

# The Direct Connection



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

AUGUST Vol. 34 Issue 8

## Help is on the way

Katherine McGlaughlin with TCEQ provided the training at our July ABPA-SA Chapter meeting. She came with a wealth of information. One of the items she relayed to us was that the TCEQ Legal department had accepted our proposed verbiage related to the BPAT's signature on the paper and electronic T&M forms with only a minor modification. The modified verbiage is:

"I have tested the BPA 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. I understand that I am legally responsible for the validity of the information I have provided."

All future paper and electronic T&Ms will need to be updated with the statement clearly included in the document and it will be up to each jurisdiction, city, water provider, etc. to make sure their information is up to date and that the signature statement is included within their document.

Katherine pointed out that the individual water utilities, etc. will be responsible for enforcing and making sure that the T&Ms are properly filled out and submitted to their appropriate jurisdictions. Any issues not properly corrected by a tester may then be reported by the enforcement agency to TCEQ and a note will be recorded on the testers BPAT record which will need to be answered by the tester at the time of License Renewal.

We are hoping this one item will help in reducing the number of those who elect to falsify records and show them that they have no integrity about what they do and it will not really get them where they want to be in the long run. There are many ways that a pencil whipper can be found out and once you are found out, you will have no standing among your fellow BPATs or the customers as the word spreads, and it will spread.

Remember, you are born with integrity and what you do with it during your lifetime will determine where you will go in life.

Katherine had lots of additional information which you can read about in Agenda Item #19 in the minutes starting on page 4 below.

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

## August 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 August 8, 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: Backflow Trivia questions with prizes to winners.**

**Meeting Sponsor: American Backflow will be sponsoring the meeting.**

**No alcoholic beverages allowed**

**Next Meeting: September 12, 2024**

## **Big Thanks to**

**BAVCO for sponsoring the meeting.**

**Katherine McGlaughlin with TCEQ for providing the backflow training and up-to-date TCEQ information.**

**BAVCO provided a Test Cock Cleaning Tool for the raffle.**

## **August 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.

## **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 August 8<sup>th</sup> 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 will receive about 10 days before the meeting. Stay safe.

Trinidad *Chaires*

Here is a good website for emergency information: [www.sanantonio.gov/emergency/](http://www.sanantonio.gov/emergency/)

## Chapter Chatter

Greg Shean, The Inquiring Mind Secretary

### "AI Answers the Questions"

Is it necessary to make a motion and vote to approve financials at a non-profit organization?

Here are some Robert's Rules of Order for a motion and vote as researched by AI.

Important Decisions: For critical matters, such as the annual budget or revisions to organizational policies, this formal approach ensures clarity and accountability in the board's actions.

Budget Expenditures: if there are proposed expenditures outside the budget, the board should approve a revised budget.

Other Items: To accept, receive, or thank others, or for accepting an unexpected board member resignation..

Consult your bylaws, which can be updated, otherwise, motions are not required.

Can a non-profit board meeting be adjourned without a formal motion? There are three situations where a motion is not required.

1. When the pre-agreed adjournment time has come.
2. When the agenda has been fully completed.
3. Obviously, in case of an emergency (e.g., fire or medical emergency)

If you want a motion to adjourn, here are the basic rules for adjournment under Robert's Rules of Order: 1. A board member cannot interrupt a speaker who has the floor. 2. A motion to adjourn must be seconded. 3. A motion to adjourn is not debatable or amendable. 4. A motion to adjourn must have a majority vote.

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

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

Vice President, Jeff Stricker presided over the meeting in the absence of President Chairez. The ABPA San Antonio Chapter meeting started at 5:57 PM in the Tower 2 Conference Room at SAWS HQ.

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

<b>DIRECTORS AT LARGE – PRESENT</b>	<b>DIRECTORS AT LARGE – ABSENT</b>
Bruce Rathburn – 2 years	
Fred Baird – 1 year	
Bob Clark - 1 year	
Robert Stricker – 2 years	
Jeff Hoffman – 2 years	
Guest: Katherine McGlaughlin, TCEQ Cross Connection Control Program.	

