

The Direct Connection



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

JUNE Vol. 34 Issue 6

“Recycle Separation Assurance”

The following are some of the necessities involving the assurance that there are no actual or potential cross connection issues with the on-site delivery of recycle water. This is broken down in Phases that should be conducted in the basic sequence. There is no cookie cutter situation here and every site evaluation is different with past piping modifications, unknown valves and over lays. Generally - As-built information cannot be relied upon with existing facilities due to years of modifications and additions not being updated. References: AWWA - TCEQ - & Local experiences conducting separation assurance prior to delivery of recycle water.

Phase I – Initial Site Inspection

- Submitted Drawings Reviewed
- Water Usage Points Established
- Overall Plan and Coordination of Separation Events and Actions involved in each Phase established
- Signage requirements
- Discuss Unknown Valves and Past possible points of service
- Possible Contact Person Available from Past Employment
- Discuss Shut-Down Dye Testing Requirements
- Detailed Report will Be Provided to Facility and Water Purveyor Prior To Recycle Delivery
- GPS of All Valves Will Be part of Phase II

Phase II - Cross Connection Survey

- Detailed Cross Connection Survey Throughout Entire Facility and Property
- Run Pipe Locator around property
- Provide to Facility List of corrections and modifications prior to Shut-down and Dye Testing
- Pipe Locator run around building(s) that could pick up existing piping from building to other usage points
- GPS all valves – Active and Inactive

Cont. Page 8

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

June 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 June 13, 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: Bruce Rathburn – “*Surveys - A Critical Element of a CCC Program*”

Meeting Sponsor: ABPA-SA Chapter

No alcoholic beverages allowed

Next Meeting: June 13, 2024

Big Thanks to

Hugh Cunningham for sponsoring the May meeting and Brad Curtis with Hugh Cunningham for providing the training on basic backflow issues.

Hugh Cunningham for providing a \$50 Home Depot gift card for the raffle.

June 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 June 13th 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 Chairez

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

Chapter Chatter

from your ABPA-SA Conference Commando, Greg Shean

Technology Catches up to the ABPA-SA Website.

Matt Wilgen built this site and has maintained it for free for at least 20 years. The host switched to a different company and Matt had to relearn and rebuilt it all over again. There have been many website software improvements. Bruce Rathburn said his site used the Wick program which he used, with considerable assistance from his daughter. It comes down to giving Wick the information how you want it to be constructed. Wick charges \$200 per year. Bruce will get with his daughter to go to the ABPA-SA website and work as a liaison to reconstruct our ABPA-SA website. We will pay WICK to keep our ABPA-SA.org domain. Two step process: Hosting and then maintain. Bruce will get with daughter for an overview on what to do. Bill and Bruce will get together. Eventually Matthew and Jeff Hoffman will do the follow-up on maintenance.

This is one of many possibilities to rebuild your own website. Remember when we had to use "bulletin boards?"

Important Notice "What we had here was a failure to communicate". I was not told the facts. Bad Cliques to follow. "And now the rest of the story." Some newsletter readers were upset that I made a "major error" that the 2026 National ABPA Conference would be in San Antonio. It was discussed at our March meeting that San Antonio was a possibility. However, River Walk rooms started at \$262 per night. A suggestion was made for Corpus Christi. I was not at the April meeting due to a three-week cruise. A day and a half later I was on my way to Charlotte. I was provided an April meeting summary for the minutes. Nothing about not wanting consecutive conferences in the same Region for whatever reason. "You don't shoot the messenger" but it happened in both cases, he died but I survived. Three nights at The Hilton was \$567. Southwest was \$345. Given: the following are excellent: conference organization, the presentations, the venue, the food, and the networking with the vendors. It comes down to the cost of hotel and air fare. What does a particular Region have to do with the cost? More local members would attend? Is that guaranteed? Politics? Pride?

Been doing this since 2008. 14 straight conferences. Who knows about ABPA 2026. See you in Vegas for ABPA 2027. Cheap rooms and tourist airfare. Possibility of a Tuesday night like the Ol' Mecklenburg Brewery? Remember, this is called Chatter for a reason. Keep your cool.

