

The Direct Connection



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

OCTOBER Vol. 34 Issue 10

Alfred “Freddy” Zavala

We recently lost a great friend, a work colleague, Alfred (Freddy) Zavala. Freddy was a longtime SAWS employee who worked in the backflow prevention section for many years. He was a great asset for SAWS Backflow Prevention Program and really was dedicated and focused on any project he was involved with. Being the most seasoned related to SAWS Recycle Projects, he was the one that many others relied upon for information and project necessities. We dealt with SAWS on many projects in separation assurance between recycle and potable water systems, which is quite challenging. We could always count on Freddy to make the absolute, correct call on every project we did. SAWS — Bac-Flo Unlimited - ABPA-SA Chapter and host of many other companies all who knew Freddy, will really miss his smiling face, friendly comments and his unmatched knowledge when it came to recycle separation and what needed to be accomplished! There is a Star up there named “Freddy Zavala” The Best! Our sincerest condolences to his family.



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

October 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 October 10, 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: "Analog and Digital Test Kits"
by Mike Lueck**

Meeting Sponsor: Mid-West Instrument

**No alcoholic beverages
allowed**

Next Meeting: November 14, 2024

Big Thanks to

**BAVCO for sponsoring our
September meeting.**

**Katrina Hamrick for providing
the training on liability for
anyone doing business and for
information about the new
Corporate Transparency Act.**

**BAVCO for \$50 cash prize for
the Raffle.**

October 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 October 10th 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 before the meeting. Stay safe.

Trinidad *Chairez*

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

Chapter Chatter

By Greg, Your Sarcastic Secretary, Shean

The following may not be the position of the ABPA-SA or the national ABPA.

“Corporate?” Help, AKA The CTA. Fore warned is forearmed. You want to start a company or know what your company goes through to keep it and your employment going? It is not trivial. No publicity on the Corporate Transparency Act. Lots of clarifying questions for the Corporate in the title. We could not believe what Congress has passed with the CTA only for the small business owner. It was estimated that there are 32 million who qualify for CTA submission. That is just the beginning, but what about the bureaucracy needed to run and analyze the data, and enforce it? One presidential candidate wants much larger tax assistance for the small businesses. The exact small business threat must and should be disclosed to warrant the CTA .

The San Antonio Home and Garden Show at the Alamodome. The ABPA-SA participated in the September fall show for years and was recently joined by the San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA). Last year the ABPA-SA and SAIA decided not to renew their participation. Reason – the cost totaled about \$2,000 each. The audience was there for home improvement. Backflow was not a concern because we were not tasked to test irrigation backflows on residential irrigation systems. Most were not curious about irrigation. The last reason, do not like to say it, but it was the same volunteers who manned the booth for the three-day event. Sound familiar for your Chapter. If not – tell all how you do it.

The Annual ABPA-SA Fishing Trip. Date: Oct. 11-12-13, 2024 Fred and Troy Baird sponsor this trip. They have been doing this for years. it's a great time to get together and camping despite the sometimes, less than consistent fishing. A salt water fishing license is required. However, if you see a game warden coming in a boat, give your pole to Troy and start walking back off the pier. The cost is equally shared but it's not always about fishing.

Fee: Approx cost: \$150 (dependent on number attending)

Location: Cast N Stay ---Kingsville – Riveria

We rent all three cabins – Guy Thing (sorry no ladies)

400' Lighted Pier

Fish Fry Sat Eve. – Breakfast – Lunch by various cooks – Greg Shean Lead Cook

MINUTES SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER–ABPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday, September 12, 2024

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – PRESENT	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – ABSENT
Trinidad Chairez – President	
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	Jim Cantrell – Liaison to SAWS
Bill Hamrick – Membership and Newsletter	Supply Officer - Vacant
Matthew Wilgen – Webmaster	
Jeff Meeks – Sgt. At Arms	
Joe Young – Program Director	

DIRECTORS AT LARGE – PRESENT	DIRECTORS AT LARGE – ABSENT
Bob Clark - 1 year	Bruce Rathburn – 2 years
Robert Stricker – 2 years	
Fred Baird – 1 year	
Jeff Hoffman – 2 years	
GUESTS PRESENT: Katrina Hamrick, Attorney at Law, Hamrick Law Firm, PLLC Boerne TX	

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

Agenda Item #2. Secretary’s Report: The August minutes were in the newsletter. Jeff Hoffman, who was not at the August meeting, referenced Agenda Item #9, Webmaster. He said he does not do websites. The name should have been Ashlyn Letourneau and not Jeff Ashland (Senior Moment). Ashlyn is Bruce’s daughter who knows how to help rebuild our website. There are three Jeffs in the chapter. Robert made a motion to accept. Passed. INFO.

