

# Tennessee Backflow News

SPRING 2023



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 19th,  
2023

Last meetings  
minutes  
attached below  
- Aprils  
meeting.

## Upcoming Events

Board  
Meeting: July  
19th, 2023 -  
10am in  
Murfreesboro

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## TBPA Mission Statement

Hello members of the TBPA,  
I hope that everyone is doing well and looking forward to getting the summer started. We are still seeing an explosion of the commercial developments in our area which means new customers and new backflows too be tested. This can be a struggle with everyone being short staffed.  
I would like to invite our members to attend our conference this year. It will be in Gatlinburg at the Marriott downtown September 14th and 15th. We are looking into having a renewal class and/or a repair at the conference this year.  
I look forward to meeting more of you over the next couple years and I encourage each of you to encourage people to become members for the future of our association.

Jared Gowan, TBPA President

# TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Jared Gowan President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7347 jgowan@jaxenergy.com	
Bill Jennings Past President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Bill Jennings Vice President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
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 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	
Blake Anderson International President	West Bountiful City	801-381-1869 banderson@wbcity.org	
Frank Snyder International Past President	Snyder Testing	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:  
Sherry Hayes #931-553-2497 or  
sherry.hayes@cityofclarksville.com

## 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**

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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 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:

## 2103 Cross Connection Control Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days • Class Fee: \$335

May 23rd-25th  
June 20th-22nd  
July 18th-20th  
August 8th-10th  
September 5th-7th

## 3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal

May 26th  
June 23rd  
July 21st  
August 11th

## Fleming Backflow Repair

Workshop #3300 \$125 September 8th

**Fleming Training Center**

### **Notice**

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

**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 TAUD (615)898-8283.

## Basic Cross Connection Class

Duration: 3 days Class Fee:  
\$350 member \$370 non-member

Chattanooga - July 12, 13, and 14th - 8:30am - 4:00pm

Murfreesboro - September 6, 7, and 8th - 8:30am - 4:00

Knoxville - August 23, 24, and 25th - 8:30am - 4:00pm

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee:  
\$215 member \$245 non-member

Chattanooga - July 11th - 8:30am - 4:00pm

Murfreesboro - September 5th - 8:30am - 4:00pm

Knoxville - August 22nd 8:30am - 4:00pm

## **Memphis Light Gas & Water**

For information and to register for classes contact David Wright 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

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Fax: (704) 684-0028  
Email: [ncinfo@bavco.com](mailto:ncinfo@bavco.com)

## Celebrate National Backflow Prevention Day | August 16

National Backflow Prevention Day is dedicated to calling attention to our critical need for backflow prevention and cross-connection control.

The American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) encourages everyone to take time out that day, to thank all professionals involved in protecting our nation's drinking water for their role in keeping us healthy and safe.

These professionals include: backflow prevention assembly testers, cross-connection control specialists, public water supply operators, plumbers, inspectors, lawn and fire sprinkler installers, engineers, building maintenance staff, regulators, administrators and others in our industry.



# TBPA Board Meeting Update - April 19, 2023

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance as of March 31, 2022  
\$11,451.58 including savings (\$5.00)
- **Roll:** Sherry Hayes, Josh Rau, Bill Jennings, David Risner, Brent Ogles, Catie Williams, Jared Gowan, Cavin Gudet, Ben Rodriguez, Michael Robeson, Kent Bowman, and David Wright (on phone)

## Old Business:

Replacement for Ms. Kim

Future elections being held electronically (would mean changing TPBA by laws)

Spoke about not holding election if only one person is running per position.

Repair class will be held by David Wright - at MLGW - March 17, 2023

Changing up things with next years conference. Adding of renewal class and repair class

Having an on site company that can certify test kits during the conference.

Possibly going back to Gatlinburg

## New Business:

Conference - Day 1 just a talking day that could count as continued education

Day 2 maybe a renewal and/or repair/rebuild class would only be able to do about 30 people @ time for renewal

New paypal account okay-ed per the board

David R. and Bill Jennings will attend the operator expo for May 18th

Conference will be held again in Gatlinburg this year - dates September 14th-15th

Bill is checking with Marriott about conference

Panel discussion if we do not end up with enough speakers

David Wrights repair class went well - 50ish people

New treasurer is now officially Ms. Sherry Hayes she is with Clarksville Gas and Water

- **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](mailto:cwilliams@jaxenergy.com)
- **Next Board meeting:**  
July 19, 2023

# East Tennessee News

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone had a great spring and it is hard to believe that summer is almost here. For me it seems days, weeks and months just go so fast anymore.

Dave Birkholtz sent me a email that Rich Koenig had passed away on May 16th.

Rich was active in the APBA for many years, and he was the region 12 director for ABPA . Keep Rich family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

A few months ago, I had to go retest a Wilkins 975XL2 3/4" backflow assembly that had failed. The maintenance guy did the repair and when I retested it the relief valve opened at 2.5 and the #1 check valve held at 7.1 and yes it did meet the 3-pound buffer and I just made a comment about with the new check rubber I would have thought it would have been higher and he said he had put the disc holder and spring in also from the kit. We talked about it and ended up taking the first check out and I looked and nothing on the rubber, but I did notice the stem on the disc holder was kind of rough like sandpaper or something had been used on it and he said he just got it out of the bag and put it in. I put it back together and it tested the same and we talked about why it was so low and he went got the kit his boss ordered and it was in a different package that what they come in and the instructions were different but it did say Wilkins on the instructions so I ask where they bought it and they said amazon so I looked it up and you can get everything seats springs disc holder relief valve module and rubbers for \$50.50. So, I knew something was right then. It did not have a Wilkins bar code on it so all I did was take the check rubber off and replaced it with a Wilkins check rubber and the reading was higher so then we replaced the spring and disc holder and the #1 check went to 9.3. As I have wrote in newsletters before about using the original parts from the manufacture that you are working on, they thought that they had bought original parts and honestly if I would have just said it meets the 3-pound buffer and went on, I would have never known about this NOT Wilkins kit.

With me telling this about the kit we all need to remember we are doing a job to protect our drinking water, and someone is paying us for a service, and it should be done the best of our ability and not thinking it passed or my goodness it is quitting time or trying to see how many we can test a day. That slowed me down an hour but that was ok because I learned something, and I caught something that could have gone bad and worst-case scenario got back in the drinking water and people have got sick or worse.

I hope everyone has the best and safe summer.

Kent Bowman

East Tn. Director TBPA

## Backflow Assembly Selection and Installation

Selecting the right backflow assembly for many people can be a daunting and costly task. Ensuring your installation is correct with the appropriate model and size assembly for the application and its use(s) is very important. There is nothing more aggravating than having to budget for unjust service calls and or repairs, due to an undersized or oversized assembly.

Always consult an expert when choosing a model & size especially if you are unfamiliar with what may be needed. Taking the cheapest route will usually cost you in the long run. Making the correct device choice on the front end along with the appropriate installation based on individual needs can save money long term over the life of your assembly.

Contact your area backflow sales representative for specs and flows for specific size and model assemblies to best suit your application.

David P Risner  
Middle Section Director



## BACKFLOW LINKS

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

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