

Tennessee Backflow News

Summer 2026



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Last meetings
minutes
attached below
- see page 9

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting:
October 21st
5:30pm (hotel
conference room)

2026 TAUD
Conference:
October 22nd - 23rd
in Gatlinburg, TN

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Letter from the President

Here we are again at the end of another summer. I hope everyone had a great summer and enjoyed time with their families. Personally, I am ready for falls cooler temperatures, and maybe a little college football also.

Summer is always a busy time in Cross Connection, but now it's time to relax a little, take a deep breath and get ready for the TBPA Annual Conference that will be held in Gatlinburg TN on October 22-23rd, 2026 at the Embassy suites of Gatlinburg. If you have not registered, there is still time, but hurry as it will be here soon. We have some wonderful and informative speakers lined up as well as multiple vendors attending.

Our next board meeting will be held in conjunction with the conference on October 21st at 5:30PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel. I encourage everyone to attend and participate.

See you all in Gatlinburg!

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.walker@loudonutilities.org	
Dewayne Culpepper Director-At-Large	TAUD	(615)-898-8090 dewayneculpepper@taud.org	615-898-8283
Kathy Riley International President	Charlotte Water	980-226-4304 kathy.riley@charlottenc.gov	
Stephen Bitely International Vice President	Ironsmith Fire, LLC Jacksonville, Ark.	501-605-3495 stephenbitely@yahoo.com	
Troy Baird International Past President	Bac-Flo Unlimited	210-698-0411 troy@speackbackflow.com	
Joshua Legg ABPA Region 3 Director	City of Concord	704-920-5352 leggj@concordnc.gov	

The TN 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 \$95 annually. (Dues include \$75 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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CHECK ONE: RENEWAL _____ MEMBER # _____ NEW _____

ABPA DUES: \$75.00

TBPA DUES: \$20.00

ANNUAL DUES TOTAL \$95.00

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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

9/16 - 9/18 - Murfreesboro, TN
9/23- 9/25 - Lexington, TN
10/14 - 10/16 - Kingsport, TN
12/2 - 12/4 - Murfreesboro, TN

Basic Workshop

Duration: 3 days Class Fee: \$335

DATES

11/04 - 11/06
11/18 - 11/20
12/02 - 12/04
12/16 - 12/18

Cross Connection Renewal

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

DATES

9/15 - Murfreesboro, TN
9/22 - Lexington, TN
10/13 - Kingsport, TN
12/1 - Murfreesboro, TN

Renewal Cross Connection Class

Duration: 1 day Class Fee: \$170

DATES

10/01
10/02
11/03
11/10
12/08
12/09

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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EAST COAST

CHARLOTTE, NC

Toll Free: (844) 202-1618

Fax: (704) 684-0028

Email: ncinfo@bavco.com

Middle Tennessee News

Here we are again at the end of another summer. I hope everyone had a great summer and enjoyed time with their families. Personally, I am ready for falls cooler temperatures, and maybe a little college football also.

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See you all in Gatlinburg!

David Risner
TBPA President

East Tennessee

Hi TBPA!

I hope everyone is doing well and staying cool this summer! I know this is a busy time for many of us with field work, inspections, and keeping our programs and other responsibilities running smoothly.

I'd love to hear what everyone has been working on lately. Whether you've found a helpful solution to a program challenge, updated a policy, or come across a great resource, please feel free to share!

Can't wait to see you all at conference! Reach out to a friend to recommend them to come!

Thanks,
Brianna Walker
TBPA East TN Director

West Tennessee

Hey everyone!

Summer is almost over I know I am ready for some fall weather after these temps we have had this Summer.

Also glad we are wrapping up our busiest time of the year in the backflow world.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon in October for the 2026 TBPA conference in Gatlinburg. We will have some great speakers, so I hope you all are able to attend!

GO VOLS!

Jared Gowan
TPBA West TN Director

TBPA Board Meeting Update - July 2026

- **Treasurer's report:** Account Balance \$13,669.34 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:

- Expanding vendors mentioned by Josh Legg/still clean water related
- 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
- Touring Ober Gatlinburg for conference
- Updated proctor checklist/protocol on Fleming
- House Bill 166 in NC

New Business:

- Fake backflow devices being bought from Amazon - -
- Options for conference giveaways
- Operator Expo - Bill attended it went well
- Option of possible App instead of tickets for giveaways Round table (if needed) for conference
- Contracting out for fire-line testing
- Many speaker and vendor options discussed

- **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:** October 21st @ 5:30pm

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



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/>



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