

# Tennessee Backflow News

Spring 2026



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Last meetings  
minutes  
attached below  
- see page 9

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

*July 8th*

*Oct. 21st @  
conference*

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## Letter from the President

Hello TBPA, Members!

I hope everyone is looking forward to some nice weather soon. We have been through about every type of weather so far this spring.

On behalf of the board, I invite you to make plans to attend the 2026 TBPA annual Conference. This year's conference will once again be held at the Embassy Suites Gatlinburg on October 22-23rd 2026. Plans for speakers and presentations are in the works, and the event will be loaded with technical & educational aspects of the backflow industry. Stay tuned to educational aspects of the backflow industry. Stay tuned to your email and the TBPA website for updates and the conference agenda. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

On May 21st Bill Jennings, David Brown ,Rey Espinoza and I represented the TBPA at the TAUD annual Operator Expo. We seemed to have more people stop by our table this year. I hope that translates into more attendees at the annual conference.

Feel free to contact a board member if you have a question about the conference or need help with the registration/renewal process. Thank you all for the work you do each day to support the mission of this Association.

David Risner  
President, TBPA

# 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	
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Dewayne Culpepper Director-At-Large	TAUD	931-607-6981 dewayneculpepper@taud.org	615-896-9022 office
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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COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**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:

## Cross Connection Basic (Classroom)

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

### DATES

June 24th - Murfreesboro, TN - **FULL**  
July 22nd - Chattanooga, TN  
July 29th - Knoxville, TN  
July 26th - Murfreesboro, TN

## Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335

### DATES

June 23rd - June 25th  
August 12th - August 14th  
August 26th - August 28th

## Cross Connection Renewal

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

### DATES

June 23rd - Murfreesboro, TN  
July 21st - Chattanooga, TN  
July 28th - Knoxville, TN - **FULL**  
August 25th - Murfreesboro, TN

## Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$170

### DATES

June 9th  
June 10th  
July 14th  
July 15th  
August 18th  
August 19th

### **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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## BACKFLOW SPECIALTY CO., INC.

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**EAST COAST**

CHARLOTTE, NC  
Toll Free: (844) 202-1618  
Fax: (704) 684-0028  
Email: [ncinfo@bavco.com](mailto:ncinfo@bavco.com)

# Middle Tennessee News

Hope everyone had a great winter, and everyone is ready for spring and warmer weather.

As the warmer days approach, I hope everyone was able to winterize their systems.

And with warmer weather ,the irrigation systems will be starting up. Which means we will start to get very busy as we start to test all the devices coming out of hibernation.

So, I hope everyone has a great summer , and look forward to seeing you all at the conference in Gatlinburg October 21-23.

Thanks.

David M Brown  
Middle TN Director, TBPA

# East Tennessee

Hi TBPA!

I hope everyone is having a good start to the summer as irrigation systems come online and backflow testing picks up. This is always a busy season for both field work and managing cross connection control programs, and I'm continually reminded how much we can learn from one another. Whether it's testing questions, program challenges, or field issues, don't hesitate to reach out!

I've recently reached out for guidance on residential fire sprinkler systems and water tap connection layouts, and I'm also working on updating our mobile hydrant meter policy. Thank you to those who have already shared examples and advice. If you have recommendations, I'd love to hear them.

On a personal note, I'll be hiking Mt. LeConte this weekend while in Gatlinburg, so I can give pointers if anyone wants to do the hike during the TBPA Annual Conference this fall. ;)

If you ever want to talk more about program management or anything at all, I'm always happy to connect.

Thanks,  
Brianna Walker  
TBPA East TN Director

# TBPA Board Meeting Update - April 2026

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance \$13,374.05 including savings (\$5.00)
- **Roll:** Jared G., Catie W., Bill J., David R., Wayne O., Timothy, Sherry H., Brianna W., and Josh L.

## Old 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  
Reviewed 2025 conference  
Ideas of speakers for 2026 conference  
Tennessee chapter election results - Vice President will be  
Bill Jennings and West TN Director will be Jared Gowan

## New Business:

App with conference interaction  
Not using tickets for giveaways  
Voted Dewayne Culpepper - Director at large  
Speaker recommendations: Ben R., Erich Webber, Gary McClaren, Steven Bitely, Steve Fox. Giveaway ideas: 1 or 2 tablets (Ipad and Samsung)  
Leatherman  
Gift Cards  
Coffee Mugs

- **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 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](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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