

OUR FIRST 20 YEARS

This past year has been an exciting year for our American Backflow Prevention Association (APBA). We reached our 20th year as an active professional backflow prevention organization. From our start in 1984 we now have a membership of over 4300, how we have grown! To honor the completion of our 20th year, we offer this brief recap, highlighting the conferences and accomplishments of each year. We hope to provide a trip down memory lane for the "old timers" and some insight into our development for the recent additions to our membership.

1984 - Our organization begins, headquartered in Broomfield, Colorado, and in July we print our first publication, *Backflow Prevention*. An impressive eight (8) pages for the first publication from a start-up organization.

DECEMBER 31, 1984 - A date to remember

ABPA is incorporated as a non-profit corporation with the Colorado Secretary of State.

1985 - A year full of "firsts". Individual membership dues are \$60.00 per year.

Our regions are Northwest, Southeast, South Central, Great Lakes, North Central, Mountain West, West Coast & Hawaii, Northwest & Alaska, and Canadian.

The Board is composed of:

President -	Dr. Charles Flanders	Treasurer -	John J. Gambold
Vice Pres.-	Travis Black	Exec. Director -	Stuart F. Asay
Secretary -	Alvin Hermsen	Exec. Secretary -	Dee Cooperider

Regional Directors: Jim Whitelaw, Utah Dennis, Richard Clary, E. Kent Springer, Howard Hendrickson, Al Hermsen, Travis Black, and Jack Gambold.

The first ABPA Annual Conference is held in Denver, Colorado. The full three-day conference registration includes all sessions, exhibits, committee meetings, Wednesday luncheon, Thursday banquet, and Friday breakfast. We have split sessions to cover the many following topics for the fifty or so attendees (a majority of the membership):

Legal Liability – Can You Be Sued?

Documenting Backflow

Cross-Connection Control on Irrigation Systems

Can You Be Insured?

Manufacturer's Forum – Double Check Valve Assemblies

Roundtable Discussion – Cross-Connection Control Regulations

Plumbing Inspections and Plan Review

Manufacturer's Forum – Reduced Pressure Principle Devices

Developing a Local Cross-Connection ordinance

Cross-Connection Control on Fire Lines

Developing a Cross-Connection Control Training Program

Certification Requirements and Reciprocity

Developing a Public Information Program

Testing and Repairing Large Backflow Prevention Devices

Developing Standards

System Surveys and Inspections for Cross Connections

In addition, there is a "Movie Matinee" consisting of a "continuous showing of Cross-Connection Control films, including some early classics" (Those would be fun to see today.) testers workshop, a tour to the Denver Metro Reuse Plant, and a tour to Hewlett Packard's Loveland facility.

Four committees are formed and announced at the conference:

- Technical Information and Documentation - Ned Towle, Chair
- Membership/Awards and Annual Conference - John Bird, Chair
- Training/Certification and Accepted Practice - Travis Black, Chair
- Publications and Public Information Committee - Joel Shelton, Chair

At the August 29th Board Meeting, the Southeast Regions is split into two: the Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast and District of Columbia, the Annual Conference date is changed for August to April, and two new membership categories are established: Contributing Member and Honorary Life Member

The first award for making an outstanding contribution to the industry is established and presented to Gustave Angele. He is elected Life Member No.1 of the ABPA and an annual award is established in his name, *The Gustave J. Angele Meritorious Service Award*. This award was later renamed *The Meritorious Service Award*.

1986 - Annual Conference is held in Denver, Colorado. The theme is "Unifying Cross-Connection Control" and there are no split sessions. At the conference Board Meeting, the Canadian Region is subdivided into three regions: Western Canada, Ontario Region, and Quebec Region. Regions are now numbered:

Northeast	North Central	Western Canada
Great Lakes	Northwest & Alaska	Mid Atlantic
Southeast	Mountain West	Ontario
South Central	West Coast & Hawaii	Quebec

We have our first Past President. E. Kent Springer receives the Meritorious Service Award.

Backflow Prevention Magazine expands to twelve pages in June and displays color advertisements and a slick cover in July. The November issue prints the ABPA Flow Chart, flowing from the Executive Director, the Executive Secretary, Officers, and through the 12 Regions.

1987 - Annual Conference is held in Costa Mesa, California. Major changes include eliminating the position of paid Executive Director and dropping annual dues to \$15.00.

Roy O. Van Meter receives the Meritorious Service Award

Backflow Prevention is privatized and changed to *Drinking Water and Backflow Prevention*. Volume 1, Number 1 of *ABPA News* is published for September/November 1987.

