ABC REORGANIZES TO FOCUS ON CERTIFICATION AND EXAM DEVELOPMENT

On June 2, 2012, ABC’s Board of Directors voted to commission an independent body to administer ABC’s certification and standardized exam development programs. This body is accountable to the Board of Directors and thereby all of the Association, but will retain full responsibility and authority for the operation and management of all programs under its supervision. This change to ABC’s mode of operation effectively reorganizes the Association’s certification and exam development programs by introducing an independent entity to manage these programs on behalf of the Board. This change to the hierarchy will not only free up additional time and resources for the Board, but provides a better degree of compliance with the requirements of ANSI/ ISO 17024 accreditation—an initiative the Board also approved at the June 2 meeting.

More recently, the Board formally named this commission and established its charter policies. After careful analysis and deliberation, the Board named the body the “Certification Commission for Environmental Professionals” with “C,EP” serving as the official acronym. With consideration to the wide variety of occupations ABC currently certifies, the Board felt “Environmental Professional” to be a term that sufficiently described this class of professions. The name also stresses that all who are certified by C,EP are professionals in their respective field. The Board hopes this will be another step towards bettering the public’s perception of those working in the water and wastewater industries.

ABC ON THE ROAD SERVING OUR MEMBERS

This summer, ABC Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff continued their journey with industry members to share the Association’s initiatives and the importance of ensuring our public health systems and environment. The Association spoke at three industry conferences and workshops, and hosted a booth at American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE). In the coming weeks, ABC will be continuing the journey at two Conferences that provide the opportunity to communicate with members on current initiatives.

WEFTEC

Join ABC for conversations and refreshments at the Loews New Orleans Hotel on Sunday, September 30, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We will also be present at the exhibitor fair in booth number 8547. Please look for an invite in your inbox in the coming week. If you are interested in attending ABC’s reception, please RSVP to skenne-dy@abccert.org.

ASDWA

ABC will be present for the exhibitor portion of the ASDWA Conference in booth number 3. Paul Bishop, ABC Chief Executive Officer, will be speaking on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at the 10:30 a.m. session on ABC’s Best Practices Development.

ACWUA 5th Best Practice Conference

ABC’s President, Chip Mackey joined ABC on the Road Serving Our Members (ABC on the Road Serving continued on page 6)
2013 ABC Annual Conference:

TOGETHER WE RIDE THE WAVES OF CHANGE

On behalf of ABC’s Annual Conference Committee, it is with great excitement and pleasure that we invite you to ABC’s 26th Annual Conference, to be held January 22-25, 2013 at San Diego Marriott Mission Valley. Join us in beautiful San Diego, California for an opportunity to continue sharing ideas, networking with peers, and learning about current issues and resources.

The Conference theme “Waves of Change - Oceans of Opportunities” is an appropriate description of the wave of evolution that is sweeping our industry and profession, challenging us all to grow while providing us with a unique opportunity to shape the future of certification and environmental stewardship. It is an exciting time for ABC and all of you as our association embraces these challenges as opportunities to serve you. We at ABC are making every effort to bring the most influential and knowledgeable people together in forums like the 26th Annual Conference to ensure you have the latest information and tools to protect the public health and environment we cherish.

We hope that you will join us as we come together to ride the influences of change surrounding all of us and discover the depth of opportunities that lie ahead. We look forward to welcoming you to California!

Sincerely,
Brent Herring, 2012 ABC President-Elect
Conference Committee Chair

Register Today!

You now have the ability to register for the Conference online. Access is at your fingertips through our easy to follow online registration system. For more information on ABC’s 26th Annual Conference and to register, visit us online at our event website.

REGULATORY/VOLUNTARY PROGRAM MEMBER:
$430*  $480

V&E COMMITTEE MEMBER:
$430*  $480

ASSOCIATE MEMBER:
$530*  $580

NON-MEMBER:
$660*  $710

ONE-DAY ATTENDANCE:
$95

ABC Member Programs registering second and subsequent attendees will be eligible for a 25% reduced rate per attendee

*ABC early bird discount offer valid only for ABC Annual Conference registrations received by December 14, 2012.
A decade of experience, and a fourth of the time ABC has existed, allows me to take a look back. ABC is celebrating its 40th Anniversary (1972-2012) and in October of this year I will hit my 10 year ABC anniversary.

It was 2002 when I first learned about this great member-driven Association. At first, ABC was just a contractor that the state utilized for our testing service and exam scoring. After attending several Annual Conferences, getting involved with committees, and later becoming a Board member, it is more than just a contractor. It is a membership-driven organization that pulls and allows networking and support for all aspects of certification and program development. This is done by the many volunteers and great staff that work to envision where the organization should head while evaluating strategic plans and upcoming initiatives.

The Strategic Planning Committee meets periodically, pulling together members of the Board and ABC staff leadership to review the plan and determine future direction for the organization. At the last meeting in 2011, the ABC mission was revised to “ABC is dedicated to advancing the quality and integrity of environmental certification programs.” This more accurately reflects the needs of our members and the reason ABC was established 40 years ago.

