

# The Direct Connection



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

July Vol. 41 Issue 7

## **SB 2702: Texas Water Operators and Citizens Narrowly Avoided Major Setback**

During the most recent Texas legislative session, a significant threat to public health and safety was narrowly avoided. Senate Bill 2702 and its companion, House Bill 4293, proposed allowing individuals licensed or certified by other national training and industry-recognized professional organizations in the U.S. to perform critical backflow prevention tasks in Texas - such as installation, maintenance, and testing of backflow prevention assemblies - without meeting existing TCEQ-specific licensing requirements.

Let that sink in.

Had this legislation passed, it would have created a loophole allowing out-of-state contractors to operate legally in Texas without being required to comprehend or demonstrate proficiency in Texas laws, regulations, or standards related to backflow and cross-connection control. This would have undermined the safety measures that protect Texas's public water supply.

Incorporated Texas public water systems are mandated to adopt local building codes and plumbing ordinances, but they also have the authority to strengthen these codes beyond the state's baseline standards. However, they cannot weaken them. Allowing out-of-state providers to bypass Texas licensing would have compromised this local control, and each public water supply would have tremendous oversight responsibilities.

So what stands as our last line of defense in safeguarding public health and water safety?

- State and local minimum standards
- TCEQ enforcement of those standards
- A TCEQ-issued license specific to backflow prevention assemblies

It's important to note not all states require a license. Some only require a certification, and not all have adopted the same standards. Texas follows University of Southern California (USC) Foundation for Cross-Connection Control guidelines, which is considered the gold standard in Texas and is used in approx. 12 states.

The true intent behind SB 2702 was to pave the way for a de facto national license, circumventing Texas's current legal and technical requirements. The bill quietly advanced through the Senate without opposition and was sent to the House for consideration. It was only when a group of informed and concerned Texas industry professionals, such as TCEQ licensed water and wastewater operators, BPAT, and Landscape Irrigators, stepped in that the bill faced resistance. Thanks to their efforts, the bill was sent back to committee for amendments, where it eventually died due to time constraints at the close of the session.

But this story isn't over.

In just two years, the Texas Legislature will meet again. Those pushing for this legislation will likely return, with broader ambitions. If successful in weakening one Texas-specific license requirement, others may pursue a national license standard for all water and wastewater operators, potentially eroding decades of hard-earned public trust and health protections.

Stay informed. Stay involved. Share your concerns with your state representatives. The safety of water depends on it.

*L. Russell Hamilton - Executive Director, TWUA*

## July 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 July 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**

**Meeting Sponsor/Training: TBD**

**No alcoholic  
beverages allowed**

**Next meeting date: August 14, 2025**

**Last meeting thanks to:**

**Robert Stricker for his  
presentation: Backflow  
Prevention, Why is it  
Important?**

**And Fred Baird for the  
latest TCEQ updates...**

## **July 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 from any City personnel present.
  3. Training program for the evening.
  4. Raffle prize drawing.

### **Backflow Trivia:**

**If the first check fails when testing a Double Check Valve Assembly, the tester can continue to test the second check valve.**

**True or False?**

**Answer: bottom of next page.**

## "Direct Talk" by the President

The July 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/)

**MINUTES  
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER-ABPA  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
Thursday, June 12, 2025**

<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – ABSENT</b>
Trinidad Chairez - President; Jeff Stricker V. Pres.	Art Trejo - Treasurer/Membership
Greg Shean - Secretary	
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	Supply Officer - Vacant
Jeff Meeks - Sgt. At Arms	Joe Young - Program Director
Matt Wilgen - Webmaster	

<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	<b>GUEST PRESENT:</b> None
Fred Baird - 1 year	

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

Agenda Item #2. Secretary's Report: The May minutes were in the newsletter. Robert (as always) made a motion to accept. Seconded. Passed. INFO.

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

Agenda Item #4. Meeting Sponsor: ABPA-SA sponsored the meeting. INFO.

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

Agenda Item #6. Raffle: ABPA-SA provided a \$50 cash. INFO

Agenda Item #7. Training: Robert Stricker will provide the training. Some Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors (PHCC) backflow training is part. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. National ABPA: Troy reported that the total conference attendance was approx. 250. Conferences generally break even. The Little Rock conference made a profit." Troy described a few presentations, most interesting a leak detection dog detecting leaks off chlorine smell. 'Vessel' found a wet paper towel in audience. The next conference will be May 4-6, 2026 at the Orleans in Las Vegas.

