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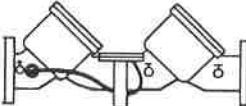

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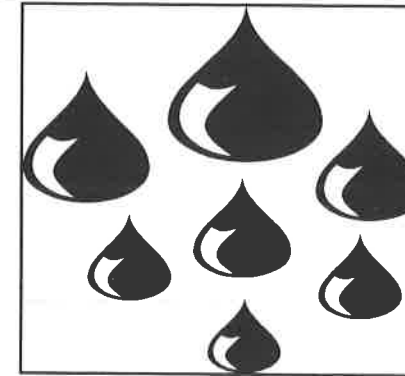
◆ Volunteer Chapter ABPA News ◆

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**ABPA WHAT?
VOLUNTEER CHAPTER
WHO??**

The American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) was established in 1984 with the common goal and purpose of protecting our drinking water from contamination through cross-connections. ABPA currently has approximately 3,500 members, with thirty-one local Chapters in twelve Regions. The Association has a Board of Directors, Officers, and an Administrative Director. The National Office is in Stow, Ohio, and employs two staff members and the Administrative Director. The Association's publication, a magazine called "ABPA NEWS", exclusively devoted to the field of backflow prevention and cross connection control, is mailed to the membership currently on a bimonthly basis. ABPA maintains a resource library including videotapes for free rental to members, and is currently on a computer BBS at 1-800-945-6980. The Association hosts an International Conference

(Continued on page 2 Column 2)



IMPORTANT DATE

The Volunteer Chapter ABPA will meet May 22, 1995 at the Sevierville Community Center in Sevierville, TN. The Board of Directors will meet at 8:00AM. The training session "Point of Use Cross Connections, The Plumbing Code and Other Regulations", a panel/group discussion, will begin at 10:00AM. Codes officials and health officials will be present to participate in this discussion. A short Chapter business meeting will follow at approximately 11:30 AM.

Take I-40 to exit 407, Hwy 66 South 8 miles to Sevierville. One block past the intersection of Hwy 66 and 441, turn left at the courthouse. Continue thru Bruce St. thru three lights to the community center. Call Dale Phelps @ 615-436-4681 for a map.

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INFORMATION

LET'S EDUCATE THE MANUFACTURERS AS WELL AS THE UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC!

In Al Hermsen's article in the Nov./Dec. issue of the ABPA news, once again we hear about educating the public about the dangers of using some of these poorly designed products. What we also should look into, along with educating the public about these products, is to educate the manufacturers of these products as to the dangers of their possible problems. If the manufacturers are made aware of the possible problems as well as the possible lawsuits, they may change the design of their products. We should contact the manufacturers and volunteer our organization's knowledge and expertise in this area in order for them to produce a safe product.

We should also make the same offer for product analysis to United Labs, Consumer Reports and other groups that evaluate consumer products. Even if we do not help test the products, we can make the testers aware of the

(Continued on page 3 Column 3)

ABPA NEWS

Volunteer Chapter

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, \$10.00 Volunteer Chapter, \$37.00 Total Annual Dues.

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

Mail dues to: ABPA, 4381 Hudson Drive, Stow, OH 44224.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dale Phelps - President, City of Gatlinburg, (615) 436-4681. Don Treesh - Vice President, Knox County Schools, (615) 594-1229.

DIRECTORS & DIRECTORS AT LARGE: David Birkholz - Loudon Utilities, Loudon, TN. Greg Young - Valve and Fittings, (205) 233-2023.

ABPA What?? Volunteer Chapter Who??

(Continued from page 1 Column 1)

annually which provides the most knowledgeable and respected speakers in the field, and showcases the latest and the best products and equipment in the industry.

The Volunteer Chapter (Tennessee) of the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) was chartered in 1993. Individuals of all trades and fields associated with drinking water have become involved in this effort.

1st Annual State Conference in Nashville. Noted speakers from across the State and the Nation.....

