

JACKSON ENERGY



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WORKING FOR YOU

Slow down: School bus safety for adults and children

As our children and grandchildren return to classrooms to begin a new school year, they will be encouraged to develop good study habits, practice their best behavior and become involved with healthy activities.

Those are great lessons for all of us.

As a cooperative that belongs to and is led by our members, Jackson Energy feels a responsibility to support area schools, students and teachers. Like many of you, our staff and board members are volunteers, coaches and neighbors.

We are proud to offer college scholarships and sponsor high school juniors to attend the youth tour in both Frankfort and Washington, D.C. Our skilled line technicians teach about how electricity works and how to be safe around it during demonstrations at area schools.

Just like in the schools we visit, Jackson Energy practices a culture of safety and learning.

Of all the ways members of our community support students, one of the easiest but most crucial habits we can all encourage is being careful on the roadways. As school classes get underway this month, more vehicles will be on the roads and more children will be getting on and off school buses,



CHERYL CASEY/ADOBE STOCK

crossing the road or walking alongside the road.

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus.

Every morning Jackson Energy crews begin their workday with a "tailgate meeting" and safety briefing. In a world filled with more distractions and demands than ever, it takes

an intentional and mindful effort to truly stay safe.

Please talk to your children about school bus safety: Wait until the bus makes a complete stop; wait for the bus driver to signal it is safe to cross in front of the bus; and watch for oncoming traffic in both directions.

We send our best wishes to all students beginning classes this month and extend our gratitude to both the teachers who educate them and the families who are raising them.

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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MAIN OFFICE ADDRESS

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McKee, Kentucky 40447

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www.jacksonenergy.com
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REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

OFFICES

KY HWY 290, McKee
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WORKING FOR YOU



jacksonenergy.com

Higher education:

Train to be a co-op lineworker to get an office with an incredible view

Besides being a reliable provider of safe, affordable electricity, Jackson Energy is involved in initiatives that make our communities better places to live. Pursuing economic development projects that bring more jobs and better paychecks to the area is one way we accomplish this.

We rarely include the co-op in conversations about potential employers. We should, though, because oftentimes we're hiring, too.

Within Jackson Energy there are many positions that require specific skill sets and technical knowledge. One particular need is for lineworkers, those co-op team members responsible for installing and maintaining power lines.

Here in Kentucky, as well as across the nation, line crews are aging, and it's essential that we have trained, knowledgeable people ready to step into their shoes. Labor statistics indicate the demand for lineworkers nationwide is expected to grow by 9% this year alone.

As the high school class of 2023 begins its senior year, it's a fair bet that very few of them are considering a career as an electrical utility lineworker.

Being a lineworker isn't for everyone, I'll admit. It's hard hats and hard work, often high in the air and sometimes in extreme conditions. But when your "office" is at the top of a 50-foot pole, you can't beat the view. For the individual who loves the outdoors and wants to be a community hero when the power goes out, it's a rewarding career.

We're fortunate to have some premier pre-apprentice lineworker training opportunities right here in eastern Kentucky. High school graduates who are interested in pursuing a career on the lines can register for training at the Lineman Training Program at Somerset Community College. These eight-week, hands-on training programs give would-be lineworkers a leg up when applying for "earn-while-you-learn" apprenticeship positions with co-op line crews. It's a rewarding career with excellent pay.

Do you know someone who has the right stuff for our special brand of "higher education"? If so, encourage them to pursue their dream and work hard, because the reward and satisfaction of being a lineworker is second to none.

By President & CEO
Carol Wright



Drones pose electrical safety issues

The use of drones has increased rapidly in the past several years. Coming in various sizes ranging from hummingbird to bald eagle, these remote-controlled aircraft are being used in a vast number of ways by government, industries, commercial enterprises and hobbyists.

Electric utilities have come to rely on drones to help inspect power lines, including during storm restoration work when it might be difficult to access certain areas. While drones have not yet filled the skies, as many predict they one day will, Jackson Energy reminds both hobbyists and commercial users to be aware of dangers when operating the little aerial devices near power lines and electrical equipment.

