

# Tennessee Backflow News

Spring 2021



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**April 7, 2021**

Teleconference

1-862-294-2638  
conf. ID:  
663 541 400#

## Upcoming Events

**TBPA Conference  
decision April  
TBPA meeting**

**Schedule: ABPA  
National Conference  
Virtual April 19-21,  
2021**

**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. I know it was a tough time for all of us in 2020 and it looks to be a much better year in 2021. Let's all work together to stay safe and hopefully soon be back to a more normal life in the future.

The Spring is now upon us and I feel certain that a few of us will have some backflows that will fail testing due to the freezing weather from our past winter. It seems that some customers don't realize the importance of winterizing their equipment because water and freezing temps don't work well together.

The TBPA is hoping that the COVID vaccines and safety measures carried out by all will allow us to maybe have a conference in the Fall this year. You can stay tuned to our social media for the latest on the hopeful event.

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.

Be sure to check out our website [www.tnbackflow.com](http://www.tnbackflow.com) and our Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/tnbackflow](https://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. Be sure to tell all of your backflow associates to join the TBPA and help us grow to a bigger, better organization.

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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COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

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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:

**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: \$335

*(full time employees of public water systems fee is \$60)*

Murfreesboro	Alcoa
May 12-14 Oct. 13-15	Apr. 13-15
Jun. 9-11 Nov. 17-19	Sep. 28-30
Jul. 14-16 Dec. 1-3	
Aug. 18-20 Dec. 15-17	<b>Cookeville</b>
Sep. 15-17	Jun. 22-24

## 3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal

Duration: 1 day • Class Fee: \$170 *(full time employees of public water systems fee is \$60)*

Murfreesboro	Alcoa
Apr 6 Sep. 14	Apr. 16
May 11 Oct. 12	Jun. 25
Jun. 8 Nov. 16	Oct. 1
Jul. 13 Nov. 30	<b>Cookeville</b>
Aug. 17 Dec. 14	Jun. 25

### **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	Jackson
Jun. 23-25	Jun. 2-4	Sep. 22-24
Sep. 8-10	Oct. 6-8	<b>Kingsport</b>
Nov. 17-19		Oct 20-22
	<b>Knoxville</b>	<b>Chattanooga</b>
	Apr. 14-16	Jul. 7-9
	Aug. 25-27	<b>Clarksville</b>

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

Murfreesboro	Memphis	Kingsport
Apr. 7	Jun. 1	Oct. 19
Jun. 22	Oct. 5	<b>Chattanooga</b>
Sep. 7		Jul. 6
Nov. 16		
<b>1/2 day Webinar</b>	<b>Jackson</b>	<b>Knoxville</b>
<b>Apr 9</b>	Sep. 21	Apr. 13 Aug. 24

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

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(865) 688-3171 PHONE  
(865) 688-3110 FAX



# TBPA Board Meeting Update - Jan. 6, 2021

- **Treasurer's report:**  
Account Balance \$7896.23
- **National Conference:**  
Conference to be held as a virtual conference April 19-21 -see last page of this newsletter for details

## Old Business: None

## New Business:

ABPA is having a virtual conference in April and will be a 3 day conference. Frank Snyder, President of ABPA, was on our virtual meeting call.

The Board voted last week to have a conference in Gatlinburg in October 2021. Kitty Vaughn is to call the Marriott in Gatlinburg to see about reservations. The Board voted to wait until the April Board meeting to vote if to have the conference or not, depending on COVID and travel restrictions. The hotel in Gatlinburg will hold our reservations until April.

Recertification for Cross connection is looking different in every state. Repair classes have been put on hold for the time being.

All TBPA members need to encourage people to become TBPA members. The board will be sending out notices to nonmembers that the newsletter will stop coming to nonmembers.

The Board discussed different advertising strategies to get the TBPA name out, such as putting our link on the ABPA website and/or put a note in the ABPA newsletter about our board meetings. Also, another option would be to advertise about ABPA on public radio stations as nonprofit.

- **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 - April 7, 1-862-294-2638, conference ID: 663 541 400#

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# East Tennessee News

I hope everyone has had a good and safe winter and is ready for spring because I sure am ! Soon everyone will be wanting the irrigation systems turned on for the year. I have already had to replace one backflow device because they thought it had been winterized and it was not. Also, I have already had a call to turn the irrigation on for the year and I had to explained to the person what could happen if it turned cold again just for a few days and nights. I know they make a freeze prevention valve that you can put on the backflow assembly that is in the price range of \$60.00- \$90.00 but I have never seen one out in the field. If anyone has seen one on a backflow assembly, let me know what you think about it.