**Agenda Item #1.** Vice President Jeff Stricker called the meeting to order and asked that everyone turn off their cell phones, and sked for a moment of silence. He then went through the open items in the June minutes. INFO.

**Agenda Item #2.** Secretary’s Report: The June 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. Greg used AI on the Robert’s Rules of Order. A motion is not necessary after our Treasurer’s report. Greg also brought up that an adjournment motion is not necessary. Details are also in the Chatter. CLOSED.

**Agenda Item #4.** Supply Officer’s Report: Vacant. There was discussion as to whether selling chapter attire was worth the effort. Jeff Hoffman said he would review the purchase and selling activities. No one knows what has been sold in the last couple years. There is the possibility of deleting the inventory and discontinue selling if there is little benefit to the organization. There will be further evaluation after Jeff’s analysis is complete. OPEN.

**Agenda Item #5.** Audit Committee: Trinidad has appointed Art, Jeff Hoffman, Greg and himself to be on the committee. OPEN.

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

**Agenda Item #7.** Meal: The Chapter provided Firehouse sub box lunches of turkey, beef, or ham subs with potato chips, pickle spear, and a cookie to those who ordered a meal.

Art Trejo provided the water and sodas for the meeting. INFO.

**Agenda Item #8.** Raffle: BAVCO provided a test cock cleaning tool. INFO.

**Agenda Item #9.** Webmaster: No report. There was a meeting, after the May general meeting, on how best to proceed. It was agreed that Matt and Bruce would work together to reconstruct the site. OPEN.

**Agenda Item #10.** National ABPA: Troy reported that there is a proposed bill in the North Carolina legislature to go from annual to every third-year testing. The bill also wants to reduce backflow testing for basic irrigation with no chemical injection. The bill was vetoed but could very possibly return. There was a bill that passed, with amendments under way, in Colorado that requires a BPAT tester to also hold a journeyman plumber license to test and repair BPAs. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ABPA & Australia is being updated and will be signed by President Blake Anderson before July 1, 2024. INFO.

An ABPA survey was emailed May 29<sup>th</sup> to all members – please complete and return. The survey is still open. National has a lot of ideas out there and are looking for more. INFO.

The 2025 ABPA Conference will be in Little Rock, AR from May 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. Plan now to include it into your, or your company's budget. International attendance is getting more consistent as New Zealand, Canada, and Australia were at the 2024 ABPA Conference. INFO.

**Agenda Item #11.** SAWS: Emilie Prado reported that the Final Backflow Notices have not yet gone out. Backflow non-compliance fees have not yet been assessed to ANY billing accounts and will not show up on bills until August 2024. Non-Compliance Fees are a onetime fee with the threat to turn off service. Emilie said she is no longer the POC for backflow related issues; please contact the Backflow Main Line 210-233-2910 or send email to [backflow@saws.org](mailto:backflow@saws.org). Emilie reported that the backflow database updating is in progress. BSI moved the live on-line capability from September 2024 to January 2025. SAWS and BSI want to ensure that the database is correct before starting. INFO.

**Agenda Item #12.** San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA): SAIA is sponsoring the annual Missions baseball game on August 31<sup>st</sup>. SAIA members and guests will pay only \$15 each. SAIA is also working with SAWS on irrigation issues. INFO.

**Agenda Item #13.** City of San Antonio (COSA) Plumbing Inspection: No report. INFO.

**Agenda Item #14.** Membership: Bill said there was one new member, Robert Anderson. Robert said he is a journey level plumber working at SAWS. There are now 86 members as three "regular members" did not renew. To renew your membership, go to [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org) and go to the bottom of the home page and click on "Renew now". Do not create a new account if you do not know your sign-in information. Contact Bill and he will have National reset your sign-in information. One member suggested tattooing your password on your arm. Not chapter endorsed. INFO.