1988 - Annual Conference in Altamonte Springs, Florida. Full conference registration for non-members now includes a one-year membership in the American Backflow Prevention Association. The theme is "Backflow Prevention Update 1988"; no split sessions. We add a Director of Administrative Affairs, two Directors at Large and three new Chapters (Ohio, Indiana, Florida First Coast-Jacksonville).

Dr. Charlie Flanders receives the Meritorious Service Award.

1989 - Annual Conference in Akron, Ohio. The theme is "A New Look at an Old Problem"; no split sessions. We have our first involvement with ASSE Series 5000 with Les O'Brien as the liaison and an update of the ASSE Standards is one of our session topics. Two new chapters (Arizona and Minnesota) are added.

Al Hermsen receives the Meritorious Service Award.

The Board meets in October and establishes a new dues structure: 1-year-\$17.00, 2-years-\$30.00, 3-years-\$42.00, and a lifetime membership of \$300.00.

1990 - We boast a membership of 1,715 as of February and publish five issues of *ABPA News* during the year.

The Annual Conference is in Chicago, Illinois. The Conference has a "Ladies Program", which includes full registration and partial registrations for luncheons, banquet, hospitality room with continental breakfast, and tours. Active Committees include Training, By-Laws, Dues Structure, Newsletter, Akron Conference, Chicago Conference, and Salt Lake City Conference.

Jack Gambold receives the Meritorious Service Award.

1991 - We publish six issues of *ABPA News* with coverage on several Chapters - Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Utah, Region 12, Western Washington, and Maryland.

The Conference is held in Salt Lake City, Utah. We again have split sessions, this time labeled as "Beginner's Session" and "Advanced Session". What was offered in these categories?

Meritorious Service Award recipient is Utah Dennis.

1992 - We add more Chapters. We have our first woman President - Patti Hansen (now Fauver). On January 12, we develop a policy on Fire Systems. May 27, we develop a statement of position concerning the EPA Lead and Copper Rule and Backflow Prevention at the Customer's Service Connection.

Conference held in Hyannis, Massachusetts. We continue with split sessions, again designated as "Beginners" and "Advanced". One controversial issue is a general session panel discussion "Should Backflow Preventers be Allowed on Fire Systems?"

Meritorious Service Award - Richard Clary

1993 - Walter M. Stanton, a champion of backflow prevention, died on March 3, 1993 at the age of 63

Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. Split session continue as "Beginning" and "Advanced". We include "OSHA Regulations on Confined Spaces" in our sessions.

Meritorious Service Award - Jim Whitelaw

1994 - 10th Anniversary

We have nineteen Chapters:

Arizona	Kentucky Blue Grass	Orange Blossom
Central Illinois	Maryland	San Antonio
Central Valley California	Michigan	Southern California
Colorado	Minnesota	Utah
Gateway (St. Louis)	North Carolina	Western Washington
Heart of America	Northern Illinois	
Indiana	Ohio	

Twelve Committees:

Administrative Policy & Procedure	Governmental Affairs
By-Laws	Library
Chapter Relations	Membership Benefits
Conference	Newsletter
External Affairs	Policy & Position Statements
Finance & Budget	Training & Education

Knoxville, Tennessee has the honor of hosting our 10th Annual Conference and welcomes us with "Y'all Come! One of the split sessions gets a more sophisticated name, "Apprentice Session".

Meritorious Service Award - Ernest "Ernie" Havlina

1995 - 11th Annual International Conference is held in Spokane, Washington. The split sessions are now entitled "Session A" and "Session B".

In the July/August Issue of *ABPA News*, President Mike Logston announces "Our former Administrative Director, Dave Evans, has resigned and the National Office has been moved to 1236 Weathervane Lane, Suite 302, Akron, Ohio. The office staff is currently under the supervision of our Vice President, Dick Unger, until a replacement for Mr. Evans is designated."

Meritorious Service Award recipient is Bob Tesar

1996 - At the January 21 Board of Directors meeting, we have turnover when several officers and Directors tender their resignations. The Board votes and fills the critical vacancies through appointment. Ten (10) percent of all income from membership dues is designated to educational programs. The Training and Education Committee is divided into two committees: a Public Education Committee and a Training Committee.

Gateway Chapter hosts the 12th Annual International Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Different agencies BPA approvals are compared in "Backflow Assembly Approvals USC vs UL/FM vs ASSE vs AWWA: What's the Difference?" Policy Statement concerning Cross-Connections is approved.

Meritorious Service Award recipient is Travis Black.

1997 - *ABPA News* gets a new look in the March/April Issue with a design change.

