

Tennessee Backflow News

Fall 2025



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Last meetings
minutes
attached below -
see page 8

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Board Meetings:

*January 7th, April 8th, &
July 8th*

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Letter from the President

Hello Members of the TBPA,

I want to first off thank Brent Ogles for all his years of work in the cross connection sector. He has been a great teacher, mentor and to some of us lucky to know him well enough to call him a friend. The TBPA recently presented him with the Robert Lashlee Lifetime Achievement Award. It was well deserved for all his years of dedication to the backflow testers of Tennessee. We all wish you a happy retirement, it is well deserved.

And now it seems the Summer is coming to an end and the cold weather is sure to follow soon. So, a reminder for everyone to make sure this fall that all your backflows are ready for the freezing temps. And the irrigation systems are drained and winterized in the coming month or so. You don't want to find out the hard way that you forgot to check on them before the wintertime comes in.

I also wanted to touch base a bit about **2026 TBPA Annual Conference**. The board has signed up again to host the event at the Embassy Suites – Gatlinburg. The 2026 conference will be on **Oct. 21-23, 2026**. Please make plans to join us for another great time for learning and networking with others in the cross connection world. We will be releasing the link to reserve your rooms in the near future. And if you have any suggestions for speakers, please let us know.

We also have two spots up for election this fall. The Vice President will be open for nominations as David Risner will move up to President in January. And the West TN Director is also up for re-election too. If you are interested in either position, please contact a board member to nominate someone or yourself.

Be sure to check out our website www.tnbackflow.com and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/tnbackflow for news and information from the TBPA.

REMEMBER: This is your association and the success of it depends on you and your involvement.

Sincerely,
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	
David Brown Director, Middle TN	Murfreesboro Water and Sewer	davidbrown@murfreesborotn.gov	
Brianna Baxter Director, East TN	Loudon Utilities Loudon, TN	865-458-7527 brianna.baxter@loudonutilities.orh	
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@charlottenc.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

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association

American Backflow Prevention Association



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CHECK ONE: RENEWAL _____ MEMBER # _____ NEW _____

ABPA DUES: \$65.00

TBPA DUES: \$20.00

ANNUAL DUES TOTAL \$85.00

Remit Total to:

ABPA

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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.

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)

Duration: 3 day - Class Fee: \$370 member
\$390 non-member - class time:
8:30am-4pm

DATES

Murfreesboro - November
11th-13th

Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335

DATES

November 5th-7th
November 19th-21st
December 3rd-5th
December 17th-19th

Cross Connection Renewal

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

DATES

Murfreesboro - November
18th

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$170

DATES

November 10th
November 13th
December 9th
December 10th

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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901-795-0045 office

2831 Barris Drive
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backflowpreventerdrewcook@gmail.com

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Middle Tennessee News

Hello TBPA members,

I am very excited to be your Middle Tennessee Director. I hope everyone had a great summer. Sorry I wasn't able to attend this year's conference in Gatlinburg, I was told it was a great turn out, lots of information was shared, and the accommodations were amazing. I look forward to seeing everyone next October in Gatlinburg for the next conference. As the cold starts to roll in, I encourage everyone to stay safe and warm, and remember to spread the word to get your irrigation systems blown out, and try to store the back flows in a warm place. Additionally, try to remind customers with fire systems in riser rooms to cut the heat on. I hope everyone has a good rest of the year!

David Brown, Middle Tennessee Director.

East Tennessee News

Hi TBPA members!

It was great to see everyone that could make it to the annual TBPA conference last month. I learned a lot, and it was great connecting with all of you. I am already looking forward to implementing some changes to our Cross-connection control program and attending the conference again next year.

Wishing everyone a wonderful upcoming fall and holiday season! Feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Thanks,
Brianna Baxter
TBPA East TN Director

TBPA Board Meeting Update - September 2025

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance
\$ N.A including savings
(\$5.00)
- **Roll:** Bill J., Adrian P., Jared G., Catie W.,
Sherry H., Brianna B., & David R.

