

# Tennessee Backflow News

Spring 2025



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Last meetings  
minutes  
attached below -  
April Meeting

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

July 9th and  
September 24th  
(conference)

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## Letter from the President

Hello members of the TBPA,

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

I have been approached in the past few years about using software dedicated to backflow prevention. And I think it's a great idea to use something like this to avoid using so much paper, which also takes up a lot of space in our offices. But as with anything new, some people don't like to change their ways. Our dept uses an asset management software to assign work orders for anything that is done by our maintenance people. In example, for leak checks, meter changes and since last year backflow testing reports. If our testers come up on a situation such as relief valve leaking, cross connections, device too low, and etc. We have them take a video or picture with the iPad /tablet for whatever unusual issue they find. It adds these to the work order attached to the asset, in this case the backflow device. And is documented for the State to see and to show the customers. And with this, I was just wondering how many of you are still using paper for everything and how many of you are using tablets and software for testing nowadays. I feel like this could be a discussion topic at our conference.

And also, the TBPA is working steadily to organize the **26th Annual TBPA Conference** and are getting close to completing all the details. The dates are set for **September 25th & 26th at the Embassy Suites-Gatlinburg.** Everyone should go ahead and make their arrangements to attend our conference for some great networking and educational information. The fee will once again be \$150 to attend the event.

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. 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 #
Bill Jennings President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
David Risner Vice President	Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Murfreesboro, TN	615-848-3222 drisner@murfreesborotn.gov	615-848-3244
Jared Gowan Director, West TN	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7347 jgowan@jaxenergy.com	
Catie Williams Secretary	Jackson Energy Authority Jackson, TN	731-422-7371 Cwilliams@jaxenergy.com	
Sherry Hayes Treasurer	Clarksville Gas & Water	931-553-2497 sherry.hayes@cityofclarksville.com	
Michael Robeson Director-At-Large / Membership	Morristown Utility Morristown, TN	423-317-6316 mrobeson@musfiber.net	
David Brown Director, Middle TN	Murfreesboro Water and Sewer	davidbrown@murfreesborotn.gov	
Brianna Baxter Director, East TN	Loudon Utilities Loudon, TN	865-458-7527 brianna.baxter@loudonutilities.orh	
Brent Ogles Director-At-Large	TAUD	615-900-1011 brentogles@taud.org	615-898-8283
Troy Baird ABPA President	Bac-Flo Unlimited	210-698-0411 troy@speackbackflow.com	
Kathy Riley ABPA Vice President	Charlotte Water	980-226-4304 kathy.riley@charlottenc.gov	
Blake Anderson International Past President	West Bountiful City	801-381-1869 banderson@wbcity.org	
Joshua Legg ABPA Region 3 Director	City of Concord	704-920-5352 leggj@concordnc.gov	

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:  
Catie Williams - Jackson Energy Authority  
731-422-7405

## 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:**  
**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 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.

## Cross Connection Basic (Classroom)

Class Fee: \$370 member \$390 non-member - class time: 8:30am-4pm

Murfreesboro - June 25th  
Chattanooga - July 16th

Murfreesboro - June 25th  
Chattanooga - July 16th

## Cross Connection Renewal

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$225 member  
\$260 non-member - class time:  
8:30am-4pm

Murfreesboro - June 24th  
Chattanooga - July 15th

**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:

## Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335

May 5th-7th  
May 21st-23rd  
June 16th-18th  
July 30-08/01

## Renewal Cross Connection Class Duration: 1

day Class Fee: \$170

May 13th  
May 14th  
June 9th  
June 10th  
July 1st  
July 2nd

## **Fleming Training Center Notice**

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

## 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 Lonnie Coomes at (901) 368-0900 or lonniec@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



**Lloyd Rainey**

lloyd@midamericamktg.com

901-619-1050 cell

901-795-0045 office

2831 Barris Drive  
Memphis, TN 38132



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### CENTRAL

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Toll Free: (866) 318-0274

Fax: (210) 451-0824

Email: [bdnfo@bavco.com](mailto:bdnfo@bavco.com)

### EAST COAST

CHARLOTTE, NC

Toll Free: (844) 202-1618

Fax: (704) 684-0028

Email: [ncinfo@bavco.com](mailto:ncinfo@bavco.com)

Backflow Preventer Drew Cook

7777 Walnut Grove Road

Memphis TN 38120

901-315-4860

[backflowpreventerdrewcook@gmail.com](mailto:backflowpreventerdrewcook@gmail.com)

Offering basic certification classes as well as renewal  
classes for Backflow certification

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## BACKFLOW CONTROL

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# West Tennessee News

Hello members of the TBPA,

I hope that everyone is doing well and looking forward to getting the summer started. We are still seeing an explosion of commercial developments in our area which means new customers and new backflows too are tested more and more each year.

I would like to invite our members to attend our TBPA conference this year. It will be in Gatlinburg at the Embassy Suites by Hilton on September 25-26th. We hope you can attend the conference; we will have some great learning tools and information shared as always. I look forward to meeting more of you and I encourage each of you to encourage people to become members for the future of our association to strive.

Jared Gowan, West TN Director

# East Tennessee News

Hello everyone!

As Tennessee welcomes the warmer days of spring and irrigation systems come back online, it's a timely reminder of the importance of backflow prevention. We all know the importance, but I plan to begin working harder to educate the public and other employees in my utility.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve as your East Tennessee Director and to work alongside such a dedicated group of professionals. Together, let's stay proactive in protecting our communities and ensuring safe, clean water across our state.

I'm excited to see everyone at the TBPA conference this fall and get to know more members, but please feel free to reach out to me before then! I will also be attending the Water Professionals Conference in Knoxville this year if anyone wants to chat there.

Thanks,  
Brianna Baxter

TBPA East TN Director

# TBPA Board Meeting Update - April 9th 2025

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance **\$13,080.70** including savings **(\$5.00)**
- **Roll:** Sherry Hayes (online) Michael Robeson (online), Catie W. (online), Briana B. (online), David Risner, Bill Jennings, Cavin G., Adrian P., and David Brown,.

## Old Business:

Be deciding/thinking on speakers for 2025 conference Getting with aquarium in Gatlinburg for possible tour National Conference in Arkansas May 5th-7th

Next meeting dates determined (see above on 1st page of newsletter to the left side)

Conference dates September 24th-26th 2025

Hotel set up and ready for reservations

Election for East and Middle TN - completed

- **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, Catie Williams, [cwilliams@jaxenergy.com](mailto:cwilliams@jaxenergy.com)
- **Next Board meeting:**  
**July 9th, 2025 at Brentwood Water office**

## New Business:

Vendor invoices being sent out for yearly advertisement (delayed)

Vendor registration forms updated/being sent out

Hotel rate for conference is \$110 a night while they last

Conference speakers – suggestions and current commitments

Conference giveaways – suggestions and rules

Operator EXPO attendees May 15th – Lebanon



# 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.**

**BAVCO**

**TAUD**

**Backflow Specialty Co., Inc.**

**Mid America Marketing (Watts / Ames / Febco)**

**Fox Sales, Inc.**

**Safe-T-Cover**

**Backflow Control**

**Astra Backflow Inc.**

**Labtronx**

**Backflow Preventer Drew Cook**

**Astra Backflow**

*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

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**TBPA**