined the same elements in the digital gauge as in the analog gauge. 1. Pressure-containing elements as each transducer has its own housing. 2. Pressure sensing elements: two pressure transducers that convert pressure changes to an electrical output (voltage, inductance, capacitance, etc.) 3. Indicator: a microprocessor and circuitry designed to convert the electrical output to a digital pressure readout that can be displayed on a liquid crystal display, with one older version having a thermal print out. Mike said that digital pressure transducer sensing technology has existed since the 1980s with its application of this technology transferring to backflow test kits shortly after.

Mike presented color projections of digital gauge components or their representation of a 5 valve backflow test kit. He pointed out the test kit components, pressure sensors, test kit indicator, digital gauge circuit, and circuit board. Not as understandable as the analog gauge, but well presented.

He then reviewed the differences between the analog and digital test kits according to pressure housing, pressure sensing element, and indicator. Corresponding for the analog test gauge: more volume and larger displacement, diaphragm with range spring, and diaphragm displacement combined with magnetic coupling to a dial pointer. For the digital gauge: less volume, very small displacement, capacitive differential pressure sensor, and capacitive sensor to a digital value for display on an electronic device.

The following is what Mike said remains the same: 1. Physical test time – still have test cocks to bleed, adapters to install, hoses to connect, components to test, assembly returned to as found state, etc. 2. Both versions resolve 0.1 PSID. 3. Both designs have the same manifold configurations – water in the bottom, air out the top. 4. Both versions work with existing test procedures. 5. Both Designs require accuracy verification recommended annually. 6. Does not eliminate false or inaccurate test reports.

Next showing how the digital test gauge application could download data from cloud and how to check data. The app can search by address or serial number. He showed how to use data, search previous years data, and what can be done with from the cloud. He also went through how to test an RP assembly, how to capture pressure, how to enter comments, save a general pdf report, and send the report to a customer. On the other side, he showed a failed test, its repaired, and how to update. Comments.

With the emphasis on preventing false reports, ethics, report analysis, Mike reviewed why digital data is important now and what is next. 1. Save test data to always have it available at anytime. 2. Generate PDF's to drive more commonality on test submission forms and procedures. 3. Download results from cloud and Integrate with other software.

There were a lot of questions due to purveyors having different T&M reports.

Future of Analog and digital backflow test kits. Linear output that can be measured. Analog around for 50 plus years. Differential pressure gauge components. Went over the 5 valve backflow test kit.

Diaphragm support plate fully supports the diaphragm. Magnetic coupling can manipulate the dial. 5 , 2 & 1 psid most important. Get better magnetic coupling. Atmospheric pressure on both sides 0 psid. Open low side, captured reading. Answered questions from audience. About what's going on inside of test kit.

History of digital - no real advantage. Had to have two transducers or differential transducers. Basically digital version of the analog gauges. Two stainless steel diaphragms both are fully supported. Fluid deflects. New test kits have ability to capture data. Take into account ambient temperature. Analog kit with a digital readout. Carefully and slowly open gauge.

One is not more accurate than the other. The 855 is the same bottom manifold. Newer technology will not solve cheating. Cannot go back and change data. Every purveyor does things differently. What data do they want. 845 largely has been unchanged since 2003. Probably more changes coming as things take hold. Cannot go into an area with a flammable atmosphere – cannot go into with a battery. Need an analog gauge. Warranty 5 years material and workman ship. Same components as in the 845. Held up extremely well. Field tested by independent testers. Life expectancy – same as analog. Lab tested.

App to download data from cloud and check data. Can search by address or serial number. Showed how to use data. Search previous years. What can be done with information from the cloud. Went through how to test assembly. Showed how to capture pressure. Demonstrated using an RP inputting comments. Save and general at pdf report and send to customer. Showed a failed test, repaired, and how to update. Comments.

Can download a day's worth of tests. Lots of questions due to purveyors having different T&M reports.

Adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM for the raffle.



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA-SA

Quote of the Month:

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Recipe - Spanish Rice

1 cup white rice

2 cups water

4 cubes chicken broth

½ cup onion (diced)

½ cup bell pepper

1 can diced tomatoes

1 tea spoon each salt, comino, chili power

1 lg. garlic clove

Add Brown Rice to skillet with about 2 Tbsp. Butter – Pour into pyrex dish – add all ingredients into dish - dissolve cubes in microwave with ½ cup water and add last ingredient and stir. Option: add 2 additional Tbsp. Butter.

Place in oven – 300 degrees for 1 hr. 20 minutes

Do Not Stir – let set before serving

QUIZ - True or False

T F 1. A low gauge reading across #1 check on an RP could indicate either a fouled #1 check and/or a fouled #2 check valve.

T F 2. An RP with a small amount of debris on the relief valve disc is likely to cause a higher-than-normal relief valve opening point?

T F 3. When testing #2 check on a DC water continues to continues to flow from #4 TC. The most probable cause is a leaking #1 check valve?

T F 4. A spill resistant vacuum breaker is a high hazard BFP capable of protecting against toxic chemicals downstream?

T F 5. Recycle water is distributed by the water purveyor into a customer's facility with backflow protection on site. Responsible water usage within the facility is solely the responsibility of the customer's facility, and not the water purveyor.

ABPA-SA Board of Directors 2026

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

Special Officers to the Association

- 6) SGT-AT-ARMS – Jeff Meeks
- 7) Liaison to SAWS – Mark Schnur
- 8) Program Director – Open
- 9) Gauge Testing and Certification – Carl Michaud
- 10) Membership - Art Trejo
- 11) Webmaster – Matthew Wilgen
- 12) Newsletter - Troy Baird

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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		1/2 Page	\$300	
		Full Page	\$500	

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Quiz answers 1. True 2. True 3.False 4.True 5.False

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PHCC-SAN ANTONIO CALENDAR

- 20**
MAR

Contractor Training w/ASC Engineered Solutions
 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
 Location: **PMI Sales & Marketing**, 1924 Shipman Dr. SATX 78219



- 26**
MAR

Golf Mixer: Food, Drinks, Par 3 & Putt-Putt
 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM (Members/Nonmembers welcomed to participate)
 Location: **San Pedro Golf Course**, 6102 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX 78216



- 9**
APR

Monthly Membership Meeting
 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Location: **Northern Hills Golf Course Venue**. 13202 Scarsdale, SATX 78217
 Guest Speaker: Harold Moret, Copper Development Assoc.


- 7**
MAY

PHCC-SA 13th Annual Golf Tournament
 8:30 AM Shotgun
 Location: **Northern Hills Golf Course Venue**, 13202 Scarsdale, SATX 78217



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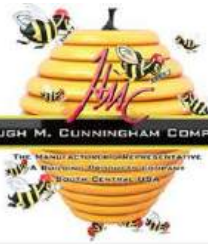

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How to join the ABPA-SA Chapter

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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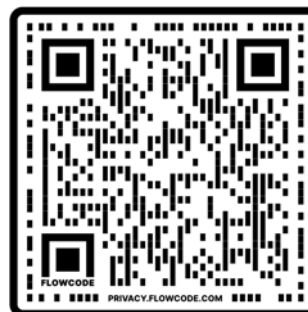
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How to renew your ABPA-SA Chapter Membership

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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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- US Membership \$65
- International Membership \$79
 - Sustaining Membership \$300.00
 - New Member
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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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Credit Card Number	Card Expires (MM/YYYY)	CVC Number
Name as it appears on card	Signature	

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