“Some of the same things we learned about flying kites as kids carry over to drones, too,” says Carol Wright, president & CEO at Jackson Energy. “While drones are not tethered to you with a string like a kite that can fall across overhead power lines and put you in direct contact with electricity, drones still present safety concerns their pilots need to consider.”

Some things drone operators, both commercial and recreational, should keep in mind include:

- Keep drones at least 100-150 feet away from power lines, electrical substations and other electrical equipment. Power lines can interfere with the radio signals to your drone causing it to veer off course or crash. This can pose danger



SYCHOV SERHISH/SHUTTERSTOCK

to anyone standing below or damage your drone or the power lines.

- Should your drone get caught in power lines or crash into a utility pole or substation, never attempt to retrieve it yourself. Attempting to free the drone by entering a substation is not only criminal trespassing, you can be electrocuted. Call your electric cooperative for assistance.
- If you are in an unfamiliar area or don't know the name of the utility, most poles and all substations are marked with the utility's name and may have an emergency phone number. If you still are unable to contact the utility, call 911 and ask for assistance. Depending on where your drone has landed, it could cause a power outage or damage to the electrical equipment.

Your co-op is coming to your town

10 a.m.
to
2 p.m.

Member Appreciation Event dates/locations:

Sept. 14—Lee County

Jackson Energy's Beattyville District Office

Sept. 15—Rockcastle County

Renfro Valley - Mount Vernon

Sept. 16—Estill County

Meade's Do-It Center
Irvine

Sept. 19—Clay County

Jackson Energy's
Manchester Office

Sept. 20—Owsley County

United Methodist Church
Booneville

Sept. 21—Laurel County

Jackson Energy's
London District Office

Sept. 22—Jackson County*

Jackson Energy's*
McKee District Office

- Members are invited to stop by and register for our member appreciation event and collect your free bucket and LED bulb.
- Drive-thru registration—members will be able to register without getting out of their vehicle.
- Members registered will be eligible for a \$100 gift card—winners will be announced the following week.

**Held in conjunction with Jackson Energy's Annual Business Meeting*

2022 Annual Business Meeting

September 22
12 p.m.

McKee District Office
103 Mildred Road
McKee, Kentucky

- Drive-up business meeting.
- Business meeting will be broadcast over radio.
- Members stay in their vehicle.
- Must be present to win cash prizes; cash prize winners will be announced at the end of the business meeting.
- Register for the business meeting and collect your free bucket and LED bulb.
- Members registered will be also be eligible to win a \$100 gift card; winners will be announced the following week.

Making summer special

More than 900 athletes and hundreds of coaches and family members participated in competitions during the 2022 Special Olympics State Summer Games at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

Jackson Energy and other Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives again proudly sponsored the games, which took place June 3-4. The Summer Games included competitions in track and field, swimming, soccer, bocce and rhythmic gymnastics.

Cooperatives provided more than 65 volunteers to help the events run smoothly.

"We are proud to help make the Special Olympics State Summer Games possible and to make it an unforgettable day for the athletes," says April Renner, vice president of corporate services at Jackson Energy. "We are inspired by their courage and compassion, and we are proud to support them."

Supporting the summer games gives the cooperative an opportunity to remind the world about the principles they adhere to as a cooperative. In particular, it allows Jackson Energy to demonstrate its commitment to the communities it serves.

This was the 10th year of partnership between Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Special Olympics Kentucky.

"Special Olympics is community-driven and predominantly a volunteer organization, so it's a great fit for co-op support," says Renner.

"Even after working all day, you feel better than when you arrived," says Lisa Baker, executive administrative assistant at Jackson Energy, explaining why she enjoyed volunteering at the games. "It was very rewarding to see the level of effort and the heart of the participants, and the special moments that occurred throughout the day."

The state Summer Games are the Kentucky Special Olympics' largest competition of the year. This was the 27th year of competition at Eastern Kentucky University. Each athlete qualifies through participation at a regional or area-level event.



TIM WEBB



TIM WEBB



TIM WEBB



Jackson Energy employee volunteers at the event, from back left, are Lindsay Russell, Angie Hisle, Danielle Stewart, April Renner, Lynne House, Heather Kirby; front left, Taylor Moore, Jessica Smith and Lisa Baker. Photo: Sha Phillips