It was important to place a vision along with our mission. As ABC is recognized as the sole source for certification programs in the US we are increasingly identified by other countries. There is a strong support and membership based with our neighbors/neighbours in Canada, and we are pleased to have many Board members representing those programs. In addition, ABC is being recognized as a resource in areas outside our traditional water and wastewater programs.

Our new Vision Statement takes that future direction into account with “Promoting integrity in environmental certification throughout the world.” This vision rings true with some new expanding partnerships, including our work with Dr. Ken Kerri from California State University to assist the Jordanians in developing their certification programs, and last year working with Egypt who sent a delegation to the Annual Conference. In addition, strong partnership continues with the Water Environmental Federation (WEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and we are expanding partnerships with National Rural Water Association, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and the Association of Clean Water Administrators. This diversity of partnership and potential for new members keeps the ABC portfolio strong as we continue to expand our expertise and continually move ABC forward.

There remains the core focus of our organization as things evolve and strategic plans are revised—the focus to continue to support the members while being fiscally responsible when exploring new initiatives and member benefits. Some focus points to highlight are:

- Effort to become ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 accredited;
- Continue to maintain and administer exams that are valid, reliable and legally defensible;
- Maximize effectiveness of ABC’s governance structure by the Board changes and Bylaws revisions;
- Provide and expand member benefits with the launching of the Continuing Education member service and development of Model Standards;
- Foster networking through the Annual Conferences and webinars.

(A Look In The Rearview Mirror continued on page 6)
CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW PROGRAM UPDATE

As indicated in the Summer Certifier, the Continuing Education Review (CER) Program has officially launched and has since been processing course reviews. On July 18th, ABC had its largest-yet webinar with over 70 attendees. This webinar both celebrated the start of the CER Program and demonstrated the powerful capabilities of the program to both ABC member certifying authorities and to continuing education course developers. In addition, ABC took the opportunity to poll the wide-ranging audience about how they liked the webinar and how they would like to use the CER Program. If you have not yet had a chance to view the webinar, there is a link provided on ABC’s website under the recent news.

After reviewing the feedback collected from webinar attendees, the CER Committee identified common concerns, including the renewal period of the course reviews. In order to make the CER Program appropriate and useful for all CER stakeholders, the CER Committee has submitted to the ABC Board of Directors an amendment to the ABC Policies and Procedures. The proposed amendment will be considered at the September 29 Board of Directors meeting.

In support of the growing program, the CER Committee has authorized additional CER Course Reviewers. The following four individuals will be joining the CER Subject Matter Expert Consultant Review Team to review courses: Richard Sarver, Melissa Brothers, Charles Conway, and Bob Hoyt. All four reviewers have extensive industry experience, and will increase the CER Course Reviewer pool to well over 200 years of combined experience in the water and wastewater fields. Their biographies can be viewed on the CER website.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: ACWUA PROMOTES THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTIFICATION

One of ABC’s newest regulatory members, the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), believes the newfound membership will provide the opportunity to develop and strengthen its certification program. Founded in 2006, the program serves more than 15 Arab countries in the area of water and wastewater utilities. Members of ACWUA exchange knowledge and ideas related to the industry, as well as establish partnerships with governmental agencies and other professional organizations.

The program aims to “develop resources, facilitate training programs, and advocate for professional certification to enable member utility staff to perform their duties in a professional, reliable, and cost-effective manner,” according to one of its objectives. Eng. Khaldon Khashman, Secretary General of ACWUA trusts the new membership with ABC will help promote certification in the Arab region.

“ACWUA looks forward to implement[ing] certification and [a] testing program in cooperation with ABC through [the] exchange of best practices, experiences, and lessons learned,” says Eng. Khashman. The program, offering several levels of membership including individual, utility, private sector institution, and non-governmental organization (NGO) and academic institution membership, is looking to certifying approximately 8,000 operators in the water and wastewater industries.

In addition to implementing and expanding its certification program, ACWUA is also eager to utilize ABC publications and networking opportunities through various conferences. “ACWUA would like to cooperate with ABC at different levels to best benefit both members,” Eng. Khashman says about ACWUA’s future relationship with ABC.
ABC Staff Helps Battle World Hunger
Meals from the Heartland

Did you know that one in six people are malnourished worldwide? Or that one in four children younger than five are underweight in developing countries? ABC staff members were given the opportunity to fight these statistics and take part in a wonderful cause. Friday, August 31, staff traveled to Des Moines, Iowa to participate in Meals from the Heartland’s 2012 Annual Hunger Fight, a mass meal packaging event hosting volunteers from across the world. “In our jobs we are fortunate to play a role in protecting our public health systems. Today we were able to give to those less fortunate and in most need here and around the world,” Paul Bishop, ABC’s CEO, says about the Annual Hunger Fight.

