

# Tennessee Backflow News

Spring 2020



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 8, 2020

Teleconference

Directions:  
615-848-3222

## Upcoming Events

**TBPA Conference**  
**Gatlinburg, TN**  
**Oct. 22-23, 2020**

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

**More information on**  
**website**

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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.

## President's Message

Hello Members,

I hope that as you read this letter that you are safe, healthy and have not been under the weather due to the COVID-19 illness. In my almost 50 years, I have never experienced anything like this! Please remember to use all safety precautions and PPE as you are out testing backflow devices until this situation resolves or we can return to a somewhat normal life.

I would still like to wish a Happy Spring to all of our loyal cross connection family and big welcome to our new members too! We have a lot going on this year and want you to be a part of it. We are getting closer to warmer weather as winter moves out and spring comes around. As we know, this means that the irrigation systems will soon be firing up and so our busiest time of the year will begin.

The ABPA 36th Annual Education Conference that was to be held in Charlotte April 19-23rd, 2020 has been postponed to April 2021. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause; however, the safety of our members is our top priority. Thank you for working with us as we navigate these unprecedented times! The Conference is a very informative and educational experience in the world of cross connection and how it works in other parts of the country and we look forward to participating.

In addition, the TBPA Annual Conference has been scheduled for Oct. 22nd and 23rd in Gatlinburg at the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown (Board Meeting on will be held on the evening of the 21st). Mark your calendars with these dates and we look forward to seeing you there!

\*Continued on Page 7

Bill Jennings  
TBPA President

# TBPA Board Members



| Name  | Affiliation                                       | Phone # - Email                                | Fax #        |
|---|---|--|--------------|
| Bradley Tomlin<br>Past President                  | Jackson Energy Authority<br>Jackson, TN           | 731-422-7531<br>btomlin@jaxenergy.com          | 731-422-7221 |
| Bill Jennings<br>President                        | City of Brentwood Water Services<br>Brentwood, TN | 615-371-0080<br>bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov  |              |
| Jared Gowan<br>Vice President                     | Jackson Energy Authority<br>Jackson, TN           | 731-422-7347<br>jgowan@jaxenergy.com           |              |
| Kitty Vaughn<br>Secretary                         | TN American Water<br>Chattanooga, TN              | 423-771-4705<br>kitty.banks@amwater.com        | 423-266-2663 |
| Kim Pritchett<br>Treasurer                        | TN American Water<br>Chattanooga, TN              | 423-771-4724<br>kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com | 423-771-4790 |
| Michael Robeson<br>Director-At-Large / Membership | Morristown Utility<br>Morristown, TN              | 423-317-6316<br>mrobeson@musfiber.net          |              |
| David Wright<br>Director, West                    | MLGW<br>Memphis, TN                               | 901-528-4449<br>dwright@mlgw.org               | 901-334-5434 |
| David Risner<br>Director, Middle                  | Murfreesboro Water & Sewer<br>Murfreesboro, TN    | 615-848-3222<br>drisner@murfreesborotn.gov     | 615-848-3244 |
| Kent Bowman<br>Director, East                     | Bowman Backflow                                   | 865-258-2800<br>kentbowman@comcast.net         |              |
| Brent Ogles<br>Director-At-Large                  | TAUD  | 615-900-1011<br>brentogles@taud.org            | 615-898-8283 |
| Kathy Riley<br>ABPA Region 3 Director             | Charlotte, NC                                     | 704-293-6859<br>kriley@ci.charlotte.nc.us      |              |
| Frank Snyder<br>ABPA President                    | Snyder Testing<br>Pleasanton, TX                  | 830-399-3431<br>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*



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Remit Total to:**  
**ABPA**  
**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/](http://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](http://www.taud.org) or contact Tonia Pass at (615) 900-1000 or [ToniaPass@taud.org](mailto: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**

May 20-22 Sep. 23-25

Jun. 10-12 Oct. 14-16

Jun. 17-19 Nov. 18-20

Jul. 8-10 Dec. 2-4

Aug. 12-14 Dec. 16-18

### **Alcoa**

Sep. 2-4

## 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**

May 12 May 28 Oct. 13

May 18 Jun. 16 Nov. 17

May 19 Jul. 7 Dec. 1

May 26 Aug. 11 Dec. 15

May 27 Sep. 22

### **Alcoa**

Sep. 1

### **Fleming Training Center Notice**

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

## Basic Cross Connection Class

|                     |                |                  |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Murfreesboro</b> | <b>Memphis</b> | <b>Kingsport</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|

|         |        |         |
|---------|--------|---------|
| Jun. 24 | Jun. 3 | Oct. 21 |
|---------|--------|---------|

|        |        |  |
|--------|--------|--|
| Sep. 9 | Oct. 7 |  |
|--------|--------|--|

|                |                  |                    |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Jackson</b> | <b>Knoxville</b> | <b>Chattanooga</b> |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|

|         |         |        |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Sep. 16 | Aug. 26 | Jul. 8 |
|---------|---------|--------|

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

|                     |                  |                |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Murfreesboro</b> | <b>Kingsport</b> | <b>Memphis</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|

|         |         |        |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Jun. 23 | Oct. 20 | Jun. 2 |
|---------|---------|--------|

|        |                |        |
|--------|----------------|--------|
| Sep. 8 | <b>Jackson</b> | Oct. 6 |
|--------|----------------|--------|

|         |         |                    |
|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Nov. 17 | Sep. 15 | <b>Chattanooga</b> |
|---------|---------|--------------------|

|                  |        |  |
|------------------|--------|--|
| <b>Knoxville</b> | Jul. 7 |  |
|------------------|--------|--|

|         |  |  |
|---------|--|--|
| Aug. 25 |  |  |
|---------|--|--|

**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](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
- To list or update your training classes contact Kitty Vaughn at [kitty.banks@amwater.com](mailto:kitty.banks@amwater.com).