Agenda Item #9. SAWS: Dan Crowley, SAWS Director of Governmental Relations, reported that they are working with BSI and "sees good things coming in the future." He introduced Rudy Lara as a new hire. He added that another backflow examiner and a data person are also being hired. There is still an open position for a backflow inspector. Dan said the new hires have a good capacity to learn and to work well with others. INFO.

Agenda Item #10. Gauge Testing: Carl reported that, starting in July, gauges will be tested at BAVCO. Tester can take them down anytime between 7 AM to 4 PM. Joe or James will test your gauge "while you wait." Testing will be free. Do not leave gauge at the door. Gauges can also be tested Bac-Flo Unlimited, American Backflow, or Test Gauge. BAVCO will keep a digital copy. The backflow testers must submit the test report to BSI. INFO.

Agenda Item #11: Newsletter: Fred asked for a "show of hands" of those who read the ABPA-SA June newsletter. He counted 9. He then passed out a black and white copy of the newsletter to those who had not read the newsletter. INFO.

Agenda Item #12: TCEQ Cross-Connection Control Subcommittee Meeting, June 5, 2025: This was a quarterly "join-a-meeting" that was headed by TCEQ Ms. Katherine McGlaughin, Cross Connection Control Program, Ms. Jaume Martone, Landscape Irrigation, and a host of other TCEQ department heads. Fred Baird was, "on the call," and summarized the meeting. Here are the highlights:

1. The TCEQ BPAT Test Form is under revision.
2. SB2702, which would have allowed testers outside of Texas to perform backflow tests inside of Texas without taking the TCEQ required training that focused on Texas requirements and the BPAT hands-on and written exam.
3. Water Purveyors need to be Reporting all backflow incidents. Cities (water purveyors) are not reporting these events to TCEQ. Need to show events for Cross Connection Control support and education. Not that all events or any will be published, unless it's a major contamination event involving TCEQ investigations. The TCEQ Water Quality Investigators must speak backflow and be able to recognize backflow situations involving cross connections.
4. TCEQ CSI Inspection Report Received – an inspector with a WSPS endorsement on a plumbing license, did a virtual inspection instead of going to site, which those in attendance expressed their reaction as being very inadequate and impossible to accurately make and determine that all cross connections have been protected with appropriate backflow protection. Additionally, in this case, a follow up inspection determined that the WSPS had missed the irrigation system which apparently had no backflow protection!
5. All irrigation complaints must be submitted to the TCEQ Irrigation Division who have hired extra enforcement personnel. All complaints are investigated. So far, TCEQ has issued many thousands in fines.
6. HB 517 passed which does not allow homeowner associations to issue citations for not watering.
7. Starting June 1st, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) must be completed on each license renewal. The DPS form will be added to all license renewals. If a form is not completed, a TCEQ letter of deficiency, will be sent to the license holder. There will be a pause on required finger printing, though recommended by TCEQ. TCEQ is surveying BPAT training providers for core training accuracy.
8. The TCEQ Water Division is reviewing SB 1702 and in two years expect it to be tried again. There were lots of comments from the water supply industry and others expressing opposition to the Bill.

9. TCEQ is evaluating requiring 2 hours of ethics training for all water related license holders.

Agenda Item #13. Training – Robert Stricker, ABPA-SA presented the training. This is the 2nd of 3 sections that he conducts for the PHCC plumber training. Robert was the former City of San Antonio Plumbing Inspection supervisor. The PowerPoint presentation is 46 slides but is very organized. Only titles, with some narrative, can be given. Learning Objectives: Analyze and Identify Backflow Scenarios, Navigate Regulatory Requirements, and Implement Effective Backflow Measures. Backflow Prevention: Why is it Important? Ensure a safe, compliant, and efficient plumbing system — one that emphasizes water purity above all else. What is Backflow? Backflow is the reversal of a normal flow of a liquid or gas in a piping system. Hazardous Backflow and Cross-Connection were defined. Why is it Important? Health and Safety, Legal Compliance, System Design and Installation, Troubleshooting and Maintenance, and Education and Communication.

Types of Backflow: Backpressure: non-potable system's pressure exceeds potable system's pressure. Back-siphonage: supply line pressure falls below atmospheric pressure and creates a vacuum or negative pressure on piping system. Four each of backpressure and backsiphonage examples were described. Health hazard: Any substance that could adversely affect human health and safety if it was introduced into the drinking water system. Examples can include insecticides, antifreeze, embalming fluid, fertilizers, reclaimed water, lawn irrigation systems, etc. Non-health hazard: Any substance that does not affect human health but would affect the aesthetic quality (taste, smell, odor, or look) of the drinking water. Examples can include iron, sulfur, calcium, tannins, etc. Cross-Connections are any connection between a potable water supply and any fixture, equipment, or device through which it may be possible for non-potable, unclean, polluted, or contaminated water to enter the potable water supply. There are two types: direct and indirect.

