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Co-ops power communities with purpose

ommunities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Jackson Energy is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Jackson Energy, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why?



Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Jackson Energy, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

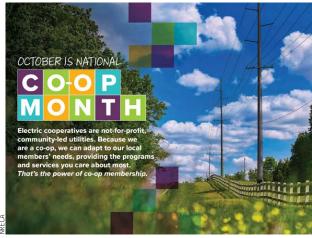
Open and Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

Democratic Member Control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.

Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute money to the coop to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Jackson Energy this happens through paying your energy bills.

Autonomy and Independence: Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

Education, Training and Information: Co-ops continuously focus



on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

Concern for Community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them prosper and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.



Letter from the President

Lisa Baker, Editor Published by Jackson Energy

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WORKING FOR YOU



Five simple steps to become a co-op voter

he 2024 general elections are taking place nationwide next month, giving Jackson Energy members–like you–the opportunity to make your voice

heard on issues that affect our community. This election is our opportunity to elect candidates who support energy policies that promote safe, reliable and affordable energy.

To help, we are partnering with Co-ops Vote, a national, nonpartisan initiative focused on enhancing the political strength of electric cooperatives through relationship-building with policymakers.

Co-ops Vote is a program built to give members of the Jackson Energy community the resources and information needed to vote with Jackson Energy issues in mind. So, how can you be a co-op voter at the polls? It's as easy as following these five steps.

Get ready: Registering to vote is simple and easy! To help, Co-ops Vote has a website full of voter resources and information. You can check it out at www. vote.coop. Remember, it's essential to regularly check your registration and verify that your information is correct and up to date.

Get the details: Every state's election process is different, and it's important to know about upcoming voter registration deadlines, the process for requesting absentee ballots and more, so you don't miss key dates. We've made it easy, and you can find all the information about voting in Kentucky by visiting www. vote.coop/gotv.

Get informed: Before you head to the polls, it's important to be educated on the policy issues that help keep our community's power reliable, affordable and safe. Learn more about these issues by joining Voices for Cooperative Power, a national network of co-op advocates, by visiting www. voicesforcooperativepower.com/issues.

Get the background: Now that you're registered and informed, it's time to learn about your candidates. You can view a list of your current elected officials on the Voices for Cooperative Power website and then click to view their official website for news releases and official policy positions.

Get others involved: Now that you've done your research and are officially ready to head to the polls as a co-op voter, it's time to get your family, friends and neighbors involved.

Together, we have the power to educate lawmakers and build awareness about our concerns that are important to our communities. The co-op voice is powerful, and it starts with you.

> By President & CEO Carol Wright

A flight to remember

very year, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including our co-op, sponsor veterans to go on an Honor Flight. It is one of the most important days of the year for our co-op and it's always one of the most memorable days for the veterans from our area on the flight.

On Saturday, Aug. 24, Army veterans Earl Brandenburg of Irvine and Glenn Wallin of Brodhead, who served during the Vietnam War, joined other Kentucky war veterans for this year's Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. The experience is a busy day of touring and tributes to recognize veterans' service and sacrifices.

The Honor Flight itinerary included seeing memorials dedicated to those who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The group also viewed a monument recognizing Marine Corps veterans. This year's Honor Flight participants witnessed a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

On the way home the veterans participated in a "mail call" reminiscent of their wartime duty. Each received notes of appreciation sent by friends, family, school children and electric co-op employees.

As a fitting finale to the day, Jackson Energy employees and families were on hand for a special homecoming celebration at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. Honor Flight participants were



greeted by flag waving and cheering as they paraded through the airport terminal building.

This is the 13th year Jackson Energy has sponsored Honor Flight. It's a small way of expressing thanks to all Kentuckians who have served this great country. We owe them so much.

To apply for a flight or learn more about Honor Flight Kentucky, visit www.honorflightky.org.





Above, employees and families welcome our veterans home as they arrive back at the Blue Grass Airport. Photo: Keyona Wade. At top, veteran Earl Brandenburg and guardian Terry Carroll arrive back in Lexington. Photo: Tim Webb. Below left, veterans Earl Brandenburg and Glenn Wallin ready to take on Washington, D.C. Photo: Katie Dotson

Coming to your town

Member Appreciation Event dates/locations

Oct. 15: 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Estill County Meade's Do-It Center–Irvine Lee County Jackson Energy's Beattyville District Office Rockcastle County Renfro Valley–Mount Vernon

Oct. 16: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Clay County Jackson Energy's Manchester Office Laurel County Jackson Energy's London District Office Owsley County United Methodist Church Life

Center Booneville

Oct. 17: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Jackson County Jackson Energy's McKee District Office

Stop by and register for our member appreciation event and collect your free bucket and LED bulb. Drive-thru registration will be available. Members may only register at one location.

2024 Annual Business Meeting October 17 - 3 p.m. McKee District Office

- Voting hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- One vote per membership
- Voting will be in-person and ballots will be submitted electronically
- Photo identification will be required
- · Visit jacksonenergy.com for info

Making a difference for families

ackson Energy, one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, helped raise more than \$18,000 worth of much-needed items for Ronald McDonald Houses in Lexington and Louisville. Since 2017, co-ops have collected items from employees and the public. This year's drive saw the most items ever collected.

Throughout July, co-ops gathered the donations in a Wish List Drive campaign to support both Ronald McDonald Houses, not-for-profit homes that enable families to be near their hospitalized children.

"At Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass, we know that

a family with a sick child is a sick family," says Nate Graham, the organization's CEO. "That is why we are honored to get to try and make life a little less hard for these families during some of the most difficult times



Employees from several cooperatives volunteered to deliver Wish List items to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass location in Lexington. Photo: Sha Phillips

of their lives. But there is no way we could do it without our community partners.

"Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives never cease to amaze us with

their incredible generosity and ability to make a huge impact for our families. We are thankful to have such purpose-driven partners that are committed to making Kentucky a better place for its people."

Co-op employees dropped off donations that included snacks, personal care items and other products to help families feel at home while staying at the Ronald McDonald House facilities. Over the last seven years, co-ops

have raised more than \$78,000 worth of Wish List items for the two houses. Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives serve 89 Kentucky coun-

ties, sharing a common vision of service. Commitment to community is one of the cooperatives' core values, and helping families of sick children fits the bill perfectly.

"Our cooperative is proud to support this organization and the priceless service they provide to families during their times of greatest need," says Jackson Energy President and CEO Carol Wright. "The Ronald McDonald House Charities hold a special place in the hearts of our employees, who donated over \$7,200 this year. Their donations were used to purchase much needed resources for the Lexington House."

Scholarships \$2,000 NO ESSAY

Applications will be accepted until November 29, 2024

High school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or trade school in the fall of 2025 are invited to apply-NO ESSAY REQUIRED!

Student's name:
High school:
Complete home address:
Phone number:
Email address:
Name of person (and relation) on the electric bill:
Jackson Energy account number:

For a complete set of rules and to APPLY ONLINE, vist our website at www.jacksonenergy.com/ jackson-energy-essay-scholarship

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Applicants may also complete this form & return to: Jackson Energy Cooperative, Attn: Scholarships, 115 Jackson Energy Lane, McKee, KY 40447