

**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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❖ **Volunteer Chapter ABPA News** ❖

Volume 2 Issue 9

September, 1996

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

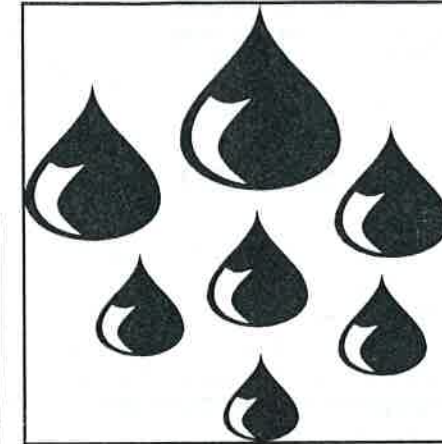
**IT'S ELECTION
TIME AGAIN!**

NOW is the time to sharpen 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) 868-5400. A map can be faxed to your office.

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**BACKFLOW TESTING
PROGRAMS FROM A
DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVE**

Fourteen 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

MISCELLANEOUS

Published quarterly by the Volunteer Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association...

Your ideas and expertise are needed by the Volunteer Chapter ABPA to ensure a balanced approach to solving backflow problems...

Advertisement Rates Per Issue: \$20.00 Business Card Size. Make check payable to Volunteer Chapter ABPA...

ABPA annual dues are: \$27.00 ABPA National, \$15.00 Volunteer Chapter, \$42.00 Total Annual Dues.

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

Mail dues to: ABPA, 1236 Weathervane Lane, Suite 302, Akron, Ohio 44313.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dale Phelps - President, City of Gatlinburg. Don Treesh - Vice President, Knox County Schools. Scott Arledge - Secretary/Treasurer, Smith & Stevenson.

DIRECTORS & DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Bobby G. Deal - Hixson Utility District, Hixson, TN. Jeff Becker - Jackson Utility District, Jackson, TN. Becky Thompson - Madison Suburban Utility District, Madison, TN. Larry Stinnett - Backflow Specialty Co., Inc., Powell, TN. John Hall - Tennessee Association of Utility Districts, Murfreesboro, TN.

DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please remember to include your \$15.00 Volunteer chapter dues with your annual renewal of the \$27.00 Association Dues.

SICK LIST

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE CODES DEPARTMENT

Greg McDonald of Metro Plumbing Codes department, recently had a heart attack while visiting family in Indiana.

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.

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

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.

EDPM rubber compound is black. Silicone rubber is red.

Never use grease or other lubricants on any rubber parts except o-rings. Grease on flat washers can act as a magnet to debris in the water and cause suspended particles (gunk) to attach to the rubber.

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.

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

COLUMBUS DAY OCTOBER 14, 1996



BACKFLOW TESTING PROGRAMS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

(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 second option sounds good, but is it? You will find the amount of time needed for correspondence, rechecks and follow-ups to be great.

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 important- customers must be charged a minimum annual fee for the test.

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)

EDUCATIONAL COURSES (Backflow Prevention)

REPAIR CLASS 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.

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

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.

HELP!

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



ABPA 12th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In 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.

The technical sessions topics 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 sent 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 ATTEND NOW!

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

FOOTBALL SEASON-1996