A Public Water System is charged with: Implementing plumbing ordinances, regulations, or service agreements. Conducting customer-service inspections. Ensuring backflow protection by utilizing appropriate backflow prevention assemblies. Regular testing of assemblies to confirm their proper functionality. Identifying and evaluating potential hazards within the distribution system. Taking measures to protect consumers from a hazard once it has been identified.

In the event of a backflow incident, a detailed summary of any backflow incident should be submitted to the Coordinator of the Cross-Connection Control Program.

Local Authority: Ordinance: A formal enactment by a local government, adopted by the governing body. Regulations: Requirements within the ordinance that encompass the cross-connection control program and backflow prevention. Customer Service Agreements: Agreements between the public water system and its customers that have provisions for protection against backflow and provide for enforcement.

Containment and Internal Cross-Connection Control Programs: containment program, also called "premises isolation," has backflow prevention at the main water connection to the facility (at the meter). An internal cross-connection control program is one that is located within a facility that has actual or potential contamination hazards.

The following assemblies are used for protection from a Health Hazard: Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP), Spill-resistant Vacuum Breaker (SVB), Pressure-vacuum Breaker (PVB), Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB) and Air Gap. The following assemblies are used for protection from a Non-health Hazard: All the above plus Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) and Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker (HBVB).

**Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly:** Consists of a complex configuration of components housed within a single unit. Creates a pressure zone that is lower than the incoming water supply pressure. Installed at the point of potential contamination. Shall not be installed below grade in a pit, vault, or in areas containing toxic fumes or flooding due to the relief valve opening. Often required by building codes and regulatory authorities in situations where there is a high risk of contamination. Recommended Installation Criteria: Minimum of 12" clearance under the assembly. **Pressure Vacuum Breaker:** Consists of a valve assembly that is typically installed above ground and features a check valve and an air inlet valve, both housed within a single unit. The check valve allows water to flow in one direction, while the air inlet valve permits the entry of air creating a barrier against backflow and preventing the potential siphoning of non-potable water into the potable water supply. Commonly installed in irrigation systems and must be installed at least 12" above all downstream piping and outlets.

**Spill Resistant Vacuum Breaker:** Designed for both indoor and outdoor use applications; commonly used in healthcare facilities, commercial kitchens, or industrial facilities, as well as outdoor water features, RV hookup sites, and other outdoor outlets. Incorporates a check valve and an air inlet valve within a single unit. The check valve allows water to flow in one direction, ensuring that water can be dispensed from the faucet as intended. Ensures that any backflow or pressure buildup is relieved through the vent or relief port, rather than allowing contaminated water to flow back into the potable water supply. Must be installed at least 12" above all downstream piping and outlets.

**Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker:** Simple and compact device that consists of a housing with an inlet, an outlet, and an air inlet valve. When water flows in the desired direction, the air inlet valve remains open, allowing air to enter the device. This creates an atmospheric pressure, maintaining a balanced pressure within the system. If water pressure drops or a backflow event occurs, the air inlet valve closes due to the reverse flow of water, creating a vacuum or negative pressure, preventing the backward flow of water. Minimum 6" above all downstream piping and the highest downstream opening. No downstream shutoff or control valves allowed as it must not be subjected to continuous pressure for more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period. The AVB is a non-testable device — it does not have test cocks or ports for testing its functionality. Most commonly found on hose bibs but can also be found incorporated into mechanisms such as flushometer valves.

**Air Gap:** The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from any pipe or faucet conveying water to a tank, fixture, receptor, sink, or other assembly and the flood level rim of the receptacle. The vertical, physical separation must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, but never less than 1.0 inch.

**Double Check Valve Assembly:** Consists of two independently operating check valves, which are typically spring-loaded and allow water to flow in only one direction. Minimum of 12" clearance under the assembly.

**Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker:** Designed to protect against backflow contamination at outdoor faucets, also known as hose bibs or hose spigots, attached to the hose bib or faucet and operates by creating an air gap between the water outlet and the hose connection. Not intended to be under pressure for more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period.