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

MINUTES
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER-ABPA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, May 9, 2024

Trinidad Chairez, President, presided over the meeting. The ABPA San Antonio Chapter meeting started at 6:02 PM in the Tower 2 Conference Room at SAWS HQ.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – ABSENT
Trinidad Chairez – President	Jeff Stricker– Vice President
Greg Shean – Secretary	
Art Trejo – Treasurer	
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	Jim Cantrell – Liaison to SAWS
Joe Young – Program Director	
Matthew Wilgen – Webmaster	
Jeff Meeks – Sgt. At Arms	

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: Michael Masters, Flow Control Account Manager and Brad Curtis, Factory Support Representative. Both work for Hugh M Cunningham & Assoc. in their San Antonio office.	

Agenda Item #1. Trinidad started the meeting at 6:02 and then asked for a moment of silence. He then went through the open items in the May minutes. INFO.

Agenda Item #2. Secretary’s Report: April 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. Still no volunteers. OPEN.

Agenda Item #5. Meeting Sponsor: Hugh M Cunningham & Assoc. sponsored the meeting. INFO.

Agenda Item #6. Meal: Firehouse Subs box lunches of turkey, beef, or ham subs with potato chips, pickle spear, and a cookie was served. Art Trejo provided the water and sodas for the meeting. INFO.

Agenda Item #7. Raffle: Hugh M Cunningham & Assoc. provided a \$50 Home Depot gift card. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. Webmaster: Matt said the website does not work with the host’s upgraded software. There will be a meeting, after the general meeting, on how best to proceed. OPEN.

Agenda Item #9. SAWS: Dan Crowley, Director Governmental Relation and Regional and Federal Affairs, said that reminder letters went out to those who still needed their backflow tested. This should lead to an uptick in business. He asked the testers to hurry up and get the testing done by the June 30th deadline. BSI implementation is 120 days out. There were no questions for Dan or the backflow team. INFO.

Agenda Item #10. San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA): Keith reported that the 1st Annual Irrigation Competition, scheduled for April 4th, has been postponed until October 19th and to check the SAIA website for details. SAIA is still looking at the annual Missions baseball game. SAIA is also working with SAWS on irrigation issues. Keith gave credit to Hugh M Cunningham & Assoc. for providing the hose bib vacuum breakers that were given away at the Home & Garden Show and SAWS Spring Bloom. INFO.

Agenda Item #11. ABPA National: Troy read Bill Hamrick's biography for his Meritorious Service (MS) award and presented it to Bill. This went from his time born in Africa to Methodist Missionaries to his tour in the Air Force Reserves as overhauling the Kelly AFB telephone system at the Reserve Wing, to his car wash manufacturing and repair business. He then sold the business and took the backflow testing and gauge repair and certification part of the business with him. Bill was in business for 63 of his 83 years. He is hanging it up at the end of this year. – See how that works Bill follows Fred Baird in this Fred Baird 2006 MSA and Bruce Rathburn in his 2012 MSA. Next projected chapter member MSA may be in 2048 if you follow the sequence. INFO.

Agenda Item #12. City of San Antonio (COSA) Plumbing Inspection: Mike Morales, COSA Plumbing Inspections congratulated all for "doing what we do." He mentioned that they are working on the IPC code which should be ready in July or August and will be adopted beginning in 2025. He said there are "bad actors in plumbing, irrigation and backflow." His inspectors are asking to see their license. Many do not have a license but they do have a car. INFO.

Agenda Item #13. Membership: Bill reported that there are 86 chapter members. There are 4 memberships that will expire in May and 9 at the end in June. Bill sent emails to those whose memberships expired in March and those which will expire in April and May. Get your dues in to support our chapter and national. 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. INFO.

Agenda Item #14 Gauge Testing: Carl said there were five gauges tested with two failures. Bring in your gauge before 5:00 PM. After 5:30 it will be "Give to take." INFO.

Agenda Item #15. Training: Brad Curtis gave the presentation on Cross-Connection Control & Backflow Prevention. Brad had cross section schematics involving a home and appropriate piping to illustrate the definitions. First, the definitions: What is a Cross-Connection? According to the *Environmental Protection Agency*, actual or potential connections between a potable and non-potable water source. Types of Cross-Connections? Direct Cross-Connection is a cross-connection which is subject to both backsiphonage and backpressure. Indirect Cross-Connection is a cross-connection which is subject to backsiphonage only. What is Backflow? The unwanted reverse flow of liquid, gases or other substance into a potable water distribution system. What is Backsiphonage? Backflow caused by a negative or sub-atmospheric pressure in the distribution piping of the potable water supply. What is Backpressure? Backflow caused by an increase of pressure in the downstream piping system, creating a reversal in the normal direction of flow. Brad then showed a complex multistory home and company and where appropriate Backflow prevention products must be installed. Brad provided a brief discussion of the various scenarios and backflow preventer types. These were typical installations as the area having jurisdiction has the authority to dictate specific backflow assemblies to be used for an application. Total Backflow Protection: A complete backflow prevention program consists of isolation and containment protection. Isolation: Typically inside the structure after the meter. Backflow prevention protection provided at each fixture or appliance outlet. Typically governed by state, municipality, or local plumbing codes. Containment: A water supplier's backflow prevention policy of installing protection (backflow preventer) after the public distribution system service connection and prior to any branch of the water distribution system. Typically installed before the structure or immediately after the meter. Total backflow prevention assures safe drinking water from the point of treatment to the point of use by combining both of the above.

