

Tennessee Backflow News

Fall 2024



NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 8, 2025

Last meetings minutes attached below - October Meeting

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Board Meetings:
January 8th
April 9th
July 9th
September 24th (conference)

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Letter from the President

A Note from the President

A Big Happy Fall Y'all to our members and welcome to our new members. We are getting close to winter weather moving in and staying for a while as Summer has come to an end and Fall always seems short too. In addition, that means that the irrigation systems will soon be shutting down and hopefully no one forgets to do so. I would suggest to all of you to direct your customers to install unions on the water lines where the backflows connect so that they can be removed and stored inside their garage/basements for winter storage. If they do this repeatedly, maybe this will remind them to winterize every Fall to avoid these costly repairs in the future.

I would like to thank all of you who attended our conference in Chattanooga in mid-October and hope everyone had a great and informative event. We asked for suggestions on next year's conference too and it seems that the consensus was either Gatlinburg or Knoxville. And we for sure want to make this conference that everyone wants to attend again. The board hopes to have the location announced in early December, so make sure you plan to be there.

Another great conference (besides ours..) is taking place in St. Augustine, FL on Feb 2-4. It is the TREEO Cross Connection Control Conference. I was able to attend one of their conferences in 2023 and it was a very well organized and informative event. I hope to go again in 2025 and would love to see other TBPA members there too.

<https://treeo.ufl.edu/backflow/cc-conference/>

I would like to thank all of our TBPA members in the pursuit to keep all of our drinking water free of contamination from cross connections.

And a HUGE Thank you goes out to Kent Bowman for his years of service to the TBPA. Kent is retiring from the board and the end of 2024. We will miss him and wish him the best for the future.

I would like to wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and all of your families too

Thank you,
Bill Jennings

TBPA President

TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Bill Jennings President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
David Risner Vice President	Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Murfreesboro, TN	615-848-3222 drisner@murfreesborotn.gov	615-848-3244
Jared Gowan Director, West TN	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7347 jgowan@jaxenergy.com	
Catie Williams Secretary	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7371 Cwilliams@jaxenergy.com	
Sherry Hayes Treasurer	Clarksville Gas & Water	931-553-2497 sherry.hayes@cityofclarksville.com	
Michael Robeson Director-At-Large / Membership	Morristown Utility Morristown, TN	423-317-6316 mrobeson@musfiber.net	
Josh Rau Director, Middle TN	Clarkville Gas & Water	931-553-2489 josh.rau@cityofclarksville.com	
Kent Bowman Director, East TN	Bowman Backflow	865-258-2800 kentbowman@comcast.net	
Brent Ogles Director-At-Large	TAUD	615-900-1011 brentogles@taud.org	615-898-8283
Troy Baird ABPA President	Bac-Flo Unlimited	210-698-0411 troy@speackbackflow.com	
Kathy Riley ABPA Vice President	Charlotte Water	980-226-4304 kathy.riley@charloettenc.gov	
Blake Anderson International Past President	West Bountiful City	801-381-1869 banderson@wbcity.org	
Joshua Legg ABPA Region 3 Director	City of Concord	704-920-5352 leggj@concordnc.gov	

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:
Catie Williams - Jackson Energy Authority
731-422-7405

TBPA / ABPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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.

Tennessee Training Calendar

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 or contact TAUD (615)898-8283.

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/. Written registration and 30 days notice is required for the following classes:

Cross Connection Basic (Classroom)

Class Fee: \$370 member \$390 non-member - class time: 8:30am-4pm

Murfreesboro - January 8th
Jackson - February 26th
Chattanooga - February 12th
Clarksville March 19th
Knoxville - April 9th
Murfreesboro - April 2nd

Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335

December 17th-19th
January 8th-10th
January 22nd-24th
February 12th-14th
March 5th-7th
March 26th-28th
April 9th-11th

Cross Connection Renewal

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$225 member \$260 non-member - class time: 8:30am-4pm

Murfreesboro - January 7th
Chattanooga - February 11th
Jackson - February 25th
Clarksville - March 18th
Murfreesboro - April 1st
Knoxville - April 8th

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$170

December 20th
January 14th
January 15th
February 4th
February 5th
March 11th
March 12th
April 15th

Fleming Training Center Notice

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

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 Lonnie Coomes at (901) 368-0900 or lonniec@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



Lloyd Rainey
lloyd@midamericamktg.com

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backflowpreventerdrewcook@gmail.com

Offering basic certification classes as well as renewal classes for Backflow certification

Monday through Friday. 5:30-9:30 PM

East Tennessee News

Hello everyone, I hate that I did not attend this year conference, but October is by far the busiest month of the year for me but was told it was another good conference with good attendance and good speakers.

I hope everybody has had a great fall and getting ready for another winter season.