In regards to other backflow topics, I had a city official contact me about the city putting in a splash pad and if it needed a backflow assembly. I told them the following story. When I was working at a water utility, the county had a park with a splash pad. All of a sudden, kids were getting sick with e-coli and going to doctors, the E.R., etc. The health department got involved and they traced it back to that splash pad. The county called me and asked me if the splash pad backflow assembly had been tested and it had been. We had the latest test report and we had another test done after they called me and it passed! Also, another backflow assembly was just after the water meter so we had the containment and isolation devices and they both had been tested each year. They had been treating the water each day with chemicals but all it took was a kid with a diaper on in the splash pad. If you think about it, this is what the hazards are with recycled water even though they are equipped with chemicals and filters. This goes to show everyone that even though everyone was doing their job, freak accidents can still happen. I have someone every couple weeks tell me that backflow is crazy, that it never happens and it is just a bunch of bull (and I am sure we all have heard it said more differently than that!). People question whether we really need backflow assemblies. When I tell them the splash pad story, they understand the purpose of them. So again, just slow down and educate the public about what we do, which is protect the public drinking water.

We all do this for a living and we see and hear things first hand. Lets pass it on and learn from each other to keep our water safe. Recently, I received a picture from a member about my winter newsletter about wye strainers. It shocked me when I saw it. The picture, which is included with this article, is two different wye strainers on a dual installation. Thanks for the picture and if anyone has any pictures of anything they see that is crazy you can send it to me and I will put them in the newsletter! Lets share and learn from each other!

The TBPA is having a board meeting in April to discuss about having our conference in October so keep watching on the TBPA website and facebook for more info. The date, time and call in info for the meeting is in this newsletter if you are interested to participate. It is a virtual meeting still. I have decided I am not going to do a repair class this year for the TBPA in the East Tn. area due to covid but I am hoping things will be better in 2022 and am looking forward to doing one in the fall of 2022. I hope everyone has a great spring and is able to get out and enjoy the weather.

Kent Bowman , East Tn. Director TBPA



# Middle Tennessee News

Greetings from Middle Tennessee! I hope everyone had a safe and happy winter. It was actually a rainy/snowy/cold winter in my neck of the woods.

Today I wanted to talk about backflow assembly selection and installation. Selecting the right backflow assembly for many people can be a tough 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 unneeded service calls and/or repairs, due to an undersized/oversized assembly.

Always consult an expert when choosing a model and size especially if you are unfamiliar with what may be needed. Taking the cheapest route could 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 time/money over the long term life of your assembly.

Contact your local area backflow sales representative for specs and flow ratings for specific size and model assemblies to suit your application.

David Risner  
Middle Tennessee Director

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## **BOWMAN BACKFLOW**

**Kent Bowman**

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# West Tennessee News

Hello everyone,

I hope that this article finds you all well. I wanted to share an observation I made this year during the pandemic. What I noticed was there seems to be another advantage of having the backflow devices installed outside of a commercial customer's building and, yes, in some type of weather/security type protective covering. This year, while many buildings were closed or only allowing limited access it was comforting to know that you did not have to go inside the building to test the backflow devices. We have all had that high-risk high hazard company where the backflow devices are installed at the curb line and you were very happy you didn't have to venture into the building.

It's also a good feeling when you see that the POE (point of entry) RPZ behind this water meter is truly installed before any branches in the service. I can't see underground or through walls yet, so I do get a little nervous when I see that my POE (point of entry) is installed way back on the property in some back of the building broom closet.

As a representative of the water company or as the state book says, water purveyor, should we have all our commercial customers be required to have their backflow protection for domestic and fire be located outside at the curb line? There is verbiage in the state book that backs up the advantages. I want to know what you think, 901-528-4449 or [dwright@mlgw.org](mailto:dwright@mlgw.org).

David Wright,  
West Tennessee Director

## THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

**We would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Vendors that continue to support our association. The success of our association depends on you and we want you to know how much you are appreciated.**

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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)

Your Association working for safe drinking water in Tennessee

### Visit Our Facebook Page!

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

2021 ABPA Virtual Conference April 19-21, 2021

\$100 per member

12 Technical Sessions covering various cross connection topics

For more information, go to [abpa.org](http://abpa.org).



# TBPA

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