A "Contaminant" is any substance which, when introduced into the potable water system, constitutes a direct threat to life or health of a human, if the substance was ingested through consumption, or if the substance came in contact with the skin. A contaminant can therefore be a caustic chemical, a fluid containing bacteria or disease, or any other substance which could threaten human health. Therefore, contaminants compose the highest degree of hazard to the potable water system. A contaminant is considered a High or Health Hazard.

A "Pollutant" is any substance which may affect the color, taste or odor of the potable water, but which does not pose a direct threat to human health through exposure or consumption of the water. Pollutants may impose an objectionable odor or appearances to the water, but do not in themselves pose a health threat, and therefore, are considered to be a lesser hazard, when compared to contaminants. A pollutant is considered a Low or Non-Health Hazard.

How can pollutants or contaminants enter into the water distribution system? In order for pollutants or contaminants to enter the drinking water system due to a backflow event, a number of factors must be present: a cross connection must exist, a source of pollution or contamination must be present, and the existence of a backpressure or backsiphonage hydraulic condition.

Brad then described how a backflow incident requires a cross connection (indirect or direct), hydraulic condition (backsiphonage or backpressure, and hazard (non-health or health).

He went through the use for containment and isolation protection, the type of protection, type of hazard protection, type of acceptable pressure, how tested, and type of installation for a double check valve assembly, reduced pressure zone assembly, a double check detector assembly, and a reduced pressure detector assembly. Brad provided illustrations and described each.

Brad had many pictures of the different types of backflow assemblies and security and freeze protection enclosures. This is the first time an extensive review has been presented. The members had many inputs on the advantages and disadvantages because of their experience is confronting pouches, cages, metal insulation, plastic box enclosures, and aluminum enclosures in their backflow testing. Here are the member's comments.

Pouches: Better than a sheet and better than nothing. 2 hours below freezing – will need heat tape.

Cages: No weather protection. See pouches.

Metal Insulation: Effective until the backflow is tested. Workability – impossible to get back together. Need hand protection. Looks nice but impractical.

Plastic box enclosures: Plastic box – fake rocks – risk of freezing with no internal insulation.

Aluminum enclosures: Doors fall off. Insulation flakes off. Larger – pricy – metal jacketing. They are now making better products.

Polymer concrete foundation with cage – no forms no second trips. Anchor down padlock insulated w/heat tape

Misc. & Advice: The new term for RPZ is R/P. Rush to get things insulated and protected and ready for winter.

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



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA San Antonio Chapter



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PHCC- SAN ANTONIO UPCOMING EVENTS



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 7:00 AM BREAKFAST | 8:00 AM SHOOT BEGINS



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 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: BRET BARTLEY
 MOORE SUPPLY
 5919 W CAMPUS RD, STE 101,
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78247
 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



2024 Full Calendar



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Phase III – Modifications and Corrections Necessary

- Points of Connection to Recycle Tracked through entire usage points including extreme end of usage points
- Unknown piping systems located and determination made of Separation Points
- Insure separated and not just valved off – Sometimes involves excavating and running camera through piping system

Phase IV – Shut Down Test

---FIRST

- Install Pressure Recorders
- Shut down Irrigation System and other usage points where Recycle to be Provided
- Open All Valves – Potable and Proposed Non-Potable (recycle)

---SECOND

- With Irrigation and proposed recycle usage points On – Shut Buildings and other potable usage points Down – Note: Critical services may not be able to be shut down, e.g. Hospitals, 24-7 operations, etc.

