

Tennessee Backflow News

Fall 2020



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Oct. 7, 2020

Teleconference

Directions:
615-848-3222

Upcoming Events

**TBPA
Conference
Postponed**

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

**More information on
website**

INSIDE

TN Training Calendar3
Board Meeting Update.....5
Section News6 & 7

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, your families, and your co-workers are staying COVID free and healthy in our current situation! I know it has been a trying time for all of us and hope that 2021 is a much better year.

As we feel the summer coming to an end and know cooler weather is soon to follow, remember this fall to ensure that all your backflows are ready for the freezing temps. Also make sure to drain and winterize irrigation systems in the coming months. You don't want to find out the hard way that you forgot to check on them before the wintertime comes!

For news and information from the TBPA, check out our website www.tnbackflow.com and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/tnbackflow.

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 all possible contaminations.

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



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
Kim Pritchett Treasurer	TN American Water Chattanooga, 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	
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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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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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.

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:

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.

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

Oct. 14-16	Nov. 18-20
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

Oct. 13	Nov. 17
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
Nov. 18	Oct. 7	Oct. 21

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro	Kingsport	Memphis
Nov. 17	Oct. 20	Oct. 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.



Lloyd Rainey
lloyd@midamericamktg.com

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TBPA Board Meeting Update - July 8, 2020

- **Treasurer's report:**
Account Balance \$8,001.43
- **National Conference:**
Conference rescheduled to be held in Charlotte, NC in April 2021.

Old Business:

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.

- **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.
- **Next Board meeting:**
Teleconference - October 7, 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 classes have resumed. 35 max. capacity in renewal class in Knoxville; 15-20 max. capacity in Murfreesboro.

Board voted to allow members to advertise in newsletter for employment opportunities and backflow items for sale. Non-members will also be allowed to do so for a fee of \$10.00. If interested, please contact a board member.

State response to and requirements concerning COVID-19: Document and return the next month if businesses are closed or are not allowing people in to test (such as at nursing homes).

Congrats to Michael Robeson for winning an award from ABPA!

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East Tennessee News

I hope everyone is staying safe from the COVID-19 pandemic! It has just been a crazy year for everyone! I know most utilities are restricting travel and exposure. In light of this, TBPA will not be hosting the annual conference this year. I have had a few of you ask me if I have changed my mind about canceling the repair class I planned to host this year. In order to prioritize the health and safety of all of you, I still think it is for the best to wait until next year.

It is hard to believe that it is almost fall! We saw a wet spring here in East TN which caused a delay in activation of a lot of irrigations. I feel like I was behind the whole summer just trying to keep up with the testing! While out on repairs this summer, I failed a new backflow assembly on a brand new irrigation system that was put in this spring. Both the repair person and the homeowner called me to explain that 2 bolts were found in the #2 check valve. The bolts were the same type of bolts that are on the relief valve plate, but all of the bolts were still on the relief valve. I guess somewhere there is a backflow assembly that is missing 2 bolts on the relief valve!

This summer I also had 2 different repairs that failed the retest. When I talked with the repair person and told him that the #2 check valves failed again, he told me that he had stretched the springs as far as he could and flipped the rubbers over. I explained to him that when you stretch any spring, after time it will return back to its original form and length, so our problem was most likely the check rubber. On the next retest with a new check rubber, it still failed. We then put in a new spring and it passed. I have had people tell me ever since I started testing backflow assemblies in 2001, that they have stretched the springs in this type of situation. As in any situation, a quick fix is not a fix; it is just a Band-Aid. This type of solution will always cause more time and money to be spent in attempt to fix the real problem. We never want a Band-Aid solution keeping the public potable water safe!

We offer our sincerest condolences to Roger Crane after the passing of his mother back in June, and to Keith Stevens after the passing of his father in August. Please keep both of these men and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this very hard time. To Roger and Keith: I lost my father 39 years ago and my mother last year, so I personally know what you both are going through. I am here for you, my friends!

I hope everyone has a great fall. Enjoy the cooler weather and the beautiful colors of the season! And as always, stay safe!

-Kent Bowman
East 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.

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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 hope everyone had a great summer despite all that's going on out there! This is usually the time of year we are getting ready to have our annual conference. I sincerely hope that we can resume the conference next year and can return to safer times. Some years, the only time I get to see some of our members is at the conference. I will definitely miss that!

I encourage all members to use the website to stay updated on everything that is going on within the association. You are always welcome to come to a board meeting anytime as well! Thank you to everybody for what you do to keep our water safe.

-David P. Risner
Middle TN Director, TBPA

West Tennessee News

Hello everyone,

I hope you and your families are doing well during this pandemic. I just want to give you all a quick reminder that fall is knocking on the door! With that being said, please try to take a few minutes to educate your customers of the importance of winterizing and insulating their backflow assemblies from the elements. Helpful reminders will show your customers that you are looking after their best interest concerning the safety and protection of their family's drinking water.

As we are preparing for the winter season please take a look at the TBPA's web site and all of the new updated information @ <http://www.tnbackflow.com/index.html>. Hope you will find the site to be a great addition to the tools that make your job easier!

-David Wright
West TN Director, TBPA

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 Facebook Page!

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

ABPA Harrington / Arthur Memorial Scholarship

2020 - 2021 Essay Contest Topic: TBD

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.



TBPA

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