

Tennessee Backflow News

Fall 2018



NEXT BOARD MEETING

10:00 AM
Jan. 9th, 2019
Murfreesboro Water Plant
5528 Sam Jared Drive
Murfreesboro, TN For
directions Call:
615-848-3222

Upcoming Events

2018
Repair Class
8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Lenoir City Utilities Board
November 5th

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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.

The East Tennessee section of the TBPA is holding a repair class on November 5th, 2018 from 8:00am-4:30pm at Lenoir City Utilities Board 7698 Creekwood Park Blvd. The instructors will be Jim Purzycki, owner of BAVCO Long Beach, California, and BAVCO sales representative Mark Canterbury.

They will be covering backflow prevention knowledge and repairing assemblies on different models and sizes. The class is FREE to all TBPA members and a \$20.00 fee for non-members; however, if any non-member registers to become a member the \$20.00 fee will be waived.

At the end of the class, I will have a sign-in sheet to receive CEUs for Distribution, Collections, and Plant Operators for 7.5hrs of credit. Seating is around 60 people so DO NOT delay your registration! Please contact Kent Bowman at kentbowman@comcast.net or (856) 258-2800.

Please send your name, company information, contact information, and whether or not you are a member of the TBPA to Mr. Bowman. We look forward to seeing you there!



TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Bradley Tomlin President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7531 btomlin@jaxenergy.com	731-422-7221
Wayne Osborne Past President	Shelbyville Power Murfreesboro, TN	931-684-5713 wosborne@shelbyvillepower.com	937-685-0113
Bill Jennings Vice-President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Kitty Vaughn Secretary	TN American Water Chattanooga, TN	423-771-4705 kitty.banks@amwater.com	423-266-2663
Kim Pritchett Treasurer	TN American Water Co. Chatanooga, TN	423-771-4724 kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com	423-771-4790
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	
Tim Brown ABPA President	Charlottesville, VA	434-977-4511 ext. 119 tbrown@serviceauthority.org	

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
342 Main Street - Suite 301
West Hartford, CT 06117

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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CHECK ONE: RENEWAL _____ MEMBER # _____ NEW _____

ABPA DUES: \$65.00
TBPA DUES: \$20.00
ANNUAL DUES TOTAL \$85.00

Remit Total to:
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West Hartford, CT 06117

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

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

Nov. 7-9 Dec. 5-7

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

Nov. 6 Dec. 4

3300 Backflow Prevention Assembly Repair Class

Fee: \$125 - CEU's: 6 hours

Murfreesboro Sept. 21

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 or contact Tonia Pass at (615) 900-1000 or ToniaPass@taud.org.

Basic Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro

Nov. 28 -30

Kingsport

Oct. 10 - 12

Memphis

Nov. 7 - 9

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro

Nov. 27

Kingsport

Oct. 9

Memphis

Nov. 6

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

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.



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TBPA Board Meeting Update - July 11, 2018

- **Treasurer's report:**
Account Balance \$8,430.36
- **TBPA 2018 Conference:**
Board has voted to not have a conference in 2018.
- **Web site:** Ryan is continuing to make updates to the TBPA web site. Thank you Ryan for all of your hard work.
- **Facebook:** Make sure to check out our new facebook page. Thank you to Bill Jennings for setting this up.

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

Old Business:

Wayne & Bill went to the TAUD Expo held in May; TBPA gave away 2 \$25.00 gift cards.

Ben discussed new backflow guidelines and is working closely with the EPA to gain more depth to the rules and regulations.

- **Newsletter:** Any changes/adjustments regarding newsletter please reach out to Bryan @bryan.betty@amwater.com.
- **Next Board meeting:**
Murfreesboro - January 9th, 2019 - 10:00 AM

David Wright's class for his testers was on September 21st in Memphis; board had a table at the event with handouts and newsletters. Kent Bowman received post cards with TBPA information to also hand-out to guests.