Speaking of winter, it has been a warm fall here in East Tn. I was still winterizing irrigation systems this year into the 3rd week of November. As everyone remembers this past winter was very cold and I have seen a few more than normal freezing of the backflow assemblies that I have tested and seen a lot of the shutoff valves and test cocks that have cracked. I have had my knees and shins wet more than normal when I have shut the #2 shutoff valves to do the test. I have to tell some homeowners that water was trapped in the ball valves over the winter, and some has told me they were on unions and were took off and stored in the garage over the winter. I know they are different ways people winterize their systems, some just have drain valve in different areas in the yard and some blow air through the system and if possible blowing the air after the backflow assembly or if blowing air through the assembly have very low air pressure going into the assembly to keep the plastic parts or springs from breaking and I have seen a lot of both of those in my years of testing but I think one of the biggest problems is some leave the shutoff valves either all the way on or all the way off and same with test cocks and that traps enough water between the valves to possibly to expand and the crack the side of the valves or test cocks so I always turn all of them at a 45 degree angle so it does not trap the water. This will be my last newsletter since I am stepping down as the East Tn. Director of 21 years. I remember Larry Stinett was working on a backflow at our water plant and asked me if I would run for that position and I never thought I would still be doing it but I would not trade any of that time for anything. I remember my first conference was at the Downtown Hilton in Nashville and I thought what have I got myself into and I will never forget this but I was standing in line to get my room and Dave Birkholtz in line in front of me maybe 10 people between us and he kept turning around and looking at me and finally he walked back to me and talked to me a minute and he looked down and I had two Stratos boat duffel bags and he said look at you standing in the Nashville Hilton with those two duffel bags and walked back up front in line and man I felt out of place then for sure and when he got his key for the room and he walked past me he had two Loudon Redskin duffel bags and he just smiled and I could have killed him.

I have made many friends with the members, sales reps and vendors from and learned a lot from many different people with the TBPA. I have enjoyed my time serving as the East Tn. Director and Thank you for your trust over the years in me.

I hope some of my newsletters over the years has help you at one point and time and I will still be around if I can help anyone with anything. As I write this, I thought I have been on the TBPA board for a 3rd of my life so now I know I am old, and I need to go take a nap now.

I hope everyone Has a Great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and enjoy the holidays with your family!

God Bless you all

East Tn. Director TBPA

Kent Bowman

West Tennessee News

Ok folks, the chill of Fall air is finally upon us. I know that some don't need a reminder but the time to winterize those irrigation systems is also here as well. The past couple of years here in West Tennessee we have experienced some early cold temps that have caught some homeowners and irrigation contractors off guard. The lack of improper winterization of an irrigation system can be very costly. There are many sources available for tips on proper winterization but I'm sure the details of how extensive the process needs to be will vary from region to region. One thing that I always try to convey to a customer that has experienced freeze damage to their backflow preventer is to take every precaution necessary. Too often a system is found that has been "winterized" but the backflow device device is left in-line and exposed to the elements of Mother Nature. This is a gamble.

Sure, piping and the device have been blown out and the water supply has been shut off but there is potential for water to be trapped inside the assembly. An extra measure of protecting that Expensive assembly is to remove it and place it in a warm dry place. Many backflow assemblies are being installed with unions. allowing ease of removal for just this purpose, and still some owners fail or opt not to do so resulting in costly repairs and even entire replacement.

As we too often hear in the industry, "Education is the key." So, from my experiences I offer you my 2-cents. Please let your board members know if there is an area of interest with which you need assistance or would like more information so that we may better serve you.

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Jared Gowan West Section Director

TBPA Board Meeting Update - October 16th 2024

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance **\$11,728.04** including savings **(\$5.00)**
- **Roll:** David Risner, Sherry Hayes, Jared Gowan, Brent Ogles, Bill Jennings, Michael Robeson, Wayne Osbourne, Greg Baker, Adrian Pratt, and Jacob w/ American Backflow

Old Business:

Wilkins rubbers blistering/discoloring

waiting to confirm if we can tour aquarium if not possibly a "round table/meet and greet with board members"

Meet and greet with vendors the night before conference

Get agenda for conference out by end of July if possible

New Business:

Possibility of coming up with new category for TPBA yearly awards

Kent Bowman would be presented with "Robert Lashlee Lifetime Achievement Award" Kent will be given a lifetime membership to the TBPA, along with a nice plaque.

Issues with some of the backflow assembly parts

Next years conference location discussed (Gatlinburg or Knoxville) Last week in September or first week of October

Zoom meeting will be held in November to discuss 2025 conference

IPad and (4) \$25 gift cards purchased in recognition of 25th TBPA conference

Nominations discussed for the upcoming openings for East and Middle Tennessee directors for TBPA board

- **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/>
- **Newsletter:**
All newsletters are being 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, Catie Williams, cwilliams@jaxenergy.com
- **Next Board meeting:**
January 8th, 2025 at Brentwood Water office

THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

We would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Vendors that continue to support our association. The success of our association depends on you and we want you to know how much you are appreciated.

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so much!*

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TBPA