



12819 SE 38th St #385
Bellevue, WA 98006

April 2025 Newsletter

OFFICERS 2025

Chair: Kathy Caldwell caldwell@snohomishwa.gov	City of Snohomish	360 282 3165
Vice Chair: Don Leland d.leland@stopinc.com	STOP Inc./CBT	425 954 5787
Treasurer: Iliya Andreev iandreev@redmond.gov	City of Redmond	425 556 2817 cell: 425 588 7954
Secretary: Randy Hude randy.hude@arbitertech.com	Arbiter Incorporated	503 847 4936
Past Chair: Wednesday Smith batgirlbackflowtesting@gmail.com	Batgirl Backflow Testing	206 948 0484
Web Master: Don Leland d.leland@stopinc.com	STOP Inc./CBT	425 954 5787

Hello Members of the Group,

The April meeting was held both in-person and via Teams on 04/16/2025 at 09:30 AM.

Attendees:

Randy Hude – Arbiter Incorporated; DeLynn Erickson -- Woodinville Water District; Tim Cantwell – Woodinville Water District; Forrest Bailey – City of Tumwater; Iliya Andreev – City of Redmond; Mariano Romulo – City of Lynnwood Public Works; Wednesday Smith – Batgirl Backflow Testing; Courtney Shilling – Skagit PUD; Michael Rodriguez – city of Pacific; Don Leland – STOP, Inc

Old Business

- Vendor list emailed and will be discussed between Wednesday and Randy and shared with the larger executive committee upon completion.
- Exhibitor charge for 2025 meeting. Proposals ran from \$250-\$300, perhaps tiered rates considered, Don recommends tiered rates be postponed until 2026.
- \$200 exhibitor rate + \$100 value door-prizes for exhibitors to register, voted on and approved.
- Member rate: \$160, Non-Member Rate had not been determined.
- Square is not setup as a specific account with The Group. Iliya hoping for the easiest way to process these payments. Zelle, Venmo, or get a new Square account. Going to the PO Box and collecting and depositing the checks is not difficult for Iliya. Need to have an e-payment option ahead of the announcement.
- Site Discussion for the October 2025 Conference:
 - SRC4 gets the rooms free of charge and only pays for the food. Perhaps we should consider other venues that could host our non-profit's annual meeting for less than usual. Green River mentioned as a potential site.
 - Don recommends picking a site for this year and next and then looking into these lower-cost option sites.
 - DeLynn wondering if we should go ahead and book with Delta in Everett.
 - Agreed it might be best to sew up the Delta for the conference for 2025; Voted on and approved by the attendees. 20 rooms to be held.
- Treasurer Business – Iliya unable to get the books from Chris S's accountant for 2024. Still need to reimburse Wednesday and Iliya for expenses outlaid by himself. Going to be ordering checks, and Iliya has debit card in the Group name. Any bookings that need to be done on behalf of The Group, it would be best for him to do the booking. He will use a spreadsheet to keep track of the books.
- Zoom renewed or lapsed?
 - Wednesday: we moved from regular to Pro for the Webinar only.
 - Quick vote: change to Teams from Zoom when Zoom lapses in July.
 - Teams meeting via the Group's outlook account, monthly meetings scheduled.
- Brightwater Treatment Plant Field Trip 7/16/2025 – still waiting for the final head-count limit, wondering if there could be many tour groups, etc. Tim C is working with Matt from Brightwater but not having much luck getting a response.

New Business

- DeLynn will book the Delta Hotel Everett for the October 2025 seminar. Reach out regarding the table size specifications, tablecloth provided, etc.
- Once that's secure, need to create a "Save the Date" e-blast.
- How are we going to handle registration/payment?

- Iliya to see about getting a The Group Venmo account
- How many extra spots to reserve?
 - 5 additional for wiggle room, hammered out later
- Vendors?
 - Reach out to last year's vendor list and add some other potential vendors
- Attendees?
 - Reach out to the list.
 - Have simple check-in morning of event A-L, M-Z by last name
 - Nametags with raffle tickets, Don to bring.
 -
- Needs for the show:
 - Stampers for CEU (1 person)
 - Management of CEU (1 person)
 - Check-in, nametags (2 people needed)
 - Raffle/vendor management (1-2 people)
 - Collect door prizes (1 person)
 - Representative for hotel (1 person)
 - Emcee (1 person) Kathy, Don, or Wednesday
- Membership fee changes.

Potential Speakers for the Seminar

2024 Speakers

President, Bill Bernier, Tiffany Miller, Sean Cleary, Wednesday Smith, Bill Bernier, Group of 3

2025 Potential Speakers

- 1) Jim P. of BAVCO – mostly retired but perhaps available
- 2) Henry Chang of USC FCCCHR – do we have a specific topic for him to discuss?
- 3) Sean Cleary of IAPMO – do we have a specific topic for him to discuss?
- 4) Bill Bernier and Tiffany Miller always present to talk about DOH stuff
- 5) Katherine McLaughlin of Texas Environmental possibly
- 6) Nathan with D.o.H. long history of backflow? Bill may have to give Nathan's talk due to travel limits.
- 7) Mark or Doug with American Backflow?
- 8) Scott Hemingway on cross connection events?

Potential Topics for the Seminar

- 1) Topic for consideration: the authority of jurisdiction regarding the agreement between UPC-approved devices for plumbers and the CCS USC-approved assembly list. Historical example of AHJ, UPC vs USC.
- 2) Regarding ASR Cream form B. Coordination with Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) on CCC.
- 3) Ecolab is not an approved USC, CCS was having business remove them and install a backflow assemblies. Ecolab was losing business, complained to UPC was then approved by plumbing inspectors supersedes CCS.
- 4) Any backflow events locally that someone could discuss at the meeting?

Follow-ups from this meeting:

- Field trip for July 2025 options – Tim C will clarify the attendance limits and we'll email the interested parties.
- New website – Don L will hopefully have the updated website ready to share and launch soon.
- 2025 Meeting Space: Delynn will work with Iliya on booking the Delta Hotel in Everett for this year's meeting.
- 2026 or alternative/cheaper sites for 2025:
 - Don will follow up with Eric Shea about using the WETRC facility.
- Iliya will check with The Redmond Center about 2026
- Wednesday will follow up with Lake Washington Institute of Technology about 2026
- Randy will set up the Teams Meetings (monthly) starting with the next meeting in May 2025.
- Catering for the field trip to be decided in June 2025. Iliya to reach out to a buddy about cooking BBQ. Otherwise Iliya will pick up pre-made Costco food trays. Randy to create a flyer/survey/attendance email to get a headcount.

Next meeting is scheduled for 5/21/2025 from 10 am to 12 pm. Meeting will be held via Teams. Topic is Backflow Case Studies and Preventive Actions with WA DOH.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 PM PST.