

Tennessee Backflow News

Winter 2026



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Last meetings
minutes
attached below
- see page 9

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Board
Meetings:
April 8th, & July 8th

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Letter from the President

Hello TBPA members! I am honored to serve as your TBPA chapter president for the next two years. It's hard to believe another year has gone by. I would like to start out by giving thanks to all the vendors and attendees that were able to make it to our annual conference in Gatlinburg this past September.

If you did not make it, you missed hearing some great presentations from some knowledgeable speakers. The attendees also took a guided tour behind the scenes of the Aquarium in Gatlinburg. The board decided to have the conference in Gatlinburg this year. It will be held at the Embassy Suites again on October 22,23, 2026. The board meeting will be held on Wednesday the 21st around 5PM.

We are in the process of gathering some great speakers for this year's conference. If you have any suggestions for topics, you would like to see presented at this year's conference please contact a board member with your suggestion. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chapter president for the next two years.

David Risner
TBPA President

TBPA Board Members



Name	Affiliation	Phone # - Email	Fax #
David Risner President	Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Murfreesboro, TN	615-848-3222 drisner@murfreesborotn.gov	615-848-3244
Bill Jennings Vice President	City of Brentwood Water Services Brentwood, TN	615-371-0080 bill.jennings@brentwoodtn.gov	
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 Walker 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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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 or contact TAUD (615)898-8283.

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/. Written registration and 30 days notice is required for the following classes:

Cross Connection Basic (Classroom)

Duration: 3 day - Class Fee: \$370 member
\$390 non-member - class time:
8:30am-4pm

DATES

3/18 - 3/20 - Clarksville, TN
3/31- 4/2 - Murfreesboro, TN
4/8- 4/10 - Knoxville, TN

Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335

DATES

03/04 - 03/06
03/09 - 03/11
03/25 - 03/27
04/08 - 04/10

Cross Connection Renewal

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

DATES

3/3/26 - Farragut, TN - **class full**
3/17/26 - Clarksville, TN
3/30/26 - Murfreesboro, TN
4/7/26 - Knoxville, TN

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$170

DATES

03/17
03/18
04/14
04/15

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



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Middle Tennessee News

A big thank you goes out to all members that attended this year conference in Gatlinburg.

I hope everyone was able to come away with some knowledge that they didn't arrive with.

The board works very hard to improve the conference every year, so if you have any suggestions, let the board know! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Brown
Middle TN Director

East Tennessee

Hello everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are easing smoothly into the new year.

If you weren't able to attend the local TBPA conference, be sure to mark May 4–6, 2026 on your calendar for the ABPA's 41st Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

The 1st Quarter 2026 ABPA Newsletter includes a spotlight on our Tennessee Chapter, and I'm honored to be featured. One of the things I shared in that article is how much I've learned from the experienced professionals in our chapter. Being part of TBPA has given me mentors, connections, and practical knowledge that I simply couldn't have gained on my own. Every meeting, conference, and conversation has helped me grow in this field.

As we move into 2026, I'd love to encourage each of you to stay engaged, invite others to join us, and help strengthen our chapter. Whether it's attending quarterly meetings, sharing your expertise with newer members, or bringing a colleague to an event, your involvement makes a real difference. The more we support each other, the stronger our backflow community becomes.

Stay warm, and thank you for everything you contribute to TBPA.

Thanks,
Brianna Walker
TBPA East TN Director

TBPA Board Meeting Update - January 2026

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance \$17,428.62 including savings **(\$5.00)**
- **Roll:** David R., David B., Bill Jennings, Sherry H. - Virtual: Michael R., Josh L., DeWayne C., Brianna Walker, Catie W., and Jared G.

Old Business:

2026 quarterly meeting dates: January 7th, April 8th, and July 8th

2026 Conference dates will be October 21st-23rd - Embassy Suites in Gatlinburg, TN.

Elections due. Vice President is up for vote, as David Risner is moving up to President in January. Also, West TN Director is up for election.

New Business:

Expanding vendors mentioned by Josh Legg/still clean water related

Touring Ober Gatlinburg for conference

Updated proctor checklist/protocol on Fleming

House Bill 166 in NC

Legal presentation

2025 conference reviewed

Ideas of speakers for 2026 conference

Tennessee chapter election results - Vice President will be

Bill Jennings and West TN Director will be Jared Gowan

- **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
- **Next Board meeting:**
April 8th

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

Mid America Marketing (Watts / Ames / Febco)

Fox Sales, Inc.

Safe-T-Cover

Backflow Control

Astra Backflow Inc.

Labtronx



THANK
You
SO VERY
much

BACKFLOW LINKS

For more backflow information check out the American Backflow web site: www.abpa.org

Check Out Our Website!

www.tnbackflow.com

Your Association working for safe drinking water in Tennessee

Visit Our Facebook Page!

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



TBPA