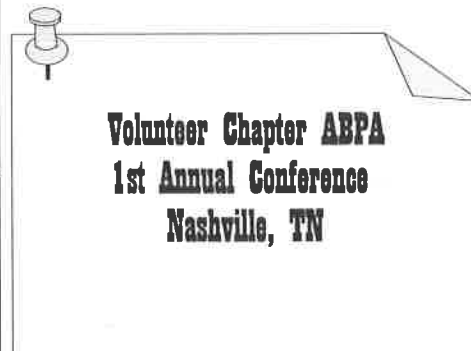
in strength and numbers. The chapter currently meets quarterly in various locations across the state. A training seminar or presentation is included for continuing education along with items of business.

The Volunteer Chapter is a non-profit corporation, with no compensation to it's Officers or Directors. Income is derived from dues, corporate donations, and conference registration fees. The Chapter prints a quarterly newsletter, the "Volunteer Chapter ABPA News", which is mailed to the Chapter membership.

local interests.

In August of 1995 the Chapter will host it's 1st Annual State Conference in Nashville. Noted speakers from across the State and the Nation will provide an excellent opportunity to bring you up to date in the field of cross-connection control.

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



June 21

HELP!!

PLEASE!!!!

Articles, Technical Tips and other information are needed by the newsletter committee. If you have information or need information please call one of the committee members and they will be happy to assist you.

- Dale Phelps (615) 436-4681, Don Treesh (615) 594-3633, Greg Young (205) 233-2033, Becky Thompson (615) 868-5400, Eddie Agee (615) 441-6699

WHO PAYS THE PRICE?

Since the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 went into effect, backflow prevention has come a long way. More people are aware of the need, we have better training methods, and more backflow preventers need to be tested and repaired.

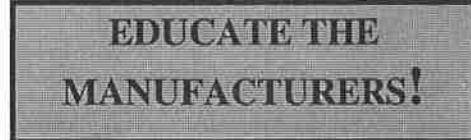
Now we are in a new era where the Water Purveyors are trying to cut cost. They feel that reducing their manpower will reduce their cost and put more of the burden on consumers.

A large amount of Water Purveyors are swaying toward contract testing and repairing, at the cost of the consumers. This is fine as long as the people

contractor has qualified people doing the job. Unfortunately, there are too many becoming certified, who are just looking at the money end of the job. This is when price gouging will appear.

The Consumer will pay, the backflow programs will suffer and the Water Quality once again, could suffer. So who pays the price?

(Submitted by Becky Thompson, Madison Suburban Utility District, Madison, TN)



(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

...there are too many people becoming certified, who are just looking at the money end of the job.

doing the job charges a fair price and do not try to take advantage of the consumers.

We have a lot of people interested in becoming certified in backflow prevention but they do not realize that backflow prevention does not stop with the certification. It takes more than being able to test a backflow.

If the testing and repairing is contracted, the Water Purveyor will need to monitor the contractor, the backflow and the repairs. They will need to know all the contractors and have a method of checking their abilities so that they are assured that the

problems to look for.

I know the next step may be a bit much for most of us, including a conservative like me, but maybe we should contact some environmental groups to point out the possible hazards of these products and get their backing to get the manufacturers attention. We may need the help of a larger group to get our point across to the manufacturers.

These are just some ideas by one member, but I hope it is a start. Maybe the Board could discuss this at their next meeting and we can all discuss it at Spokane.

(Submitted by Dave Birkholz, Loudon Utilities Inspector, Loudon, TN)

(Al Hermsen's article is added as an insert to this newsletter.)



Memorial Day May 29, 1995

**SOME MANUFACTURERS PAY NO ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY MIGHT
CONTAMINATE POTABLE WATER IN WHAT THEY OFFER TO AN
UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC**

By Al Hermsen, Secretary ABPA

Dan Grover, who heads up the Cross Connection Control Program for Water District 1 of Johnson County, Kansas recently gave me copies of advertisements of various products that could be a serious threat to our potable water. His comment was added to the copy, "It would appear that mankind is determined to invent new ways to contaminate his water supplies."