Phase V – Dye Test

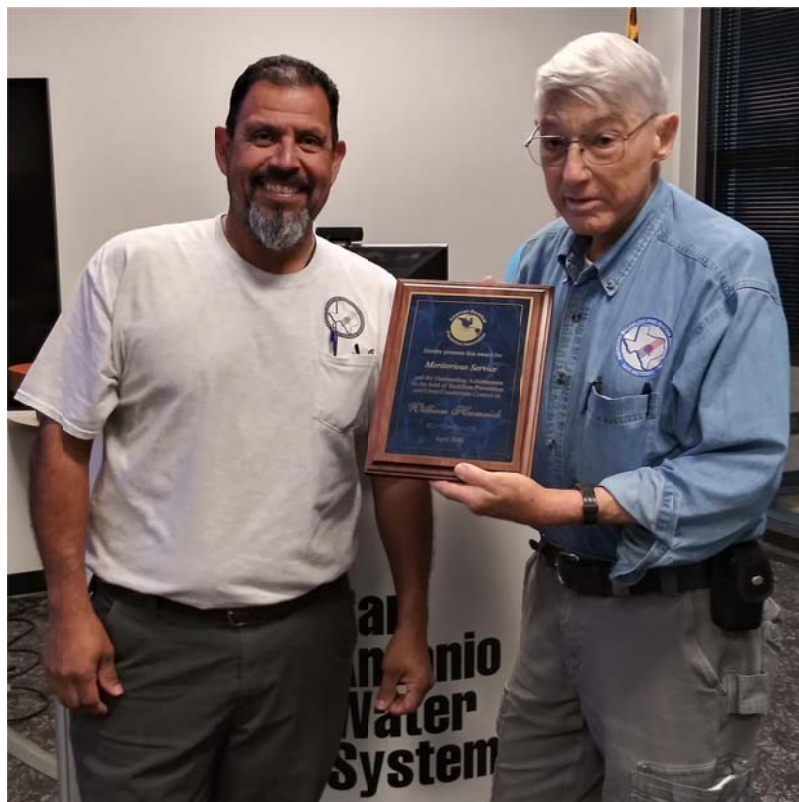
- New Vs. Existing Detailed
- Dye is injected into proposed recycle usage points and distributed to end usage points and observed for correct color
- Building(s) Shut-Down
- Dye left in system for designated time
- All Valves Opened
- Following Day Detailed inspection of potable water usage points for any color

Phase VI – Final – Detailed Report

- Very Detailed Report provided to water purveyor and facility6
 - Include Pictures – GPS Locations etc.
 - Education of All on-site and enforcement personnel including engineering firms - Continuous training criteria established for new employees
 - Periodic shut-down requirements established
 - All modification and additions to any piping system must be done under a permit and inspected by water purveyor
- ANY INDICATION OF A CONTAMINATION EVENT, REGARDLESS HOW SLIGHT SHUT-DOWN AND DYE TESTING WILL BE MANDATORY**



**VP Keith Waldrep receives the ABPA Gold Eagle Award
Presented by ABPA-SA President Trinidad Chairez**



**Bill Hamrick receives the 2024 Meritorious Service Award from ABPA
Presented by ABPA-SA President Trinidad Chairez**



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- 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 – Bill Hamrick
- 11) Webmaster – Matthew Wilgen

Directors at Large

Two-year term

1. Jeff Hoffman
2. Bruce Rathburn
3. Robert Stricker

One-year term

4. Fred Baird
5. Robert (Bob) Clark

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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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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



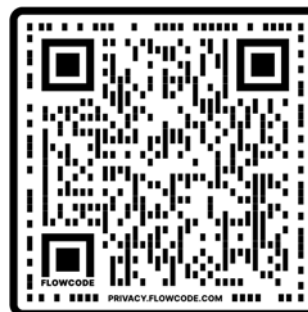
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

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 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 _____

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Name as it appears on card _____ Signature _____

Additional Information

How would you like to receive your Membership Renewal Invoice Notification? Email US Mail (Not available for International Membership)

Local Chapter Dues Listed by Region

REGION 1		REGION 5		REGION 9 (USD)
New England	\$12.00	Colorado	\$15.00	
Rhode Island	18.00	Utah	12.00	REGION 10
REGION 2		REGION 6		REGION 11
Virginia	\$25.00	Arizona	\$20.00	Indiana BPA
REGION 3		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	REGION 12
Tennessee	20.00	Southern California	15.00	Eastern Nebraska
REGION 4		REGION 7		
Arkansas	\$10.00	Oregon	\$20.00	
Central Texas	20.00	SRC4	20.00	
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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