

# Tennessee Backflow News

Spring 2022



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**July 13, 2022**

both Winter and Spring meeting minutes are in this newsletter

Contact David Risner 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 know things are crazy right now between Covid and everything else going on in the World. I hope everyone has navigated these last few months the best they could and everyone is staying safe. One thing that has not slowed down over the last couple years is Cross connection surveys and backflow testing. I think I have actually been busier during these times, as I'm sure many of you are due to being shorthanded. Unfortunately I think this is going to be the new norm across many industries.

I would like to invite our members to attend our conference this year. It will be in Gatlinburg at the Marriott downtown October 6th and 7th. This will be the first conference since 2019 so we will have some good information.

I am looking at putting together a repair class with Lloyd from Mid America Marketing sometime late spring or early summer depending on what his schedule looks like. The class will be in Jackson. If you are interested please let me know so I can have an idea of how many to nail down a room at our Training Center.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the next couple years and I encourage each of you to encourage people to become members for the future of our association.

Jared Gowan, TBPA President

**\*Special note: TBPA wishes to acknowledge the passing of Mark Canterbury and send our heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends. His passing touches us all and he will be greatly missed.**

# TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
Jared Gowan President	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7347 jgowan@jaxenergy.com	
Bill Jennings Past President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Bill Jennings Vice President	City of Brentwood Water Services JBrentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
Catie Williams Secretary	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7371 Cwilliams@jaxenergy.com	
Kim Pritchett Treasurer	TN American Water Chattanooga, TN	423-771-4724 kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com	
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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**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

April 5-7 --(city of Alcoa)

**Murfreesboro**

April 27-29

May 17-19

May 25-27

June 15-17

## **3102 Cross Connection Control Renewal**

Duration: 1 day - Class Fee: \$170

April 8- (city of Alcoa)

**Murfreesboro**

April 26

May 24

June 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 TAUD (615)898-8283.

## **Basic Cross Connection Class**

**Murfreesboro**

June 22-24

**Memphis MLGW**

June 1-3

## **Renewal Cross Connection Class**

**Murfreesboro**

June 21

**Memphis MLGW**

May 31

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

May 20

### **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 Kim Pritchett kimberly.pritchett@amwater.com



**Lloyd Rainey**  
lloyd@midamericamktg.com

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# TBPA Board Meeting Update - Jan 5, 2022

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance \$9276.27
- **Roll:** present by phone: D. Risner, D. Wright, B. Jennings, K. Bowman, K. Vaughn, M. Robeson, K. Pritchett  
Guests: Quentin Clark (D. Wright's manager), Lloyd Rainey  
Absent: B. Ogles, J. Gowan

## Old Business:

We discussed travel-what companies were allowing it. Do we meet in person next meeting in April?

## New Business:

The board discussed the digital test kits called Maco and whether they were approved by the state. Bill talked about having a class similar to the one David Wright has in Memphis. The testers and installers would attend for free and be shown how to fill out reports and install irrigation devices.

The board discussed the digital test kits that Labtronx has been selling (Maco). You would need to call Ben Rodriguez at Fleming to see if they are approved for testing backflow devices in TN.

The board discussed that some irrigations remain running in the winter as some people don't think about turning them off. Cross connections get phone calls about them running.

The director of Fleming resigned. Ben Rodriguez is working on the Cross Connection Manual. Ben talked about trying to get legislation to make backflow a license and not a certification. This would give the state more control and help make sure testers know how to test.

The board talked about the 2022 TBPA conference - option were : 1 or 1.5 days, Gatlinburg or Memphis? Joint or TBPA alone conference? Kent added Fall Creek Falls; date we would like is 2nd or 3rd week in October. Lloyd was to get in touch with someone about the Virginia Conference and see how they make it so successful. We think that the testing procedures for the new Deringer would be a good topic at the conference.

Bill Jennings will submit the paperwork for the Pace Award.

Next Meeting will be April 6, 2022 and we will try to meet in person if possible.

- **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:**  
April 6, 2022

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# TBPA Board Meeting Update - April 6, 2022

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance \$9580.52 including savings (\$25.30)
- **Roll:** D. Risner, D. Wright, C. Williams, B. Jennings, K. Bowman, W. Osborne, M. Robeson, K. Pritchett  
Guests: W. Osborne, F. Maccagnano  
Absent: B. Ogles

## Old Business:

Travel restrictions are now cleared.  
There is not any update on the backflow license vs. certification as of now.