Agenda Item #3. Treasurer’s Report: Art reported the amount in our checking account. INFO.

Agenda Item #4. Supply Officer’s Report: From August e-mails among the directors: Art gave an attire inventory as he received it from Nick Rios in 2023. No merchandise was bought in 2023 and only a \$20 shirt bought in 2024. We are looking to reduce/dissolve our about \$2,000 inventory. A raffle was discussed. Another was giving an ever-increasing discount at each meeting until they all gone. Nothing like a fire sale. Need member input and vote. OPEN.

Agenda Item #5. Audit Committee: E-mail from Jeff Hoffman to Art and the directors: In general, the accounting is sound. Art is utilizing income and expense categories for everything that is being reconciled with the bank statements. There are some sorting, filtering, and formatting changes that could help with the P&L reports. I can work with Art on that. There are also a couple of transactions that I will address with Art directly, but no worries.....It’s all good. OPEN.

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

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

Agenda Item #8. Raffle: BAVCO provided a \$50 cash prize. INFO.

Agenda Item #9. Webmaster: Matt said the chapter website will be operational within the week. OPEN.

Agenda Item #10. National ABPA: Troy asked all members to update their biographical information on the National, ABPA.org, website so they get all National's information. INFO.

Agenda Item #11. SAWS: No input or no questions for SAWS. INFO.

Agenda Item #12. San Antonio Irrigation Association (SAIA): The SAIA is sponsoring a Vendor Fair and Competition on October 19th at the SAWS Eastside Operations Center, 403 S WW White Rd, San Antonio, TX 78219. There will be CEU classes. It will be from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is no entry fee.

There will be over 20 booths with vendors such as SAWS, Hunter, SiteOne, CPS, KRain, Bobcat, Dig, Eco Centro and Longhorn, showing their latest products and answering any questions! Plus, some free giveaways.

CEUs: Presenter: Charles Swanson, LI0016931, Extension Program Specialist II– Landscape Irrigation, Texas AgriLife Extension 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Subject: Hydraulics.

Presenter: Jeffrey Knight, LI0005270, BPAT 4603, CIC, CLIA, CID, WETS (Water Educational Training Services) 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Subject: Electrical Troubleshooting

Member Cost – For 1 two-hour CEU Class - \$35.00 or \$60.00 for both

Non-Member – For 1 two-hour CEU class - \$125.00 or \$200.00 for both INFO.

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

Agenda Item #14. Membership: Bill reported that there are 89 members at the present time. He is concerned that if, your company is paying due dues for several testers, they are putting their company addy on the national website so the testers are not getting their newsletter. Troy said that National is working on the capability for two addys – one who pays the bill and one for the individual member. Another issue is that the company administrative is sending attendance meals but not forwarding chapter and national correspondence. INFO.

Agenda Item #15. Gauge Testing: Carl reported that 2 gauges were tested. 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 #16. Bac-Flo Unlimited Hands-On Testing: Twelve testers, for those who qualified, were at the 8 hours hands-on at Bac-Flo Unlimited in Boerne. Domino's pizza and Ceasar salad were served as they were the only pizza fast food in the area that delivered. Very good. Testers need 5-chapter meetings per year and 16 CEU meeting hours. INFO.

Agenda Item #17. Fishing Trip: Cast N Stay suffered no hurricane Beryl damage. The fishing trip is from October 11th to 13th. The 17” length 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. Fish will be bought in San Antonio this year. The more that attend, the cheaper it is for everyone. INFO.

Agenda Item #18. Training: Katrina Hamrick provided two separate presentations; What Business Owners Need to Know About Legal Liability and The Corporate Transparency Act.

Katrina presented the standard disclaimer that this is not specific advice, only general advice. To help you decide on the “entity” there are first some questions that must be answered. Do you plan on being the sole owner or having partners? There are many different considerations in selecting the type of entity including if you plan to hire employees, liability, taxes, governance, ownership, ongoing administrative requirements, and initial formation costs. Katrina briefly covered many concerns under each. Now, it is your choice for an entity.