**Lloyd Rainey**  
lloyd@midamericamktg.com

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 901-795-0045 Phone     | P.O. Box 750960   |
| 800-365-6154 Toll Free | Memphis, Tn 38175 |
| 901-795-0394 Fax       | 2831 Barris Dr.   |
| 901-619-1050 Cell      | Memphis, TN 38132 |



## COMPACT BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY ENCLOSURES

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Mobile: (423) 580-6084  
E-mail: [backflowtester@gmail.com](mailto:backflowtester@gmail.com)

Office: (706) 965-5951  
Fax: (706) 965-9326

# TBPA Board Meeting Update - Jan. 8, 2020

- **Treasurer's report:**  
Account Balance \$7,100.35

- **National Conference:**  
Conference rescheduled to be held in Charlotte, NC in April 2021.

## Old Business:

Late dismissal from 1-day 2019 conference which resulted in a late arrival home for conference attendees was discussed and plans to remedy for next conference are in the works.

Election results were discussed. It was suggested that bios for candidates be included on ballots. Votes that were mailed in will be tallied, and the possibility of changing bylaws to allow electronic voting was discussed. David Wright was re-elected as the West Director and Jared Gowan was elected as Vice President.

- **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](mailto:abbie.woodson@amwater.com).
- **Next Board meeting:**  
Teleconference - July 8, 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:

New TBPA postcards have been printed and will be distributed by Ben Rodriguez and Brent Olges at backflow certification classes. They were also handed out to members to distribute in their areas.

Kent has cancelled his scheduled repair class due to lack of participation (Apollo/Conbraco-limited use). Bill Jennings possibly to schedule a repair class in the Brentwood area depending on interest.

2020 Conference will be held in Gatlinburg Oct. 21-23

Regional conferences with neighboring states were discussed with the suggestion to split the cost.

Board voted 6-0 in favor of accepting Drew Cook as a Director at Large.

We have received some complaints about the electronic newsletter instead of a physical copy. Cost of printing/postage was discussed and it was agreed that a news-blast email would be sent to the current members and the newsletter could be printed upon request. Please contact a board member if interested!



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Fax: (704) 684-0028  
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**YOUR BACKFLOW PRODUCTS CONNECTION**

# East Tennessee News

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone had a great winter. I am sure glad spring is here! This is a crazy time for everyone with the uncertainty that comes with this virus, but I really think we will get through this together. To ALL of us who are out and still are testing backflow assemblies, please prioritize your safety and the safety of family and friends you come into contact with by keeping your hands clean and away from your faces. During this time, please keep those who have lost someone due to this pandemic and the people in Middle Tennessee who have suffered from the treacherous weather in your thoughts and prayers!

I have already had someone call to have her irrigation system turned on for the year. Last fall when I blew out her system and drained the water from the backflow assembly, I left the backflow in good shape! I had both shutoff valves and the 4 test cocks turned at a 45-degree angle so no water would be trapped in either the valves or test cocks. This year when I went back to turn the system on, someone had turned the shutoff valves back on, turned the test cocks off, and had loosened the 4 bolts on the relief valve cover to about 5 threads on each bolt. Thankfully the valves and test cocks were fine, but unfortunately the same could not be said for the relief valve. The assembly sits under some trees, which means that it is exposed to things falling from the trees along with everyday dirt buildup. The brass on the cover and where it bolts on to the assembly had so much buildup that I struggled to get it clean with a wet rag. The diaphragm was just as dirty and had a little tear on it. Once I cleaned it all up and turned it on, I noticed that it sprayed from the side. After many times taking it apart, cleaning it, and putting it all back together, it still leaked! I then tried putting a new diaphragm in. No change. I finally looked at the cover and noticed a small pit hole in the brass. I thought surely that small hole would not make it spray like it was! I had a new assembly in my truck and decided to put it on, and thankfully it stopped leaking! The lady felt so bad for all the trouble I was going through that she made me a sandwich! While I was there, a neighbor came over and we started talking about how some people can't mow a yard, but they think they can master a backflow assembly! This goes hand in hand with my article from a past newsletter which showed the proper use of the OEM. I'm sure whoever worked on her assembly was just trying to be helpful, but be aware of these things when going to residences and try to educate where possible.

Also, last year I had told a business that the box they had over their backflow was in bad shape and they needed to do something before it froze. Here is what they did!



-Kent Bowman  
East TN Director, TBPA

# 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

Backflow Specialty Company

Wilkins Zurn / Ben O'Neal Company

Mid America Marketing (Watts / Ames / Febco)

American Backflow

ARI - United Backflow Solutions, Inc.

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

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**Fax - 662-333-7544**

*Roger Crane*  
Instrument Technician

## Message from the President (cont.)

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. In addition, please encourage anyone you know in the world of cross connection to become a member of the association too. We can never have too many members in the TBPA!

REMEMBER: This is your association. The success of the TBPA depends on how involved our members are within the organization. If no one participates, then there will no longer be a Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association. We rely on your participation and value your input!

\*Reminder that our quarterly newsletters are only available electronically (website and email). If you would like a paper version, please contact any of our board members to receive one in the mail.

Thank you and stay safe!

Bill Jennings  
TBPA President

**BOWMAN BACKFLOW**

**Kent Bowman**

**Testing and Repair**

*Member of*  
*Tennessee Backflow Association*  
*TN State Certification #4572*

**865-258-2800**

## BACKFLOW LINKS

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

Check Out Our Website!

[www.tnbackflow.com](http://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: *TBA*

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](http://www.abpa.org).



**TBPA**

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