## New Business:

We welcomed our new secretary, Catie Williams!  
TBPA Conference this year is going to be 1 ½ days in Gatlinburg, TN. We will be putting the hotel info in the newsletter and website. We will wait until closer to time to make decisions on food due to shortages. We need to have speakers determined by June/July (Preferably June). We think that we need someone to come show how to test the Deringer backflow at conference. Ideas about other speakers – Giving vendors a chance to speak (15-20 minutes each) if they register by July 1, Fire Company, Law Enforcement, TN811, and resident of Gatlinburg (on info about handling the water system and such after wild fires). Also, we talked about asking Sugarland distilleries in Gatlinburg for a tour as part of the conference.  
TAUD expo is in Lebanon, TN on May 19th – Kim and Jared are planning on going  
Next board meeting – July 13th (changed from the 6th due to holiday)

- **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:**  
July 13, 2022

## TBPA Conference 2022 - October 6,7

TBPA will be resuming its annual conference in 2022. It is to be held October 6 and 7 in Gatlinburg, TN at the Courtyard by Marriott, 315 Historic Nature Trail, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. It will be a full day on October 6 and a half day on October 7. More information on speakers and agenda will be forth coming.

To register for the TBPA conference, you can go to the website <http://tnbackflow.com/conference.html> or wait and we will be mailing out the registration forms to all members in July.

To reserve a room for the hotel, you can call 1-865-436-2008 and mention you are attending the TBPA Conference or reserve a room from the link provided below.

ANNUAL TBPA CONFERENCE 2022

Start Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022

End Date: Friday, October 7, 2022

Last Day to Book: Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Special group rate:

- Courtyard Gatlinburg Downtown for 169 USD per night

link to register for hotel:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1646777898679&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

# East Tennessee News

I hope everyone is doing Good ! Spring is now here and not only is it backflow testing time for irrigation systems but it is mowing and weed eating season. It just gets harder for me each year !

In the past two weeks I have ran into a couple issues that I have not seen in a while. A few backflow assemblies have failed and new devices were installed from a different manufacturer and now the test cocks are too close to the wall and I could just barely screw the 90 degree fittings in. These did have the correct air gap drain connected to them. I have seen new installs where they have a PVC glue joint male adapter for the air gap drain. Another thing I noticed is that, on both of those backflow assemblies, the #1 check valves was what failed on them. I would think those could have been repaired but I was not there to see if they even tried to repair them or not. We all know how much more expensive assemblies and the parts are now days. I would hope everyone would try to do the repair first and help your customer save some money ! Another thing I saw a few weeks ago was a new building with a new backflow assembly that was full of trash on the first check valve and it had already pitted the new check rubber because of so much trash on it. If you are around new places, it would not hurt to tell the superintendent on the job site to flush the line before the installation of the backflow device. I have been told by one fire service contractor things that he has found when he has had to go back to repair backflows on fire lines, such as a boot and a dead opossum in the check valve. I asked him how that gets in the backflow assemblies and he said that a lot of times one company gets the job for all the underground . When they 90 it up that is where they stop and another company comes in and goes from there, makes the riser and hangs the pipes and heads. What happens is the group that did the underground did not cover the pipe when it comes up out of the floor and the other company comes in and starts building from that point and never flushes the line.

Last I would like to take a minute to let everyone know that Mr. Dave Birkholz is retiring from Loudon Utilities in May. I don't know how long Dave has worked at Loudon but I took his place as the TBPA East Tn. Director in 2002. Dave has been active with the TBPA and ABPA since then, going to both conference's each year. Last year Dave met with Michael Robeson and myself and gave Michael every newsletter he had. He never threw any of them away ! I know what everyone is thinking, we will see him on the TV show hoarders if he saved all those newsletters! However, you will not because I have been to his house and his office at the utility. Everything is neat and in place and I might just hire him to come clean my house when he retires. It just shows us how much he thought of cross connection to keep all of that. Sometimes I would stop in and eat lunch with Dave. Everywhere we went people would stop and talk to him a minute, I think every person in Loudon knows him. It is kind of like Norm on the TV cheers (everybody knew Norm). I have told him it will be hard to replace him for sure. I also offered to speak at his retirement party and he told me he didn't think so! He might be surprised!! Dave, Thank You for everything you have done for the TBPA and the City of Loudon cross connection Dept. I hope you enjoy your retirement my friend on the golf course !!!!

East Tn. Director

Kent Bowman

# Middle Tennessee News

Happy Spring! Greetings from the Middle Tennessee section of the TBPA. It has been a relatively cold and snowy winter here in Middle Tennessee but it looks as though we are finally heading into Spring.

If you are like me you are starting to get calls for irrigation tests. Hopefully everyone winterized their systems to protect them from freezing. Look out in the upcoming months for info on the annual conference this fall. The board is working hard to secure speakers and make a great conference for our members. On a side note many members may know Frank Maccagnano the Cross Connection Supervisor for the Murfreesboro Water Resources Department. Frank is retiring in July after 37 years in the water business and more specifically over 30 years in Cross Connection. Frank has also dedicated decades of service to the TBPA in Various capacities up to and including President of the Association. I would like to wish Frank a happy retirement and hope you will too.

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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Registration fee \$200 and can register online  
Visit ABPA website [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org)



# TBPA

Tennessee Backflow Prevention  
Association  
Kim Pritchett  
c/o Tennessee American Water  
109 Wiehl Street  
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