New Business:

Repair class will be on November 5th at Lenoir City Utilities. Fee is \$20 per non-member and free to all members. CEUs will be offered from state.

Not official minutes



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lloyd@midamericamktg.com

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800-365-6154 Toll Free
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Middle Tennessee News

I hope everyone had a great summer; it sure was a hot one for sure. I, for one, am ready for some cooler weather!

I would like to thank David Wright, West TN Director, for allowing the TBPA to come to his annual Cross Connection awareness day. It was a huge success and I hope everyone was able to attend.

Kent Bowman, East TN Director, will be hosting a Backflow repair class for those who can attend. The class is free to all TBPA members so take advantage of this class if at all possible. The class will be held at Lenoir City Utilities on November 5th from 8AM-4:30PM.

Also, don't forget to winterize those irrigation backflows! I hope everyone has a great and safe holiday season.

-David P Risner
Middle TN Director TBPA

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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 ProMarketing / Apollo Valves

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

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East Tennessee News

I hope everyone has had a great summer! Fall is upon us and it is a nice break from the summer heat!

I'd like to share a cool story:

Everyone who is a Tennessee Volunteers fan knows "The Voice of The Vols" to be Mr. John Ward and he unfortunately passed away this summer. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ward many years ago when I was still working for the utility in Knoxville. Mr. Ward loved flowers so much that not only was his yard full of flowers he even purchased land next to his home and it too was full of flowers and Dogwood trees. He had a walking trail which he welcomed anyone to come visit and it was amazing! Of course he needed to keep it all watered; as we all know irrigation systems must contain a RPZ backflow and be within 12" above the ground. As luck would have it, I visited one day and his backflow was placed in a nice home-made box. When I opened the lid all I could see were the test cocks. I went ahead and tested to see if it would pass and it had failed! This is when he had the pleasure of meeting me to not only tell him his backflow had failed, but he also had a lot of dirt to remove. As we approached the backflow, I explained the situation and then instructed what needed to be changed in order to be in compliance; as we walked to the back of his home, I could tell he was detail-oriented. He understood the importance of the backflow and how it was incorrect with all the debris around it. He told me he was sorry and didn't realize that it was out of compliance; otherwise, he would have corrected it before then. I knew the gentleman he said that would correct it and was certain that he was in good hands. After he made his own notes on what needed to be corrected, he then began to just speak about anything and everything and was incredibly humble. Mr. Ward even kept me informed on the progress and one day sent two pictures (see below) of the before and after. The very next week I ran into the gentleman who fixed the backflow and he told me that Mr. Ward wrote a letter to his company saying I had spoke highly of him.



Backflow Failed

*In loving memory of
Mr. John Ward
1930-2018*



Backflow Passed

I think we all have had issues with individuals who say they do not need a backflow and those that think because of their status they are exempt from the law. We all have a job to do and that is to make certain it is in compliance. Sometimes we have to deal with difficult people when all we're doing is our jobs to protect the water supply. Some don't understand why and some just don't want to understand the importance of a backflow. There are few, though, like Mr. Ward who understands our job and corrects what needs to be corrected, all the while thanking everyone involved! Mr. Ward will be deeply missed.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone that can make it to the repair class on November 5th!

-Kent Bowman
East Tn. Director

Plumbing Safety

Everyone is on high alert when the subject is about contaminated drinking water or perhaps when a water heater has blown through a roof, resulting in a serious injury. Unsafe plumbing is serious and against the law --as a law abiding citizen, the property owner must follow the plumbing code and strive for safe and sanitary systems. We do not have one American plumbing code for the entire country; all the plumbing codes strive to produce results. The point is whichever "plumbing code" one chooses to follow is not of importance; however, the fact that one follows the code is what matters. Plumbing system safety and avoidance of unsafe plumbing are based on principles of good plumbing practices.