The first, and worst, was a device by which the unsuspecting homeowner could use water pressure to "unclog drains and toilets in seconds." Included are provisions to "simply attach to your faucet and turn on the water." But there is no mention of what might happen if backsiphonage were to occur!

The second was a device "that quickly attaches to a bathroom faucet without batteries or electricity" to clean between teeth and gums. Again, no mention of any backflow preventer or the requirement that one should be used.

The third "hooks up to any removable shower head." This gives the homeowner a "jacuzzi-style" bath, right in the bathtub." This one comes with a handy carrying case, inferring that the traveler can take it to a hotel room and use it there, too. Thus, one can not only contaminate the water in his/her home. But everyone's water in a hotel as well!

Another, furnished by Rick Koenig of Hiawatha, Kansas, is a water powered sump pump. "Simply attach two garden hoses, attach the female end to a water supply, submerge the unit into the water to be siphoned and turn the water on." Not only is it handy to pump out a sump, but it can be used "to drain pools, aquariums, hot tubs and garden pools." It is also recommended for use as a boat bilge pump or to

back up an electric sump pump. Naturally, no thought is expressed that the user could be drinking whatever was being pumped.

How does one counter the sale of these potential methods of allowing our water supplies to become fouled from backflow? Good question. Thought you'd never ask!

An informed water customer will know that nothing should ever be connected to a potable water supply without a proper method to prevent backflow. How to inform the general public? A continuing information program. Not a single mailing, but a continuing program. All of us are aware of what the bunny, beating a drum represents. Not because we saw it once, but dozens of times. Or, the repeated "uh huh" we heard hawking a soft drink. Yes, advertising is repeated until it is ingrained into our senses.

The same method should be used to inform the public of the dangers of backflow. Included in an envelope with the water bill, an informational brochure will cost little beyond the cost of printing and will cover all water customers. Sure, a lot of them will wind up in the "round file", but some will be read, as the information program continues. "Mrs. Jones" will ask "Mrs. Smith" if she has seen what can happen to water supplies.

The program can be furthered with programs on the electronic media. Lincoln, Nebraska is preparing a television program that will be added to the foundation tape, "Working Together For Safe Water." Many TV cable companies have a public access channel, as does Lincoln's, that are willing to put on public information programs.
SOME MANUFACTURERS...Cont. from page 7

VOLUNTEER CHAPTER ABPA

QUARTERLY MEETING - MAY 22, 1995

SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE

- AGENDA -

* 10:00 AM TOPICAL DISCUSSION:

*"POINT OF USE CROSS CONNECTIONS -
THE PLUMBING CODE AND OTHER REGULATIONS"*

* 11:30 AM - CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING

* Call To Order

* Reading of Minutes of previous meeting

* Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

* Reports of Board and Committees:

Newsletter Committee

Training & Education Committee

Board of Directors

* Special Order:

Report of Conference Committee

By Chapter Conference Chair

* Previous Business:

Time and place for next two meetings

* New Business:

New Committee to be appointed

Call for Nominations for East and West Region Directors

ABPA "Strategic Plan"

* 12:00 NOON - ADJOURN

**More Backflow Prevention?
Is It Necessary?**



Come Join Us...

1st Annual Conference
Volunteer Chapter
American Backflow Prevention Association

August 13-15, 1995

Holiday Inn • Briley Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee

Some radio stations with talk shows will have guests that have a message. If you can get on such a show. Prepare yourself well. I listened to one where the guests were not well prepared that could have put backflow prevention back for years.

Newspapers often have a science editor that will take information and make an article out of it. With the right approach, the message can be brought about through the printed media.

A combination of the above should be included in every backflow prevention program. Since a

public information program will generate a lot of inquiries, a special phone number, with an informed person to answer it, should be added. Don't subject callers to having to go through a switchboard and then get someone that doesn't have answers.

With such a program, the manufacturers of devices that could allow backflow can be put out of business. If the word is out, these uninformed, and at worse unscrupulous peddlers may have to find a new way to make a living.