

My Reaction To The Latest Fraudulent Postcard Mailing Using The CBPA Return Address

By Leigh Fenton

I find it amazing that a nameless faceless individual(s) hides behind the CBPA Post Office Box and once again is sending out a postcard attacking the hard working members of the CBPA for taking active, supportive roles in our organization. It is certainly very easy to write and distribute unsubstantiated lies, allegations and accusations when you refuse to identify yourself and take responsibility for these continuing attacks.

I promised the members of the CBPA that I would do everything in my power to clearly identify legitimate mailings of the CBPA to its membership by making sure there is a recognizable return logo on the mailings from the CBPA. The timing of the mailing of these slanderous postcards is especially damaging, because it makes legitimate postcards from the CBPA questionable. **Please** be aware that the upcoming AMES Repair Class on December 16, 2004 is a legitimate training event, co-sponsored by the CBPA.

It is not a coincidence that I refused to handover the CBPA mailing list immediately prior to this last unprovoked gutless attack. I felt it was in the best interest of the CBPA due to the numerous attacks on this organization during the past years to make sure that copies of our legitimate mailing list are protected from distribution. I have been an active member of this organization for a number of years (shortly after it was restarted from a defunct chapter in the early 1990's). I have devoted numerous hours to supporting and helping the CBPA grow into an organization of which I am proud to be a member. It is unfortunate that when it is time to pass on the reins to the next president, the whole endeavor is dragged through the dirt by a faceless, nameless person who deals in half-truths and outright lies to try and create controversy where none exists. The author and mailer of the fraudulent postcards pretend the mailing comes from the CBPA and they use our return address to try to legitimize these complaints, rather than present them in a professional, civilized manner at a CBPA meeting.

I realize that by mailing this to our legitimate members, the individual(s) who have taken part in the series of fraudulent postcard mailings will probably not even receive it. It is very unlikely that they are even members of this organization or of our parent organization, the ABPA. There is not any member of this organization who should be apologetic for supporting the ABPA or its certification program. In addition, the fraudulent mailing insinuates whom to vote for in the upcoming election. I believe the people who have been members of this organization do not need to have someone tell them who has been active in the day-to-day work and supported the CBPA in its endeavor to offer training opportunities to its members as well as those individuals who make up the backflow prevention community in Colorado. The members are a highly educated group and if anyone should have any questions, they should feel free to ask any question in regards to the candidates or they should attend the next meeting and ask the candidate directly.

When I started as a member, we did not even have 80 members and of those we did not have even 10 who were active in the day-to-day affairs or who could indeed even make it to the monthly meetings. Since that time we have had steady growth, with a few setbacks, but not once did we ever drop to a membership of 37. I believe the author of this postcard is ignorant of the facts or is attempting to cause concern by deliberately spreading false information.

Please be aware that this whole endeavor is an attempt to influence the outcome of the CBPA election. Support the CBPA by voting in the election and if you question your choices remember that the individuals who have actively participated in turning the CBPA into the organization that it is today can be identified by the contributions they have made to this organization. For your reference the CBPA website at www.backflow.org maintains newsletters, meeting minutes and other chapter information to assist with any questions. Help counteract these vicious attacks. As a group, let's stay focused on our common goal and not allow one or a few individuals to use our organization as a podium for their own agenda. Remember that CBPA is a vital organization in our industry and it will only remain strong with continued participation and positive leadership from our membership. Vote for whomever you believe has actually supported and helped strengthen this chapter. Do not let this cowardly attempt at influencing our elections succeed in discouraging our members from assuming active and productive roles within our association.

Sincerely,
Leigh Fenton
CBPA President