

# Tennessee Backflow News

Fall 2021



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**October 6, 2021**

**January 5, 2022**

Contact David  
Wright for zoom  
meeting access

## Upcoming Events

**Schedule: ABPA  
National Conference**

**May 2-4, 2022 in  
person, Las Vegas,  
Nevada**

**More info on ABPA  
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 of the TBPA,

I hope that all of you, your families and co-workers are staying COVID free and healthy in our current situation. It seems things are trying to get better for all. 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 temp 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 the importance of clean water. We here in Tennessee are very lucky that we have people like the members of the TBPA to keep our water clean and available. We don't have to face the issues like those in the Southwest who are in an exceptional drought condition. In some of these areas, it's possible they could actually run out of water soon if the weather doesn't change to improve their condition. For some, they could experience a loss of electric power too because of water levels too low to produce hydroelectric needed in these affected areas. So be thankful that we are not in this situation and keep our water clean and available for all of our neighbors, friends and customers. Thank you for what you do to accomplish this. Be sure to check out our website [www.tnbackflow.com](http://www.tnbackflow.com) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/tnbackflow](http://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 #
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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CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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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**  
**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:

## 2103 Cross Connection Control Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days • Class Fee: \$335

### **Murfreesboro**

Oct. 13-15

Nov. 17-19

Dec. 1-3

Dec. 15-17

## 3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal

Duration: 1 day - Class Fee: \$170

### **Murfreesboro**

Oct. 12

Nov. 16

Nov. 30

Dec. 14

### **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 Tonia Pass at (615) 900-1000 or [ToniaPass@taud.org](mailto:ToniaPass@taud.org).

## Basic Cross Connection Class

### **Murfreesboro**

Nov. 17-19

### **Kingsport**

Oct 20-22

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

### **Murfreesboro**

Nov. 16

### **Kingsport**

Oct. 19

### **Fleming Backflow Repair Workshop #3300 \$125**

November 12

### **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](mailto:lloyd@midamericamktg.com)

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# TBPA Board Meeting Update - July 6, 2021

- **Treasurer's report:**

Account Balance \$8926.27

- **Roll:** present: D. Risner, D. Wright, B. Jennings, K. Bowman, J. Gowan, M. Robeson, K. Pritchett; Absent: K. Vaughn, B. Ogles; Guest: Quentin Clark

## Old Business:

Conference- are we going to have it in October or not? Bill stated that maybe we should poll members and see if members would attend a conference this year. Kim said she thought it was too late in the year to start planning a conference if you want to have a quality event. Bill had already talked to Labtronx and they will come and talk about their new test kit. D. Risner and B. Jennings both understand that it would be hard to put this conference together in a short time.

Bill talked about a virtual conference as ABPA had. The ABPA conference will be in Los Vegas next year. Their classes will be one a time next year. We all talked also about changing the month for our conference but decided October was still the best month as it is a slow month for testers. Bill made a motion to not have a conference this year. D. Risner seconded the motion.

## New Business:

Kent is not going to have a repair class in the fall. Bill talked about including a repair class in our next conference. David Risner asked if we would include all the manufacturers? He had heard of a class where all the manufacturers had 2 hrs each. In regards to the next conference, Kent said that there was a new conference place being build at Fall Creek Falls with a hotel and restaurant. Just a new place to think about having the conference next year.

Membership in TBPA and ABPA was discussed. With membership in TBPA/ ABPA dropping, different alternatives were discussed.

Next Meeting will be October 6, 2021 and we will try to meet in person if possible. We will need to elect a VP and the west Director.

- **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, Kim Pritchett, [kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com](mailto:kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com)
- **Next Board meeting:**  
Teleconference - Oct. 6, 2021 email David Wright [dwright@mlgw.org](mailto:dwright@mlgw.org)

## BACKFLOW CONTROL

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# East Tennessee News

Hi Everyone !

I hope everybody has had a great summer! Fall starts the end of irrigation system and hopefully all the backflows have been tested and repaired by now. It seems like this year more than normal the irrigation systems were not on. However, when I went back in September, most were on and I am sure most did not turn them on due to the wet spring here in East Tn.

I did see that more than the usual number of normal backflow assemblies had frozen and some had booster pumps and they had also frozen. I am not sure if they forgot to get them winterized or maybe did not think they needed to but either way that was a costly mistake for them. Some of the assemblies I did repair had broken springs, seats or both! I have heard many different ways people winterize the systems. Some just have drains in different areas of the yard and they just open the drains to let it drain from the pipes and others use an air compressor and blow air through each zone. Now, we all know just how much psi those compressors can have and I have seen many tees with the threaded plug after the shutoff valve in the ground or on the pvc pipe above ground before the backflow assembly. So you have a pull behind compressor and have it wide open and it is in the threaded plug before the backflow guess what? A huge chance a backflow repair is coming when the system is turned on next spring! I have talked to homeowners over the years and a lot of them will have a compressor they have bought at a home improvement store and they will go down the street they live on and do them and not have but 40 -50 psi on them and never have any problems. I have told them instead of hooking up to the threaded tee to put a fitting in the #4 test cock and that way it does not blow the air through the assembly or if they have unions on the pvc pipe to take the assembly off and make a plug that will screw on to the union and can have a fitting to connect the compressor hose on. I do see some that they just open the 4 test cocks and unscrew the relief valve and both check valves and that does get the water out of the assembly but that leaves opening for trash to fall in and cause a failure come spring time.

So there are many ways to winterize the irrigation system but just go easy on it because not only can you do damage to the assembly but the pvc pipe in the ground along with the 90's couplings and heads !

I hope everyone has a great fall season and stay safe with covid still lurking.

Thanks,

Kent Bowman  
East Tn. Director

# Middle Tennessee News

I hope everyone had a safe and healthy summer. The cooler weather is upon us which means its time to start closing the irrigation systems for winter. Please take time to educate your customers about the importance of winterizing their devices. Backflow device prices have gone up substantially over the past year along with everything else.

The TBPA board will be meeting over the next year to try and bring a conference back to all members. With Covid-19 being so prevalent we were unable to put on a conference this year. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy fall and Holiday season.

David Risner  
Middle Tennessee Director

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*thank you  
so much!*



## 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)

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2022 ABPA conference May 2-4 Las Vegas,  
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# TBPA

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