Carolinas Chapter hosts the 13th Annual International Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Another first - We offer the Proctor Certification Examination at the Conference...A tour for the adventuresome is a White Water Rafting trip.

Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE Award) is established to recognize chapters for their positive impact on their membership, their profession, and their community. Chapters are judged on membership, service to chapter members, advancement of the backflow industry and service to the community. Every ABPA chapter is eligible for consideration and should nominate itself.

1997 PACE Award Recipients: Utah Chapter, Michigan Chapter, Carolina's Chapter, New England Chapter, and Georgia Chapter

Meritorious Service Award - Jim Purzycki

1998 - Our By-laws are revised and we add 16 new chapters this year for a total of 43.

Arizona Chapter hosts the 14th Annual International Conference (Radiate '98) in Glendale, Arizona. We have repair demonstration sessions for small assemblies (1/2"-2") and large assemblies (2 1/2" - 10"). We add Proctor Training as well as Proctor Certification and Recertification. Positions statements are approved: Dental Waterline Protection and Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers.

The Golden Eagle award is established and will be presented annually to those individuals whom have been a key to the success of their chapter, region, or the national association. 1998 Golden Eagle Winners: Ron Chapman, Carla Ernster, Tony Ippolito, and M.C. Sorrell.

PACE Award: Georgia Chapter, Carolina's Chapter, Tennessee Chapter, Colorado Chapter, Arizona Chapter, , and Silver State Chapter

Paul Schwartz receives the Meritorious Service Award.

1999 - We add three new chapters and new products are introduced - Polo shirts, etc.

15th Annual International Conference is hosted by Region 1 in Hyannis, Massachusetts...Manufacturers offer Repair & Maintenance Sessions on their products...Paul Schwartz gives an update on the proposed revisions of the USC Manual of CCC - the infamous 10th Edition.

Golden Eagle Award: Rich Koenig, Dale Strong, and Shane Dillard

PACE Award: Carolina's Chapter, Illinois Chapter, Colorado Chapter, New England Chapter, Utah Chapter, Tennessee Chapter, San Antonio Chapter, and Arkansas Chapter.

Mike Logston receives the Meritorious Service Award.

2000 - CCC Dictionary Committee is organized. Mike Logston is Chair and Ron Chapman puts in many hours organizing CCC terms...Buster Backflow is adopted by ABPA and reprinted...Two leaders in the Cross-Connection Control Industry pass away: Paul H. Harrington in May and Anthony (Tony) L. Arthur in December

Region 7 hosts the 16th Annual International Conference in Portland, Oregon/ Vancouver, Washington. We have a full program with Tuesday offering three split sessions, numbering the sessions I, II, and III...Mt. St. Helens is offered as a tour with the following description: "Mount St. Helens has been a serene, beautiful mountain playground teeming with wildlife and available

for leisure activities throughout the year. The tranquility of the Mount St. Helens region was shattered in the spring of 1980 when the volcano stirred from its long repose, shook, swelled, and exploded back to life." Bio's are listed in the program for the speakers. We initiate a "Conference Evaluation Form" for feedback and planning of future conferences.

Golden Eagle Award: Ken Ashlock, Steve Govero, William Kent, Mike Lueck, Dan O'Lone, and Jim Purzycki.

PACE Award: New England Chapter, San Antonio Chapter, Carolina's Chapter, Illinois Chapter, and Colorado Chapter.

Meritorious Service Award: Les O'Brien

2001 - ABPA copyrights Buster Backflow. Exciting news for the organization is that we have a positive cash flow.

Heart of America Chapter hosts the 17th Annual International Conference (2001 Backflow Odyssey) in Kansas City, Missouri. We highlight some of the results of Cross-Connections in "Waterborne Illness – How Do We Know It Happens?" ... Split sessions are categorized and include Legal Issues, Train the Trainer, Small Business, CCC Program Administration, Assembly Usage, Distribution Systems, Water Quality, and Water Survey.

Golden Eagle Award: Henry Chang, Paul Schwartz, and Gary Turntine.

PACE Award: Carolina's Chapter, Tennessee Chapter, Mississippi Chapter, Colorado Chapter, Utah Chapter, and Heart of America Chapter.

Meritorious Service Award: Patti Fauver

2002 – The Backflow Prevention Manufacturers' Association (BPMA) announces the first BPMA Harrington-Arthur Scholarship Fund Essay Contest.

