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## It's a matter of (co-op!) principle Part 2

It's that time of year for reflection, and topping our list of things we're grateful for is our wonderful community. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to our communities that much stronger.

You may recall that last month, we touched on the first three cooperative principles, so this month, we'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

### Autonomy and Independence

Just like all co-ops, Jackson Energy operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

### Education and Training

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.



We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

### Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we

call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. There's no better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

### Concern for Community

The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too.

On behalf of everyone at Jackson Energy, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

## SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor

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A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Cooperative 

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Jackson Energy

*Working for You*

## Veterans, thank you for your service

This month our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and the family feasts that often accompany it. But in our hurry to get to the turkey and stuffing, we often overlook another important date: Veterans Day.

Kentucky is home to more than 300,000 veterans deserving of our gratitude for their service to this country. I'm proud to count many of them as members of Jackson Energy.

Jackson Energy has three veterans who are employees of our co-op and four veterans that serve on our board of directors. They are Staking Engineer Joe Garland, U.S. Army; 1<sup>st</sup> Class Line Tech Brent Johnson, U.S. Army Reserves; District Operations Supervisor Mary York, U.S. Marines; Director Keith Binder, U.S. Army; Director Landis Cornett, U.S. Navy; Director Jim Hays, U.S. Army Reserves; Director Gordon Phillips, U.S. Air Force.

For 10 years, Jackson Energy has honored veterans by joining with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to sponsor Honor Flight. The all-expenses-paid, one-day tour of Washington, D.C., takes veterans to see memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.

Veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War were scheduled to go on this year's Honor Flight, before it was canceled due to COVID-19. Among the group is two-time Bronze Star recipient Bobby Gibson, who served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War.

During a 12-month tour of duty in the Vietnam jungle, he



Kentuckian Bobby Gibson served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War. Photo: Tim Webb

spent most of his time positioned behind a 155 mm howitzer, an artillery piece that could strike with accuracy up to 9 miles away. Large Chinook helicopters were constantly airlifting Gibson and his squad to "where the action was." The fighting was intense and too often lethal.

It took "a little bit of bravery and a little bit of silliness" to survive the experience, he says.

Gibson and other veterans who were on the roster for Honor Flight 2021 are profiled in articles found at <https://honorflightky.org/aboutus/news-3>.

As we give thanks this month, let's remember the blessings of America that have been brought to us by the men and women who stepped into the gap in defense of our nation.

To all veterans, we thank you for your service.



Carol Wright  
President & CEO

# Avoid solar energy scams

Solar energy is booming, and the future is brighter than ever. Through the use of rooftop solar panels, many homeowners can now harness the sun's natural rays to produce their own electricity that's environmentally friendly and cost effective.

But with the increasing popularity of solar, unfortunately, some businesses are taking advantage of consumers who are interested in generating their own energy through rooftop panels.

While many solar companies are genuine and truly want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are the occasional bad apples.

You've likely heard a story or two about solar vendors that promised rooftop panels that would generate enough electricity to power the entire home. Then, after the homeowner has paid tens of thousands of dollars for the installation, the solar panels aren't working, and the vendor is nowhere to be found. Sadly, this story has been the reality for many consumers.

If you're interested in solar panels for your home, consider these tips before installation:

- Talk to your local electric co-op first. We want you to feel confident about any decisions you make about your home energy use, especially decisions about generating energy at home.



- Collect at least three quotes from different solar companies to ensure you're getting a competitive deal. As with any major purchase, research is key, so thoroughly read customer reviews for each of the three solar vendors.
- If you speak to a solar vendor and they use high-pressure tactics, like an offer that's only good for 24 hours, run! Any reputable solar company will recognize that you need time to review a proposal and thoroughly weigh your decision.
- You know if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. So, if a solar company is making promises that sound unachievable and outlandish, they probably are. Remember, if you have any questions, you can always count on your electric co-op for advice.

- Finally, when it's time to review and sign a solar contract, make sure the language is clear and easy to understand. Ensure any prior verbal (or emailed) promises are also included in the contract.

Going solar is a major decision, so you'll want to conduct a good bit of research first and be sure to consider all your options—including your co-op's renewable option. You don't have to install a system at your home to have renewable power.

Our Cooperative Solar program is an option to consider and is affordable and much more convenient than installing private renewable power systems, and there is no hassle with the maintenance and expense of owning your own system.

For more information and additional tips—visit our website at [www.jacksonenergy.com/solar](http://www.jacksonenergy.com/solar).

# How to safely install holiday lights



SHUTTERSTOCK/SHERWOOD

One of the most magical things about the holidays is seeing the lights. If you aren't careful, though, improperly installed lighting can cause injury or an electrical fire.

An important first step is to choose the right lights. Outdoor lights are manufactured to withstand rain, wind and snow, while indoor lights have a thinner insulation that can be damaged by weather, resulting in a fire or electric shock.

Be sure your cords are not frayed because damaged cords can cause an electrical short.

Always start with a decorating plan and avoid hazards to ensure that your project flows smoothly.

Don't hang your lights near power lines, and keep indoor lights away from space heaters, candles and fireplaces.

Avoid hanging lights when the weather is bad. Climbing a slippery ladder onto the roof can be dangerous.

Wear slip-resistant shoes, climb slowly, avoid sudden movements

and make sure to place the ladder on a flat surface.

Always work with a buddy when hanging decorations. Extend the ladder at least 3 feet beyond the roof edge. Don't step on the top two rungs of the ladder and ask a friend to hold the ladder to keep it secure.

While climbing, keep your hands free by using a tool belt. Lean the ladder at the correct angle by following this rule: for every 4 feet of ladder height, space the base of the ladder 1 foot from the wall. Stand on the ladder centered between the rungs.

Don't overreach. Always move the ladder when necessary.

Never use nails, tacks or staples for hanging because this can pierce the protective insulation on the lights and create a fire hazard. Use gutter clips especially designed for string lights to secure them in place.

By slowing down and being careful, you can stay safe as you deck the halls this holiday season!

## Scholarship deadline is Nov. 30



SENGCHOY INTIA/DOBE STOCK

## \$2,000 NO ESSAY

High school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or trade school in the fall of 2022 are invited to apply—**NO ESSAY REQUIRED!**

For more information and to **APPLY ONLINE**, visit our website at [www.jacksonenergy.com](http://www.jacksonenergy.com).



KAREN ROACH/DOBE STOCK

**Jackson Energy offices will be closed for the following:**

**November 11: Veterans Day**  
**November 25–26: Thanksgiving Holiday**

*Dispatchers will be on duty to handle emergency and outage calls.*