Sole Proprietorships: Advantages: Easy and inexpensive to create, owner makes all business decisions, least regulated form of business ownership, and business pays all taxes. Low government involvement. **Disadvantages:** ownership has unlimited liability for all debts. The business debts may be paid from the personal assets of the owner. The death of the owner automatically dissolves the business.

Limited Liability Company (LLC): Advantages: Limited liability is like a corporation. Greater flexibility than sole proprietorship in profit distribution. Can choose how you want to be taxed: Pass through taxation or corporate taxation. Medium government involvement.

General Partnership: No limited liability protection. Taxed at personal tax rate. Low government involvement.

Limited Partnership. Liability for partners only. Taxed at personal tax rate. Medium government involvement.

S-Corporation: Limited liability protection. Taxed at personal rate. High government involvement.

Corporation: Limited liability protection. Must pay corporate taxes but be aware of double taxation on dividends. High government involvement.

Important takeaways: Hire an accountant. Do not commingle company and personal finances. Sign all documents in the name of the entity, not as an individual.

Katrina reviewed other liabilities: Injuries on premises, driving on company time, employer’s liability for employee’s acts, and auto accidents.

She defined a contract: an agreement between parties creating a mutual, enforceable obligations where breach of contract typically results in monetary damages. She also listed what can happen in a bad contract which results in unlimited liability: property, commercial, and personal damages. Read the contract, make reasonable exceptions, be patient and persistent, and get help if needed.

The second presentation was on The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). It was passed by Congress to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorist financing, corruption, tax fraud, and other illicit activity by requiring companies to disclose a beneficial ownership information (BOI). The CTA requires “reporting companies” to file a report with the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) containing personal identifying information about the company’s beneficial owners and applicants. A BOI is required for all operating companies with 19 or less employees, less than \$5M in gross receipts and have an operating presence at a physical office in the US. Yes, this is geared for small businesses. There are an estimated 32 Million of them in the US.

Reporting companies formed or registered on or after January 1, 2024, must file the initial BOI within 90 calendar days after the registration becomes effective. Reporting companies in existence prior to January 1, 2024 must file their initial BOI before January 1, 2025. Reporting companies formed on or after January 1, 2025 must file an initial BOI report within 30 days.

Filing Requirements: A Reporting Company will need to provide its legal name or any trade name or dba, address, jurisdiction in when it was formed and taxpayer identification number. Information about each of the company’s Beneficial Owners and each Company Applicant must also be

disclosed. Any changes to the beneficial owners or BOI with regard to a beneficial owner must be filed within 30 days of the change.

BOI report filing. BOI reports will be filed electronically through FinCEN's secure cloud-based filing system. There will be no filing fee. <https://www.fincen.gov/boi> The penalties for noncompliance: \$500 each day that the violation continues or has not been remedied up to a maximum of \$100,000 and 2 years of imprisonment. There are also penalties for disclosing or using BOI which can be up to a \$500,000 fine and ten years in prison.

Panicked? Never heard of the CTA? Only one chapter member present has heard of this congressional mandate and that was on social media. The government has not sent out any enforcement notices. Situation: the CTA is caught up in the courts. One campaign promise is to help small business by giving them more money but what small business wants this?

This information is a basic disclosure and not legal advice or a legal opinion. You should seek advice from your attorney or CPA on specific legal or accounting issues.

Adjournment. Adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM for the raffle.



Greg Shean - Secretary ABPA San Antonio Chapter



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11
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SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232
MIXER 4 PM - 5 PM | GRADUATION 5 PM

28
SEP

PHCC-SA FISHING TOURNAMENT

FULTON CONVENTION CENTER
402 N FULTON BEACH RD,
FULTON, TX 78358
6 AM - 6 PM

10
OCT

CORN HOLE AND PICKELBALL MIXER

CHICKEN N PICKLE
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**ABPA-SA Board of Directors
2023 - 2024**

- 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 – 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



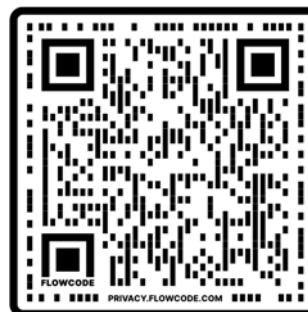
The other way is to print the Membership Application on the next page and send it to the address at the bottom of the page with your check.

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.

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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	
Corpus Christi	23.00	REGION 8 (USD)		
Lower Rio Grande Valley	25.00			
North Texas	23.00			
San Antonio	60.00			

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