

# Tennessee Backflow News

Summer 2020



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 8, 2020

Teleconference

Directions:  
615-848-3222

## Upcoming Events

TBPA  
Conference  
Gatlinburg, TN  
Oct. 22-23, 2020

**Schedule Change:**  
**National Conference**  
Charlotte, NC  
April 2021

More information on  
website

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## TBPA Mission Statement

The mission of the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association is to protect drinking water quality in the State of Tennessee by providing for education, statewide training, standardized certification, technical assistance and resources to our membership and the general public.

## President's Message

Hello Members of the TBPA,

I hope that all of you are staying safe and are well during these unprecedented times. I know from my experiences this Spring the COVID-19 pandemic has complicated backflow testing because of closed locations and restricted access. We are still working continuously to gain entry to our normal locations in order to test these devices and maintain proper backflow functionality, as it is an issue of public health. The TBPA wants to remind everyone to stay safe and work cautiously as we continue to work during this time of health crisis and uncertainty.

I also want to let our members know that the TBPA 2020 Conference that was scheduled to take place in Gatlinburg this Fall has been postponed due to safety concerns and travel restrictions for some of our members. As of now, we are planning on having our conference in 2021. This is subject to change with the spread of COVID-19.

I want to thank each one of you for being a member of the TBPA and your help in the pursuit of keeping our water clean and safe from any and all possible contaminations.

Bill Jennings  
TBPA President



# TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Bradley Tomlin Past President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7531 btomlin@jaxenergy.com	731-422-7221
Bill Jennings President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Jared Gowan Vice President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7347 jgowan@jaxenergy.com	
Kitty Vaughn Secretary	TN American Water Chattanooga, TN	423-771-4705 kitty.banks@amwater.com	423-266-2663
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Michael Robeson Director-At-Large / Membership	Morristown Utility Morristown, TN	423-317-6316 mrobeson@musfiber.net	
David Wright Director, West	MLGW Memphis, TN	901-528-4449 dwright@mlgw.org	901-334-5434
David Risner Director, Middle	Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Murfreesboro, TN	615-848-3222 drisner@murfreesborotn.gov	615-848-3244
Kent Bowman Director, East	Bowman Backflow	865-258-2800 kentbowman@comcast.net	
Brent Ogles Director-At-Large	TAUD	615-900-1011 brentogles@taud.org	615-898-8283
Kathy Riley ABPA Region 3 Director	Charlotte, NC	704-293-6859 kriley@ci.charlotte.nc.us	
Frank Snyder ABPA President	Snyder Testing Pleasanton, TX	830-399-3431 snyder75@karnesec.net	

The Tennessee Backflow News is published quarterly by the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association, whose members have a common interest in protecting the drinking water from contamination through cross connections. Your ideas, experience and expertise are invited and needed by the TBPA to insure a balanced approach to backflow prevention in the State of Tennessee. Your participation and support will continue to help shape the future of this industry in Tennessee.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements in this publication are not necessarily those endorsed or supported by the TBPA. The content of this newsletter is not to be considered as legal or professional advice.

Dues are \$85 annually. (Dues include \$65 for National and \$20 for Tennessee) National membership is required for Tennessee membership.

Mail membership dues to:  
American Backflow Prevention Association  
6672 S 1570 W  
West Jordan, UT 84084

For newsletter advertisements contact:  
Kimberly Pritchett  
109 Wiehl Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37403

## TBPA / ABPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association  
American Backflow Prevention Association



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ANNUAL DUES TOTAL \$85.00

Remit Total to:  
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6672 S 1570 W  
West Jordan, UT 84084

*Includes ABPA quarterly e-newsletters and quarterly TBPA Newsletters. Pre-payment of dues is required to process application. Membership is non-transferable. ABPA membership required for TBPA membership.*

CHECK ONE: RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_

# Tennessee Training Calendar

**The Fleming Training Center:** FTC offers Basic and Renewal and Cross Connection Classes to water systems and personnel throughout Tennessee. FTC is located at 2022 Blanton Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, phone: (615) 898-8090, fax: (615) 898- 8064. Hours of operation: Weekdays 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Central Time. For more information and a registration form visit: [www.state.tn.us/environment/fleming/](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/fleming/). Written registration and 30 days notice is required for the following classes:

**The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD):** Offering classes for utilities, municipalities and other industry related businesses and contractors. Classes include Cross Connection Renewal and Basic, Confined Space Entry, CPR/ First Aid, Flagger Safety, Trench Excavation and many others. Customized classes are also available. For more information please visit the Training Page at [www.taud.org](http://www.taud.org) or contact Tonia Pass at (615) 900-1000 or [ToniaPass@taud.org](mailto:ToniaPass@taud.org).