**Backflow Prevention Assembly Installation:** Regardless of who installs the assembly, it must be tested upon installation. **Testing, Inspection, and Certification:** Testing is essential to ensure that the assembly is working properly and is providing adequate protection against backflow. The authority having jurisdiction should ensure that assemblies are annually inspected for proper installation and operation, and to confirm that they have not been compromised.

**Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers:** Only a licensed Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester (BPAT) can test, certify or repair a backflow prevention assembly — qualified to test and repair assemblies on any domestic, commercial, industrial, or irrigation service. There are additional requirements for BPATs working on fire-suppression systems or fire lines. Records test results on a Test and Maintenance Report (T&M) for and submits to the public water system. Approved training providers teach the testing procedures that appear in the latest edition of the Manual of Cross-Connection Control from USC's Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research. BPAT Licensing: Eligibility: be at least 18 years old, high school diploma or equivalent, and at least 2 years of relevant approved experience in plumbing or related field. Complete training program approved by the TCEQ 40-hour certification course includes practical skills portion of exam. Take written exam at TCEQ regional office or computer-based testing facility. Send license application to TCEQ along with proof of training, experience, and payment of fees. Renew license every 3 years by completing 24 hours of CE, including 8 hours of hands-on training, submitting a renewal application, and paying a renewal fee.

**Backflow Testing Equipment:** A properly calibrated and certified field test kit. Test gauges must be tested for accuracy at least once per year and document date on the T&M report. If off by more than +/- 0.2 psid, the field test kit must be recalibrated. Preliminary Field Test Procedures: Use appropriate protective equipment, understand confined spaces, elevated platforms, practice safety on ladders and stairways, and use caution in areas where other utility services are present.

**Preliminary Field Test Procedures:** Notify the owner of the assembly and/or on-site personnel in advance that the water service will be temporarily shut off during the field test procedure. Identify the correct assembly is being subjected to the field test by checking the identification on the assembly itself, including the manufacturer, model, size, and serial number. Inspect: Thoroughly inspect the assembly to ensure that all the required components for the field test procedure are present, including upstream and downstream shutoff valves, open and closed shutoff valves, and properly located test cocks. Observe: Carefully observe the area surrounding the assembly for any indications of leakage, such as the presence of moss or algae growth, plant life, or soil erosion. Visual cues can provide the tester with additional information about the condition of the assembly before conducting the field test. Additionally, inspect the installation for any unsafe conditions, particularly in cases where the assembly is located inside buildings, to identify potential hazards arising from water discharge or leakage.

**Repair and Maintenance:** If it is determined that the assembly will not pass a test, then the assembly must be repaired and retested after repair. Dirt and debris in the water system is a big factor in the failure of check valves. A general cleaning and inspection may be all that is needed to return the assembly back to proper operation. Use only manufacturer authorized replacement parts and components. Immediately after repair, the backflow assembly should be tested to confirm proper operation.

**Conclusion:** From the installation of backflow prevention assemblies to the implementation of proper testing and maintenance procedures, it is important to have a systematic and thorough approach. We have stressed the significance of compliance with local regulations and industry standards. Plumbers must adhere to these guidelines to guarantee the reliability and effectiveness of backflow prevention systems, as well as to uphold public health and safety. Ultimately, backflow prevention is not just a professional responsibility; it is a commitment to safeguarding public health and protecting the integrity of water supply systems.

Adjournment. Adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM for the raffle.



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA San Antonio Chapter

## Quote of the Day:

When I played pro football, I never set out to hurt anybody deliberately . . . unless it was, you know, important, like a league game or something.

*Dick Butkus*

## 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.

## *Special Recipe – Mushrooms in Red Wine Vinaigrette*

8 oz. Mushrooms (Fresh)

2 Cloves Garlic

1 Tablespoon Olive Oil

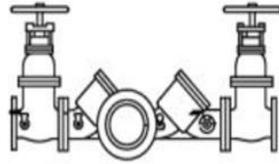
1 Tablespoon Butter

¼ Cup Red Wine Vinaigrette

Salt and Pepper to Taste – Parsley for Garnish

-----Combine/Sauté Until Well Coated

# BAC-FLO<sup>®</sup> UNLIMITED, INC.



*Courses - Seminars - Consulting - Gauge Testing*

Bac-Flo Unlimited provides GaugeCare™, quality care for your Backflow Test Kit.

Contact us for the weekly certification time (days vary) at our facility in Boerne, TX.