**Agenda Item #15.** SAWS Database. Jeff Stricker told the testers they **must** be accurate in all T&M information input into the system, whether it be on-line or via paper T&Ms. The tester must confirm the T&M form, the assembly serial number, and backflow type matches what is being tested. One problem is that one tester adds an assembly but does not delete the replaced one. Another tester deletes an assembly that is not found. Do not delete if you do not know or find. Test only what your T&M report reflects what you have in front of you. Customers are being charged for deleted backflows. Testers must not get into the mindset to "delete, delete, delete" or "add, add, add." You must be a conscientious tester. Fred Baird said, based on his conducting training classes across the state, that "pencil whipping T&Ms" is prevalent in Texas. INFO.

**Agenda Item #16.** Gauge Testing: Carl reported that 6 gauges were tested with one failure that Bill will take home and repair. Testing at SAWS on meeting days starts at 5:00 PM and ends at 5:30 PM so testers can attend the meeting. After 5:30 PM will require a "realistic" excuse. INFO.

**Agenda Item #17.** Bac-Flo Unlimited Free Hands-On Testing: Scheduled for September 11, 2024 for the 8 hours FREE hands-on for those qualifying. Testers need at least 5-chapter meetings per year and 16 CEU meeting hours. Check your hours on the TCEQ website.

[https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/lic\\_dpa/index.cfm?fuseaction=licall.searchindiv](https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/lic_dpa/index.cfm?fuseaction=licall.searchindiv) or Google: TCEQ License Search. Then select: Individual Search.

**Agenda Item #18.** Fishing Trip: Cast N Stay suffered no Beryl damage. The fishing trip is from October 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. Fred said the 17” minimum put a damper on the keepers for the last two years. This led to buying fish at the local Kingsville HEB to supplement the catch. He said that he will buy fish in San Antonio this year. INFO.

**Agenda Item #19.** Training: Katherine McGlaughlin from TCEQ said she likes to get into the field to talk to testers to see what’s going on in the field. Katherine especially enjoyed the Agenda Item #15 discussion. She has attended the ABPA conferences in Las Vegas, Charlotte, N C, and plans to attend the 2025 conference in Little Rock, AK. The CCC Subcommittee went virtual during COVID. Virtual is not that effective so she is working to get back to in-person meetings. Fred Baird, Troy Baird, Bruce Rathburn, and Bill Hamrick regularly participate.

Her training presentation was titled CCC: Essentials for Licensees - Customer Service Inspections (CSIs) and Testing Backflow Prevention Assemblies (BPAs). The goal is to review licensee responsibilities and regulations. CSI is an examination of the private water distribution facility for the purpose of providing or denying water service. The inspection is limited to the identification and prevention of cross-connections, potential contaminant hazards, and illegal lead materials.

A CSI certificate shall be completed prior to providing continuous service to new construction, on any existing service either when the water purveyor has reason to believe that cross-connections or other potential hazards exist, or after any material improvement, correction, or addition to the private water distribution facilities.

At any residence or establishment where an actual or potential contamination hazard exists, additional protection shall be required at the meter in the form of an air gap or backflow prevention assembly.

CSIs are needed where this is a suspected hazard, plumbing expansion, or new construction. The CSI is needed to provide or deny water service. CSI inspections can be performed by a licensed CSI inspector with a TCEQ CSI license, a plumbing inspector with a plumbing license, or a plumber with Water Supply Protection Specialist (plumbing endorsement). Other reasons to conduct a CSI must be codified through local regulations, i.e., requiring a new customer on existing service to have a CSI preformed.

CSI has recordkeeping requirements that must be examined: Old or alternate forms, incomplete certificate, remarks block, and if previous CSIs were conducted by a properly licensed individual. In summary - What do you want to tell the water supplier? Pass or fail to get water service and not to harass the customer but to protect the water supply.

A Customer Service Inspection certificate must be completed including remarks and remarks to protect your integrity. Other items you think are important to communicate with the water supplier such as sub model information, accessibility issues, customer information, and wrong assembly for the hazard.