Old Business:

Operator expo went well - had a good turn out

Conference speakers decided mostly other than a few TBD (Ben R., Bill J., and David will be checking with a few people - Round table option also discussed if needed)

Brent O. got us set up for behind the scenes of the aquarium (Thursday afternoon)

Giveaway options (Adrian P. will be donating some giveaway items)

Vendors will not be in drawing for door prizes

Bill going to work on registration forms with Paypal notes/reminders

Reminder for all members to be current on memberships before registering.

New Business:

2026 quarterly meeting dates: January 7th, April 8th, and July 8th

2026 Conference dates will be October 21st-23rd - Embassy Suites in Gatlinburg, TN.

Elections due. Vice President is up for vote, as David Risner is moving up to President in January. Also, West TN Director is up for election.

- **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 7th

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.

BAVCO

TAUD

Backflow Specialty Co., Inc.

Mid America Marketing (Watts / Ames / Febco)

Fox Sales, Inc.

Safe-T-Cover

Backflow Control

Astra Backflow Inc.

Labtronx

Backflow Preventer Drew Cook

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BACKFLOW LINKS

For more backflow information check out the American Backflow web site: www.abpa.org

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Your Association working for safe drinking water in Tennessee

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TBPA

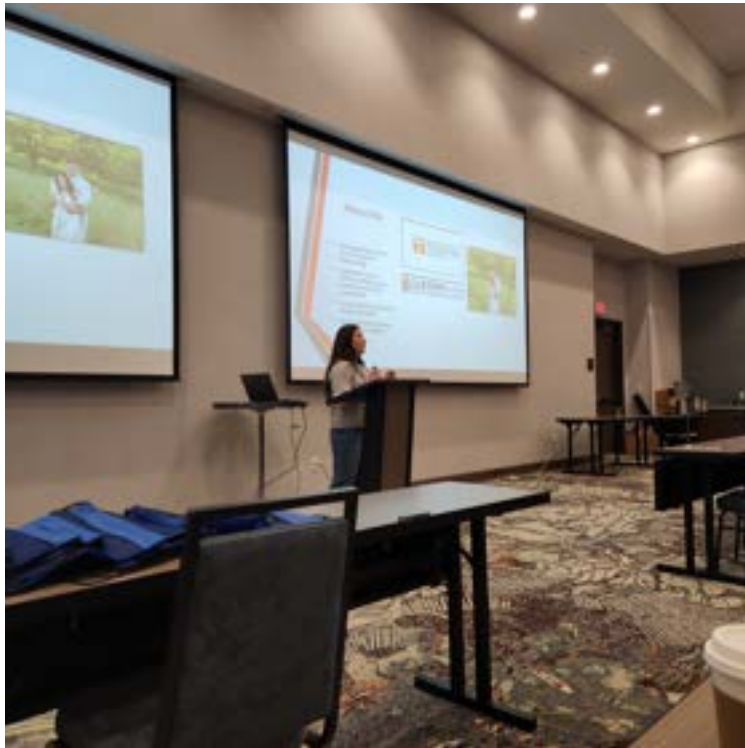
*Thank you Brent Ogles for all your
years of work!*



TBPA presenting Mr. Brent Ogles with the
Robert Lashlee Lifetime Achievement
Award



2025 TBPA Conference Speakers - Gatlinburg, TN



Brianna Baxter with Loudon Utilities speaking on companies cross connection program



Dean Anderson with TN 811



Gary McLaren with Hydrocorp speaking on cross connection inspections



Stephen Bitely ABPA Region 4 Director speaking on residential fire systems

2025 TBPA Conference Speakers - Gatlinburg, TN



**Kathy Riley - ABPA Vice
President with Charlotte Water**

Speakers that are not pictured:

Erich Webber with TDEC - spoke on new info/updates

Peter Bertagna with Watts spoke on Armortek valves, new epoxy body backflows, and 909 vertical installs.

Behind the scenes Ripley's Aquarium Tour!