Email: [info@speackbackflow.com](mailto:info@speackbackflow.com)

Ph: 210-698-0411

Website: [www.BACFLO.com](http://www.BACFLO.com)

***Home of BackflowOlogy™... and the BAC-FLO-5™ Test Kit!***

## PHCC-SAN ANTONIO CALENDAR

**10  
JUL**

**PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM GRADUATION**  
**CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP INFO**  
 MAESTRO ENTREPRENEUR CENTER  
 CONTACT PHCC-SA FOR DETAILS: [HTTPS://WWW.PHCC-SANANTONIO.ORG/](https://www.phcc-sanantonio.org/)



**6-8  
AUG**

**PHCC TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
 HYATT HILL COUNTRY RESORT, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78251  
 GOLF & PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT, TSBPE UPDATES, 6 HR CE CREDIT,  
 APPRENTICESHIP CONTEST, NETWORKING  
**CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO: [HTTPS://PHCC-TX.ORG](https://phcc-tx.org)**



**14  
SEP**

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



**27  
SEP**

**PHCC-SA PERRY BEYER JR. MEMORIAL FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
 FULTON CONVENTION CENTER  
 402 N. FULTON BEACH, FULTON, TX 78358  
 6:00 AM - 2:00 PM



**\*\*\$250 MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT FOR 2025\*\***

Calling all San Antonio area contractors! Join PHCC today and save \$250 on your first year of membership for new contractors.  
 Standard First Year Member Fee: \$800 / Discounted Price with Promo Code PHCCSA25: \$550. See QR code below for application and benefits.



12830 Cogburn Ave. Ste 111, San Antonio TX 78249  
 PO Box 692047, San Antonio TX 78269  
 WWW.PHCC-SANANTONIO.ORG | (210)-824-7422



2025 Contractor Membership & Benefits



## YOUR LOCAL BACKFLOW EXPERTS ARE HERE FOR YOU !



**6017 Randolph Blvd., San Antonio, Texas 78233**  
**Toll Free (866) 318-0274 • Local (210) 451-7564 • Fax (210) 451-0824**  
**txinfo@bavco.com • www.bavco.com**

*Proudly Serving the Backflow Industry for over 50 years!*

**WEST COAST**  
LONG BEACH, CA  
Toll Free: (800) 458-3492  
Email: info@bavco.com

**CENTRAL**  
SAN ANTONIO, TX  
Toll Free: (866) 318-0274  
Email: txinfo@bavco.com

**EAST COAST**  
CHARLOTTE, NC  
Toll Free: (844) 202-1618  
Email: ncinfo@bavco.com

**YOUR BACKFLOW PRODUCTS CONNECTION**

# NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

# QUIZ

## (True or False)

1. A hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker can be installed under constant pressure for 24 hours.
2. An SVB can be installed with the incoming water pipe installed higher than the Assembly.
3. In testing a double check valve assembly under a static a no flow condition, the tester does not have to close the shut off valves.
4. TCEQ allows water purveyors to approve backflow prevention testers for conducting cross connection surveys (CSI's).
5. A fouled relief valve of an RP could be indicated by an apparent gauge reading across #1 check above 5.0 psid.

## ABPA-SA Board of Directors 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

Advertise in **The  
Direct  
Connection**

**AD  
SIZE**

Business Card	\$100
1/4 Page	\$150
1/2 Page	\$300
Full Page	\$500

**ONE  
YEAR**  
(11 Issues)

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

Answers 1. False, 2. True, 3. False, 4. False, 5. True



**ZURN**

**One Choice. One Zurn.**



**Unique product solutions that save time and money.**

Zurn offers a broad range of water control products – backflow prevention devices, pressure reducing valves, temperature and pressure relief valves, pressure balancing thermostatic mixing valves, and other water management accessories for the plumbing, irrigation, waterworks, industrial, OEM, and fire protection markets. So when it comes to retrofitting and specifying water control products for your entire facility, there's only one choice. Zurn.