Katherine asked, “Can I Cross-Connect?” No water connection from any public drinking water supply system shall be allowed to any residence or establishment where an actual or potential contamination hazard exists unless the public water facilities are protected from contamination.

The type of backflow prevention assembly (BPA) required shall be determined by the specific potential hazard identified in the applicable TCEQ and USC regulations. Katherine presented Appendix F of the TCEQ Hazard Appendix in [30 TAC 290.44\(h\)\(1\)\(A\)](#). This two page appendix gives an idea of what BPAs are needed and where. However, it is not an entire list of every hazard out there. Such a list would be massive and ever growing. All BPAs, that are required according



Appendix F, shall be tested and certified to be operating within specifications, upon installation and also at least annually by a recognized BPA tester. BPAs are installed to provide protection against health hazards. Testing may be done more frequently if required by local authorities program.

Katharine presented flow charts in the challenges in assessing hazards. First was a generic situation, an ice maker, a drain line, and soda machine. The flow chart's first level was "Yes" or "No" for backpressure. Then a determination for "Health" or "Non Health" for hazard level. Then a determination "Yes" or "No" for continuous pressure after which there was a recommendation for applicable BPAs.

What to review in BPA test forms? Is it pre-2019 or Alternate form, signed and dated original, incomplete test form, remarks, up-to-date gauge Info or electronic alternate. Determine what you want to tell the water supplier with these results. What else do you think is important to communicate with the water supplier? Possibilities are: sub model information, accessibility issues, customer information, and wrong assembly for the hazard.

Katherine had a test form for local codes and auxiliary supplies situations. Is the assembly installed in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and/or local codes? What are the plumbing code requirements, more strict ordinance, OSSF and irrigation systems, and orientation?

Falsification of T&M reporting and recording. The current process is for local jurisdictions to enforce penalties which may include court information and can be forwarded to TCEQ. TCEQ tags this information and files for review during license renewal. Falsification also puts their license on the line as there is a new addition to the BPAT form what will contain, "I certify that I have tested the BPA 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. I understand that I am legally responsible for the validity of the information I have provided." This will be part of the signature. TCEQ slightly modified Bill Hamrick's, ABPA-SA suggestion.

The TCEQ CCC Subcommittee discusses industry happenings. It is a meeting of industry professionals, training providers, PWS staff, regulators, and others. They discuss backflow and cross connection issues at their quarterly meetings held remotely and in-person at TCEQ Central Office. The next one is on September 5, 2024.

There was a question why CSI CEUs are so hard to get? Katharine said she would look into it and possibly include CSI CEUs in her presentation.

Katherine also described the Public Drinking Water Conference, August 6-7, 2024. Earn water operator CEUs, get one-on-one assistance from regulators, and meet with exhibitors. The website for the conference is <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/conference.html> Katherine oversees Texas Optimization Program and Response Team Water Supply Division, 512-239-1374 katherine.mcgloughlin@tceq.texas.gov Water Supply Division - 512-239-4691 Occupational Licensing - 512-239-6133

Editor's comments: The chapter's apparent CSI expert is Robert Sticker, former Chief Plumbing Inspector for the City of San Antonio. He now has his own consulting firm and does backflow testing and repair with his, "The apple did not fall from the tree," son, Jeff. Robert had a lot of great questions. Katherine sincerely appreciated the questions as that is why she likes getting out into the "field." She does not shy away from questions.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM for the raffle.



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA San Antonio Chapter



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**10**  
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- 4) Secretary – Greg Shean
- 5) Immediate Past President – Keith Waldrep

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- 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 – Bill Hamrick
- 11) Webmaster – Matthew Wilgen

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2. Bruce Rathburn
3. Robert Stricker

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Fred Baird

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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**



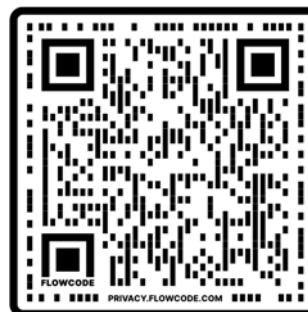
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

## 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

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

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