## 2103 Cross Connection Control Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days • Class Fee: \$275  
*(full time employees of public water systems are exempt)*  
 Testing Fee: \$60 (no exemptions)

Murfreesboro	Alcoa
Jul. 8-10	Oct. 14-16
Aug. 12-14	Nov. 18-20
Sep. 23-25	Dec. 2-4
Dec. 16-18	

## 3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal

Duration: 1 day • Class Fee: \$110 *(full time employees of public water systems are exempt)*  
 Testing Fee: \$60 (no exemptions)

Murfreesboro	Alcoa
Jul. 7	Oct. 13
Aug. 11	Nov. 17
Sep. 22	Dec. 1
Dec. 15	

### **Fleming Training Center Notice**

All registrations forms for classes and seminars must be accompanied by the required fee payment.

## Basic Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro	Memphis	Kingsport
Sep. 9	Oct. 7	Oct. 21
Nov. 18		
Jackson		Knoxville
Sep. 16		Aug. 26

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro	Kingsport	Memphis
Sep. 8	Oct. 20	Oct. 6
Nov. 17	Jackson	
	Sep. 15	Chattanooga
	Knoxville	Jul. 7
	Aug. 25	

**TAUD Backflow Troubleshooting & Advanced Testing**  
 Dates TBD

**Memphis Light Gas & Water**  
 For information and to register for classes contact David Wright at 901-528-4449 or [dwright@mlgw.org](mailto:dwright@mlgw.org)

## Training Information

- **Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 572, Nashville, Tennessee:** Backflow Classes for Apprentices and Journeyman: (615) 227-5542  
225 Ben Allen Rd., Nashville, TN 37207
- **Plumbers & Steamfitters, Local #43 JACT:** Contact Woody Evans, 3013 Riverside Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37406, (423) 365-9972
- **Knoxville Plumbers & Steamfitters, LU #102 JATC:** Knoxville, TN Contact Wayne Summers, 1218 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917 - (865) 525-6305 or lu102jatc@bellsouth.net
- **Plumbers Local Union #17:** For information on classes contact Howard Burgess at (901) 368-9099 or howard@ua17.org - 4229 Prescott Road, Memphis, TN 38118
- **Backflow Control:** Backflow Training and Certification Classes for Mississippi, Alabama & Tennessee. Contact Roger Crane at (662) 333-9007 -262 Boatner Road, Potts Camp, MS 38659

To list or update your training classes contact Kitty Vaughn at [kitty.banks@amwater.com](mailto:kitty.banks@amwater.com).



Lloyd Rainey  
lloyd@midamericamktg.com

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# TBPA Board Meeting Update - April 8, 2020

- **Treasurer's report:**  
Account Balance \$8,043.92
- **National Conference:**  
Conference rescheduled to be held in Charlotte, NC in April 2021.

## Old Business:

2020 Conference will be held at the Marriot in Gatlinburg Oct. 21-23.

Regional conferences with neighboring states were discussed with the suggestion to split the cost.

- **Newsletter:**  
All newsletters will now be posted to our website. If you would prefer a physical copy, please contact a board member. Please direct any questions regarding changes or adjustments to editor, Abbie Woodson, at [abbie.woodson@amwater.com](mailto:abbie.woodson@amwater.com).
- **Next Board meeting:**  
Teleconference - July 8, 2020

- **Web site:** Ryan and Michael are continuing to make updates to the TBPA web site. Thank you Ryan and Michael for all of your hard work.
- **Facebook:** Make sure to stay up to date with our Facebook page! Thank you to Bill Jennings for acting as our social media ambassador.  
<https://www.facebook.com/tnbackflow/>

## New Business:

TAUD is hosting renew classes online and making appointments for the hands-on tests one-on-one. They have canceled all basic classes.