This would include proper installation of safety valves such as backflow prevention devices, water heater T &P valves, and hot water tempering valves. The property owner must ensure regular safety testing and preventive maintenance. Plumbers often don't inform the homeowners what needs to be done. Many think plumbing codes speak solely to the plumber, which is only partially true. The plumbing codes speak to the code official and the property owners. Plumbers are not instructed to teach property owners these codes; however, plumbing safety depends on the professional of the plumber.

The code official is a regulator and, as such, has a duty to ensure that property owners maintain their plumbing as outlined by the codes. This requires inspections of backflow prevention devices and water heater safety valves for example. Safety devices are to be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's published instructions and other specifications that are stated in the code book. There is no room for plumbing officials to turn a blind eye to the code requirements for maintaining plumbing safety valves. The code officials must have re-inspection programs or give the job to someone who can follow the plumbing codes as it is vetted.

Plumbing accidents happen as a result of careless enforcement by the plumbing officials and property owners who have not been informed on how to keep a safe and sanitary system. When the code official fails to act, it is simply reckless and it is what contributes to injuries and damage to property. Both of these situations are why plumbing codes are so important to follow. The code officials are mandated to enforce that the codes are followed correctly.

Make certain that:

- Property owners maintain a safe and sanitary system in accordance with the plumbing codes
- Property owners need to be informed that plumbing codes exist and why they are to be followed
- Unsafe plumbing shall be repaired, rehabilitated, demolished, and/or removed by the property owner
- Owner is responsible for maintenance of their plumbing systems
- All devices and/or safeguards required by the codes shall be maintained in compliance with the manufacturers published instructions
- The plumbing official shall require any plumbing system to be re-inspected

-Ned Towle

Towle Whitney, LLC

NEW TBPA MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest TBPA Members. We are delighted to have you working with us in TBPA. If you would like to serve on the Board or a Committee, please contact your Section Director or any Board member.

Steven Tucker	City of Springfield	Springfield, TN
James Jackson	City of Springfield	Springfield, TN
Steve Berkley	Jackson Energy Auth.	Jackson, TN
Jaren Gowan	Jackson Energy Auth.	Jackson, TN
Steven Fitzgerald	Pleasant View Utility	Pleasant View, TN
Norman Eichmann	City of Kingsport	Kingsport, TN
Tommy Heaton	A Georgia BF Tester	Acworth, GA
Jamie Love	Hallsdale Powell Utility	Knoxville, TN
Josh Rau	Clarksville Gas & Water	Clarksville, TN
Steve Ryan	Keeling Company	Knoxville, TN

Cross Connection Awareness Day

Cross connection awareness day at MLGW in Memphis was a huge success with over 200 testers attending and several vendors. Among attendance were A.R.I., Fleming Training Center, Mueller, TBPA, TAUD, Site One Landscaping, Memphis Fire Services, American Backflow Products, Mid-American Marketing, Inc., and Memphis and Shelby County Code Enforcement. There were classes to attend by TAUD, Mid America Marketing, A. R. I., and Central Sales. Some provided CEU credits with the State of Tennessee. Lunch and desert was provided for a donation to the United Way Foundation. Thank you to David Wright and MLGW for a successful day!



Cross Connection Awareness Day



BACKFLOW LINKS

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

Check Out Our Website!

www.tnbackflow.com

Your Association working for safe drinking water in Tennessee

Visit Our New Facebook Page!

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

ABPA Harrington / Arthur Memorial Scholarship

2018 - 2019 Essay Contest Topic: *Explain the relationship between Lawn Irrigation Systems and Backflow Prevention. How can these irrigation systems be a threat to potable water supplies and how can the water supplies be protected.*

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 \$1,000 scholarship. Winners of under this competition are not eligible to win more than once. Entries must be received by 11:59 EST on January 1, 2019. Visit the web site for Complete Rules and Content information - www.abpa.org.



TBPA

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
Bryan Betty
c/o Tennessee American Water
109 Wiehl Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403