VOLUNTEER CHAPTER ABPA MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 1996, @

CENTER FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

GRAY, TN

Volunteer Chapter ABPA News

% P. O. Box 5 Gatlinburg, TN 37738



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Volume 2 Issue 9

September, 1996

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

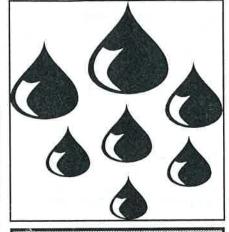
IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

your pencils, and get ready to vote for the candidate of your choice! I'm not talking about the President of the United States (that's later), I'm talking about the President of the Volunteer Chapter ABPA. In a few weeks you will have a ballot in your mailbox with candidates for officers and a director for our Chapter.

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

We still have time for nominations-until the September 10th meeting. Please remember to vote-you have to be a Chapter member in good standing (dues paid). Check your mailing label on this newsletter for your expiration date. Please call me if you have any questions concerning your membership status.

(Submitted by Dale Phelps, City of Gatlinburg, Gatlinburg, TN)



IMPORTANT DATE

The Volunteer Chapter ABPA will meet September 10, 1996, in Gray, TN, at the Center for Applied Technology. The Board of Directors will meet at 9:00 AM (Eastern Time) and the Chapter meeting will begin at 10:00 AM (Eastern Time).

For directions contact
Dale Phelps, (423) 436-4681 or
Becky Thompson (615) 8685400. A map can be faxed to
your office.

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BACKFLOW TESTING PROGRAMS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

ourteen months ago, after twenty-eight years, I retired from the Knoxville Utilities Board, Bureau of Water, Knoxville, TN. At my age, this was a very big step. My family and friends would say, "You did what?" "Why?" My wife Ginny and I began a long-time dream of starting a Certified Testing Company. We are involved in every aspect of backflow prevention, including setting up and conducting cross-connection control programs for utility districts, backflow testing programs, repairs, sales and service of backflow equipment and training.

Upon conducting the different backflow programs I quickly found options that utilities face. How should utilities conduct the certified tester program? Listed below are some thoughts and options to help each utility make the choice.

OPTION 1

Conduct the tester program in house utilizing utility personnel.

OPTION 2

Require the owner to contact a certified tester from an approved list. Customer must pay this expense out-of-pocket.

OPTION 3

Enter into a contract with a private certified testing firm.

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ABPA NEWS

Volunteer Chapter

Published quarterly by the Volunteer Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association, whose members have a common interest in protecting the drinking water from contamination through cross-connections. Opinions expressed in articles or letters are not necessarily those supported by the Chapter.

Your ideas and expertise are needed by the Volunteer Chapter ABPA to ensure a balanced approach to solving backflow problems in the State of Tennessee. Your participation will help shape the future of cross connection control across the State by providing support for a unified backflow prevention effort.

Advertisement Rates Per Issue: \$20.00 Business Card Size Make check payable to Volunteer Chapter ABPA and mail ad copy and payment to Chapter address: Volunteer Chapter ABPA % P. O. Box 5 Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Make check payable to ABPA. (National membership is required for Chapter membership.)

Mail dues to: ABPA

1236 Weathervane Lane, Suite 302 Akron, Ohio 44313

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Tennessee Association of Utility Districts,
Murfreesboro, TN

MISCELLANEOUS

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please remember to include your \$15.00 Volunteer chapter dues with your annual renewal of the \$27.00 Association Dues. Write on your renewal the \$15.00 is for the Volunteer Chapter dues. The total amount is \$42.00 annually.

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE CODES DEPARTMENT

Greg McDonald of Metro Plumbing Codes department, recently had a heart attach while visiting family in Indiana. He has returned to work but is still working "light duty".

HENDERSONVILLE CROSS-CONNECTION

Dave Richardson, Cross connection Inspector, is having serious health problems. He will be in treatment for several months and hopefully, will be able to return to work on a part-time basis. (Note: Many of you may know Dave's father, Jim Richardson of Hendersonville Water Department.)

Let's all get together to wish these fine people a speedy recovery and give them all the support we can.

COLUMBUS DAY OCTOBER 14, 1996



TEST/REPAIR TIPS

Buna-N rubber, widely used in backflow prevention devices swells somewhat under water contact conditions and has at times caused binding of moving parts in close tolerances. Therefore, exact replacement parts are necessary to proper operation.