State of Tennessee at Fleming is hosting all classes in Murfreesboro, in order to discourage travel. The State has extended expired certifications in lieu of having renewal classes for the time being.

Utilities are to document sites that are shut down and follow up every 30 days. This documentation process will continue until the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided. Outside contractors are doing most of the work and documenting if closed and testing is not possible.

TAUD expo has been postponed until September.

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# East Tennessee News

I hope everyone has had a great spring and is staying safe from COVID-19! As the TBPA has decided to postpone the annual conference until 2021, I also have decided not to host a TBPA repair class this fall. I know it is great to see everyone at both events and learn new things each year, but in order to prioritize everyone's health and safety we decided it was for the best.

Here in East Tennessee, we have had a wet spring. Because of this, I have found that more irrigation systems than normal have yet to be turned on. I am sure this is soon to change with the coming of hot and dry weather. Since we had a mild winter, ticks are running rampant this season! I have found multiple on my skin and clothes just this month. I guess you could call me a "tick magnet!" Be sure to check yourselves when you're out in the field and take proper precautions to guard against tick bites.

In my article in the last newsletter, I talked about using the original parts for each manufacturer. This quarter, I'd like to focus on some other things that need to be replaced with original parts. I have often heard questions like, "Does a #1 check spring in the #2 check valve make a RP or DC pass?" The USC Foundation does not automatically fail a backflow assembly for a high reading because they only require a minimum reading of 1.0 or higher. They also say if an incorrect part is used then the backflow assembly may no longer be USC approved. For example, this applies if you use an off-brand ball valve from your local plumbing store or a manufacturer ball valve on another manufacturer's backflow assembly and not an original part. The same is true for DCDA if the bypass backflow assembly is not approved for the bigger assembly. It is just as easy to replace whatever the part might be with the matching manufacturer part than some off-the-wall part. Keep in mind that it is always possible to trace a backflow assembly if something were to malfunction due to incorrect installation of parts. When I was working for the utility in Knoxville, some kids who played at the county splash pad got sick. They went to the hospital and each one tested positive for E. coli. When the health department traced it back to the splash pad, thankfully a backflow assembly was installed on the isolation line for the splash pad that had been tested each year. Put the correct parts in, retest, and pass it and you won't have to worry.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer with family and friends! I encourage each of you to continue to wash your hands, wear your masks, and take precautions because we all come into contact- whether directly or indirectly- with people with compromised immune systems, elderly, and children. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

-Kent Bowman  
East TN Director, TBPA

# THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

We would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Vendors that participated in our Annual Conference. The success of our conference depends on you and we want you to know how much you are appreciated.

Backflow Direct    BAVCO    TAUD    Backflow Control

Backflow Specialty Company

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Thanks again and we hope to see you at our next conference!

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*Roger Crane*  
Instrument Technician

## Middle Tennessee News

I would like to begin by extending my sincere hope that everyone is doing well during this trying time. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our upcoming annual conference this year due to travel restrictions and the ever-present threat of COVID-19. We will do our best to come back strong with a great conference in 2021!

I hope everyone has been able to continue work through this with minimal impact. Please stay safe and use that PPE!

-David P. Risner  
Middle TN Director, TBPA

## BOWMAN BACKFLOW

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## BACKFLOW LINKS

For more backflow information check out the American Backflow web site: [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org)

Check Out Our Website!

[www.tnbackflow.com](http://www.tnbackflow.com)

Your Association working for safe drinking water in Tennessee

**Visit Our Facebook Page!**

<https://www.facebook.com/tnbackflow/>

### **ABPA Harrington / Arthur Memorial Scholarship**

**2020 - 2021 Essay Contest Topic: TBA**

The Scholarship is available to any high school student over 13 and under 20 years of age as of December 31st and legal residents of the United States or Canada. The essayist is NOT required to be college bound! It can be used for any type of advanced education.

Essays must be submitted based on the required topic with an official application form and be 700-1200 words. The winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Winners of under this competition are not eligible to win more than once. Visit the website for Complete Rules and Content information - [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org).



**TBPA**

Tennessee Backflow Prevention  
Association  
Abbie Woodson  
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109 Wiehl Street  
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