*Proudly represented by:*

**MMA**  
MILLER MAYS & ASSOCIATES

**Miller Mays & Associates**  
4660 Pine Timbers #130 Houston, TX 77041  
Phone: 713-690-7411 Fax: 713-690-7343  
8620 N. New Braunfels #216 San Antonio, TX 78217  
Phone: 210-654-8015 Fax: 210-654-1327

**zurn.com**  
1.855.ONE.ZURN

Find us in  
MasterSpec



350XL  
Double Check  
Valve Assembly



375XL  
Reduced Pressure  
Principle Assembly



350ASTDSY  
Double Check  
Valve Assembly

## 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



Texas Owned and Texas Operated  
San Antonio • Austin • Houston • Dallas

In addition to the largest inventory of backflow parts in Texas

New backflow assemblies ½" – 8" in stock  
Gauge accuracy and calibration  
OSY Packing Kits  
Enclosures  
Spools pieces for custom retrofit  
Online quoting and ordering @ [Shopbackflow.com](http://Shopbackflow.com)  
No restock fees  
After hours availability



Website



Contact Card

12790 O'Connor Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78233  
P: 210-890-5660  
[kevinb@testgauge.net](mailto:kevinb@testgauge.net)  
Hours: 7a – 4p



"The Direct Connection" Advertisements is published monthly and may be obtained from the [www.abpa-sa.org](http://www.abpa-sa.org) website. Opinions or facts within "The Direct Connection" are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the American Backflow Prevention Association and may or may not represent an official policy. Additionally, the opinions or facts of contributors or advertisers may or may not represent an official policy.

Published by the ABPA-SA Chapter

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

For further information about ABPA, contact:

Bruce Rathburn – past ABPA President  
[americanbackflowh2o@gmail.com](mailto:americanbackflowh2o@gmail.com)

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



## Complete Cross-Connection Control from Vepo, LLC

Vepo offers the Envirotrax system for a complete cross-connection control program. The Envirotrax system is offered to any city or water purveyor at NO CHARGE. A small fee is paid by the Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester to submit a report. CSI's are entered into the system at NO CHARGE. The Envirotrax system provides the online tools necessary to quickly and easily enter backflow test reports, perform ongoing periodic testing of the assemblies, and to enter CSI Certificates all at no cost to the city or water purveyor.

- Texas Based Company
- Easily Search List of Registered BPATs or Inspectors
- FREE to Water Purveyors
- License's, Insurance & Gauge's Verified by Vepo
- No Software Required
- Assembly Validation to Insure Consistency in Data
- Easy to Learn and Use
- View Reports by Hazard Type, Assembly Type and More
- Password Protected Login
- Annual Renewal Letters Handled by Vepo
- Multiple User Logins Allowed
- CSI's Instantly Linked to Existing Backflow Assemblies

Call 281-476-6886 or Visit [www.vepollc.com](http://www.vepollc.com) For More Details Today!

# Thanks to our 2025 Sponsors



Contact  
[info@speackbackflow.com](mailto:info@speackbackflow.com)  
for sponsoring opportunities

# Backflow Solutions for Every Application

- Most options and configurations to meet your application need
- Designed for easy maintenance and serviceability in the field
- Industry leading space, weight, and flow characteristics
- Products certified by leading third party plumbing organizations
- Established reputation for quality and performance

**Partner with Watts for all Your Fluid Control Solutions!**



FEBCO Series 850  
Double Check  
Valve Assembly



FEBCO Series 765  
Pressure Vacuum Breaker



757 Double Check  
Valve Assembly



LF009 Reduced Pressure  
Zone Assembly



Ames Deringer™ 30



BIC Station



## 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**



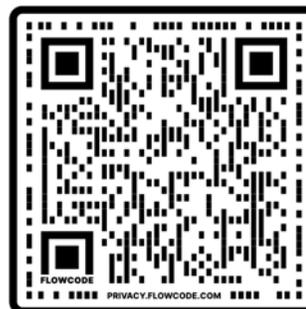
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

## 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

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

<p><b>REGION 1</b></p> <p>New England \$12.00</p> <p>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</p> <p>Florida Suncoast 12.00</p> <p>Peach State "1788" 30.00</p> <p>Tennessee 20.00</p> <p><b>REGION 4</b></p> <p>Arkansas \$10.00</p> <p>Central Texas 20.00</p> <p>Corpus Christi 23.00</p> <p>Lower Rio Grande Valley 25.00</p> <p>North Texas 23.00</p> <p>San Antonio 60.00</p>	<p><b>REGION 5</b></p> <p>Colorado \$15.00</p> <p>Utah 12.00</p> <p><b>REGION 6</b></p> <p>Arizona \$20.00</p> <p>Central Coast 10.00</p> <p>Central Valley California 10.00</p> <p>Hawaii 23.00</p> <p>Silver State 23.00</p> <p>Southern California 15.00</p> <p><b>REGION 7</b></p> <p>Oregon \$20.00</p> <p>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</p> <p>Michigan 40.00</p> <p>Northern Illinois 23.00</p> <p><b>REGION 12</b></p> <p>Eastern Nebraska \$10.00</p>
--	---	--

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