EDPM rubber compound is black. Silicone rubber is red.

Never use grease or other lubricants on any rubber parts except orings. Grease on flat washers can act as a magnet to debris in the water and cause suspended particles (gunk) to attach to the rubber. This can cause premature failure of the check. lubricant must always be FDA approved (food grade).

WATTS E-Z TEST COCK

Several months ago Watts started putting the new E-Z test cock on the 3/4" and 1" backflow preventer. Since that time we have had a lot of questions about this test cock. The operation of this test cock is similar to the valve on your car tire. When you push down on the top of the test cock water will flow out the top of this valve. Therefore when you attach the hose from your test kit you will get a spray of water that may wet you if you are not careful. During the test when testing the #2 cutoff or ball valve your gauge will fall to zero. To prevent this from happening it is necessary to install a ball value with tee handle on the high hose of your tester to cut off your supply pressure to see if the cut-off valve is holding tight. In the future Watts has made the decision to use the old style test cock on all backflows.

(Submitted by Don Stephens, Central Sales Co., Nashville, TN)

PROGRAMS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Volunteer Chapter ABPA News

BACKFLOW TESTING

(Continued from page 1)

Actually option 1 is not an option. It's time the Utility Companies allow others to share in the responsibility due to salaries, benefits, equipment and training. The Water Utilities cannot afford to hire the amount of inspectors to perform this job.

The second option sounds good, but is it? You will find the amount of time needed for correspondence, rechecks and follow-ups to be great. If you have to follow behind the tester you might as well conduct the test in-house. Every backflow owner will drag their feet and will not get the device tested until they are sent several letters threatening cut-off. Your program will always be behind and suffer.

In looking at the third option, I believe you can be sold on the use of a private testing firm. The benefits are as follows:

- 1. The utility has only one company to deal with, not several.
- 2. Shared responsibility.
- 3. No benefits, equipment, training or vehicles. Work force may be reduced.
- 4. The private firm is bound by bonding and insurance.
- 5. Most importantcharged a minimum

 This must be done
 tual fee shall be added to the water bill
 This charge helps to offset the fees.

The use of a private testing firm assures your program will be done in a timely and professional manner. All correspondence shall be completed by the private testing firm.

Which option do you choose? For best results consider a private contractor to perform your program.

(Submitted by Larry Stinnett, Backflow Specialty Co., Inc., Powell, TN)

COURSES (Backflow Prevention)

EDUCATIONAL

A SUCCESS

The Volunteer Chapter ABPA, in conjunction with Knoxville Utilities Board, presented a Backflow Preventer Repair Class June 20th in Knoxville. Over sixty people attended the demonstration of backflow prevention assemblies and repair technique. The class was very well received by all attendees. A survey completed by the attendees included many good suggestions we are considering, which will make the next repair class even better. A big thanks to all the Manufacturer's Representative who participated. (Submitted by Dale Phelps, City of Gatlinburg,

REPAIR CLASSES

Madison Suburban Utility
District, Madison, TN, will be hosting a
"REPAIR WORKSHOP" at their facility
on September 26,1996.

It will be an all day affair with all of the manufacturer's Representative present. They will be able to answer all those questions that you have problems finding answers too.

If you are interested please call 615--868-3201 and get your name on the list. If you need directions specify and leave your mailing address with the Receptionist.

We need news, articles, etc. Please contact Becky Thompson, Madison Suburban Utility District, (615) 868-5400 with information.



ABPA 12th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

spite of a freakish storm with heavy rains and terrifying winds that brought periods of power failure, the ABPA 12th Annual International Conference was a great success. Thanks to the Marriott in St. Louis for their preparedness for such an event. Portable generators were put in use and had the Conference up and running with minimum delays.

The technical sessions top as ranged from testing in the field, confined entry, tester liability and responsibility, chemical and detergent dispensers, carbonated beverage machine, irrigation protection, public awareness and legal liability of the purveyor.

During the Board of Directors meeting, the letter concerning the way the appointment for director was handled by the Association that was send by our president, Dale Phelps, was read. The Board was not aware that the ballots were not sent on time and they apologized to all who were offended.\

The conference for 1997, will be in Ashville, NC.

START MAKING PLANS TO

(Submitted by Bob Deal, East Tennessee Director, Hixson Utility District, Hixson, TN)

ATTEND NOW!

FOOTBALL SEASON-1996