The goal that day: package as many meals as possible and have fun doing it. As a team, the ABC Water Warriors was able to purchase 2,750 meals. This equals feeding a family of four three meals a day for approximately 230 days. In just two hours, ABC staff was able to package approximately 9,504 meals, equivalent to feeding a family of four for more than a year.

During this year’s Annual Hunger Fight in Iowa, volunteers spent four days packaging 5,122,008 meals breaking past records. More than 15,000 volunteers of all ages joined together to fight hunger. Humbling and eye opening can describe the experience staff members had that day. The feeling of love, compassion, and unity in the building was immense, as thousands of people came together for one cause. “It was an opportunity for us to come together as a team and return the blessings which all of us have been given. I am thankful for this team and their commitment to serving others today and every day,” Bishop says.

Meals from the Heartland

Meals from the Heartland is a non-profit organization with a mission of “empowering people to save the starving.” When the organization started in Des Moines, Iowa in 2008, 12,000 volunteers packaged more than 4 million meals throughout the week at the first Annual Hunger Fight. Today, thousands of volunteers participate in the Annual Hunger Fight and Mobile Hunger Fights each year. An average of 15,000 people receive nourishing meals from Meals from the Heartland every day.

Each meal package produced by Meals from the Heartland contains rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and vitamins. The meals, developed for high nutritional value and acceptability among a variety of cultures, are cooked in boiling water for 20 minutes.

Hunger Statistics

- 1 in 6 people are malnourished worldwide
- 1 billion people live in chronic hunger
- Almost 1 in 4 children younger than 5 are underweight
- 10 percent of children in developing countries are considered severely underweight
- Malnourishment is a factor in at least half of all child deaths per year
- The number 1 health risk is malnutrition and hunger
- Each day we gain 150,000 more people on earth

Source: Meals from the Heartland, http://mealsfromtheheartland.org/hunger/facts/
With the Commission given its name and initial policies, Commissioners were appointed to take the reins. A total of seven positions were created with representatives from ABC’s Certification Committee and Validation & Examination Committees filling the roles.

Laurie Sharp, Certification Committee Chair, was appointed the Commission Chair to lead the Commission. John Solvie, Past President of ABC and Certification Committee member, was appointed to be the Commission Vice Chair and assist Sharp in her duties. The Commissioner-at-Large position was created to represent Commission stakeholders. Mike Wentink, Certification Committee member, was appointed to the position. The remaining positions represent the “four core” V&E Committees, with representatives from each committee being appointed to these Commission positions. These individuals will also serve on associated “scheme” committees that will be responsible for overseeing requirements for certification for each discipline. LeAnna Risso from Wastewater Treatment V&E was appointed. Water Treatment V&E Chair Andrew Houlihan was appointed. Distribution V&E Chair Ray Olson was appointed. Finally, Collection V&E Chair Lonn Rasmussen was appointed. These seven individuals make history as the first Commissioners of C2EP.

Bishop to travel to Muscat, Oman in early June at the request of our members in the Middle East and in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Mackey and Bishop traveled to the Arab Country Water Utilities Association’s (ACWUA) Annual Conference to speak about the development and importance of certification in North America and the critical role water operators have in protecting our public health systems. In addition to speaking at the conference, the two ABC ambassadors presented ACWUA with their new regulatory membership documents and visited a newly created dam project in Oman. ACWUA represents more than 15 countries throughout the Middle East and is working with ABC to bring them better training modules and certification practices for their operators.

ICE 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Bishop will be partnering with Christine Nier- ro, PhD. to present at the Institute for Credentialing (ICE) in Palm Springs, California on November 9 at 12:30 p.m.

AWWA ACE
ABC was present this year at AWWA ACE in Dallas, Texas with a booth on display. Bishop also had the opportunity to address attendees on the importance of Water Operators on the Frontline of Our Public Health Systems.

Top Ops
ABC supported AWWA’s Top Ops competition with new item validation and development of the competition rounds, game show program, and judges’ materials for the 2012 competition. This year’s competition took place June 11-12 at ACE.

EPA Eastern Regional Op Cert Workshop
In June, ABC participated in EPA’s Eastern Regional Op Cert Workshop where Megan Baker, Director of Operations, presented the newest ABC initiatives. Attendees had an opportunity to continue the conversation at an ABC hosted reception.

(A Look In The Rearview Mirror continued from page 3)

The decade-long adventure of being involved with ABC and seeking the full benefit from this organization, all while serving the last four years as a Board member, has flown by and has been both personally and professionally rewarding.

(ABC on the Road Serving continued from page 1)
ABC VIP Reception

Join us for an Appreciation Reception honoring your dedication to the safety of our public health systems and environment.

When: Sunday, September 30, 2012

Where: Loews New Orleans Hotel
300 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
(504) 595-3300

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

RSVP: Sheena Kennedy at skennedy@abccert.org

*Come see us in New Orleans at Booth 8547 during WEFTEC!!