The results of 9-11-01 affect us in attendance at our conference. "Good Ole Southern Hospitality" is the Theme for conference, which now includes the tradeshow in its title, *18th Annual International Conference and Tradeshow*, held in Savannah, Georgia. Tester Certification and Recertification Exams are offered for the first time...We bring to light some of the differences in a CCC Program in one of our opening sessions, "Cross-Connection Control Programs Around the World"...Sessions continue to be categorized...Vendors start a tradition with their evening reception listed in the program.

Golden Eagle Award: Richard Clary, Randy Engle, and Patti Fauver

PACE Award: Carolina's Chapter, Colorado Chapter, Illinois Chapter, and Southern California Chapter

Meritorious Service Award: Ken Ashlock

2003 – Major changes made in the Committee format: *** The Scholarship/Essay Committee is dissolved as we join with BPMA in their scholarship program (BPMA/ABPA Harrington-Arthur Scholarship Fund Essay Contest) with Ruth Pluchinsky as the ABPA Liaison *** The Library Committee duties are absorbed by Headquarters *** Membership/Marketing Committee is

Membership Committee *** Public Education Committee is expanded to Training and Education Committee (for the purpose of conducting training/orientation sessions for new Directors, Officers, Chapter officials, etc.) *** A new Certification Committee replaces the former Training Committee ***

Buster Backflow II is completed and ready for print.

Michigan Chapter hosts the conference in Detroit, Michigan. The conference program expands its horizons with session briefs and biographies of the speakers, making it easier for attendees to choose between the many sessions offered. It also includes speakers' contact information, exhibitors' profiles, and contact information for our National Officers, National Directors, and other important ABPA contacts.

Golden Eagle Award: Lyle Greenhill and Les O'Brien.

PACE Award: Carolina's Chapter, Colorado Chapter, New York Chapter, Southern California Chapter, and Utah Chapter.

Meritorious Service Award: Howard Hendrickson

2004 – 20th Anniversary

We have grown tremendously over the past 20 years and become acknowledged as a power in the cross-connection control industry. We start the year with 44 Chapters:

Arizona	Lone Star-TX	Rhode Island
Arkansas	Maine	Rio Grande
Carolina's	Michigan	International
Central Coast-CA	Mississippi	San Antonio
Central Missouri	New Brunswick	Silver State-NV
Central Valley-CA	New England	Southern Arizona
Colorado	North Texan	Southern California
Corpus Christi	NE Louisiana	Spokane Regional
Delaware	Northern Illinois	CCC
Eastern Nebraska	Ohio	Tennessee
Gold Coast - FL	Ontario	Utah
Gulf Coast	Oregon	Western Nebraska
Hawaii	Panhandle	Western New York
Heart of America-MO	Peach State "1788"-GA	Wisconsin
Illinois	Penn State	
Indiana	Pennsylvania	

We have fourteen Committees:

Administrative Policy & Procedure	Governmental Affairs
By-Laws	Library
Chapter Relations	Membership Benefits
Conference	Newsletter
External Affairs	Policy & Position Statements
Finance & Budget	Training & Education

20th Anniversary International Conference and Tradeshow is hosted by the Southern California Chapter in Long Beach, California at the Hyatt Regency.

PACE Award: Arizona Chapter, Carolina's Chapter, Colorado Chapter, Gold Coast Chapter, Northern Illinois Chapter, San Antonio Chapter, Southern California Chapter, and Utah Chapter.

Meritorious Service Award: Denny Lopp

Our Website -The ABPA Website was established in March of 1997 under the custodianship of TEEX. In February 1998, Les O'Brien volunteered his time and talents and did an excellent job of keeping the site updated in addition to his daily work schedule at University of Florida-TREEO Center. As the years passed, the Association grew and ABPA came to be recognized as a valuable source of information in the backflow industry, the energy and time needed to keep current increased tremendously. At the May 2004 International Conference, the Board voted to designate Gary Edwards as Web Master to administer our Website, freeing Les to make other valuable contributions to our organization.

Special tribute to our general membership - without whom the local chapters, regions, and national organization could not be effective and make us the force we are today. Because of your participation, we have exceptional two- to three-day regional and one-day local conferences that have expanded into offering some of the valuable training for which we are noted. Because of your successes, one of the tasks we now face as an organization is: How do we best expend our energies on an international level? A challenge we gratefully accept. Thank you.

Many thanks to the following major contributors to this 20th Anniversary Salute: Mike Logston, Les O'Brien, Pat Robinson, Paul Schwartz, Larry Stinnett, and Dale Strong.

We would very much like to have a scrapbook of memories at our next conference. Send your recollections to either Shane at Headquarters or Pat Robinson at evrdy6@aol.com. Please entitle them *ABPA Memories* for ease of sorting at the receiving end.