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

Ace Hardware, State Farm, Land O'Lakes and Jackson Energy all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Jackson Energy was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise

unmet in our community. So in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone

tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and an equal vote. Jackson Energy's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities



BRANDY BUCKNAM

in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to

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SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative 

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REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

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Clover Bottom

Jackson Energy

Working for You

Pasta, cookies and your co-op

According to the National Day Calendar, 168 official “days” are commemorated in October, such as World Smile Day on October 1, National Kentucky Day on October 19 and National Bologna Day on October 24.

That’s in addition to the 108 different causes, products or activities

that Jackson Energy is a not-for-profit cooperative rather than an investor-owned utility? Instead of shareholders or out-of-town interests making decisions about how this business is run for the benefit of others, Jackson Energy is owned by, led by and dedicated to the people we serve.



celebrated in October, from Pasta Month to Roller Skating Month. Tucked in that list between Cookie Month and Crime Prevention Month is a celebration that’s been on the books since 1930 and one of special significance to Jackson Energy. October is Co-op Month.

Though we are proud of our history and the tremendous foresight of the local members of our community who founded Jackson Energy in 1938, this celebration of cooperatives is not just a history lesson for us. The cooperative principles which inspired previous generations to band together and bring electric service to our communities 83 years ago still guide us today as we work together to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you, your family and local businesses, schools and other institutions.

What difference does it make

As a member of Jackson Energy, you have an equal vote to decide the board members who govern and direct the affairs of the co-op. These community leaders represent your interests and are accountable to co-op members, not special interest groups or outside agendas.

Because Jackson Energy is a not-for-profit cooperative, we work to deliver electricity at-cost, rather than making a profit.

So, as October brings Pretzel Month, Go on a Field Trip Month and Halloween, there is reason to celebrate the cooperative spirit all month, and all year long.



Carol Wright
President & CEO

Jackson Energy employees give a smile



LISA BAKER

Jackson Energy employees, along with employees from other Kentucky Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, helped provide more than \$5,000 in donations of money and supplies for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) in Lexington and Louisville.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities provide lodging and comfort to families during one of the most distressing times imaginable, when a child is sick and in the hospital. Jackson Energy is proud of our employees who are helping Ronald McDonald Houses provide a “home-away-from-home” for these families.

In addition to monetary donations, employees provided goods such as food pantry items, health products, cleaning supplies and more.

Throughout the years, cooperative employees and their families volunteer to assist with providing meals, restocking supplies, cleaning and decorating at both of Kentucky’s Ronald McDonald Houses.

“We are so grateful for Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and their commitment to serving these children and their families when they need it the most,” says Nate Graham, executive director of RMHC of the Bluegrass.



Jackson Energy Manager of Accounting April Renner, left, and Executive Administrative Assistant Lisa Baker, along with other Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, delivered donations to the Ronald McDonald Houses in Kentucky. Photo: Sha Phillips

Anticipating Honor Flight 2022

Our everyday mission at Jackson Energy is to improve the quality of life of the members we serve. In addition to providing safe, affordable and reliable electricity, one of the ways we demonstrate this commitment is through an Honor Flight for our veterans.

This event flies veterans from World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War to Washington, D.C., to see the monuments dedicated to their service, but the September flight had to be canceled due to health concerns related to COVID-19.

Jackson Energy will continue its support next year when the cooperative-sponsored tour resumes. The mission will again be coordinated by Honor Flight Kentucky.

Our veterans represent the American character at its best, and Jackson Energy is proud to celebrate their immeasurable contribution to our nation.

Any veteran interested in participating can learn more at <https://honorflight.org>.



Clay County resident and World War II veteran, Henry Ledford, was one of the veterans on the 2019 Kentucky Touchstone Energy Honor Flight. Photo: Tim Webb

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for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines.

Our close connection to our community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Jackson Energy. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative and the surpluses are used for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and other supporting financial activities.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Jackson Energy is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

Bucket and pole-top rescue



With safety being the top priority at Jackson Energy—our lineworkers must train extensively on safety scenarios to be better prepared for any given situation that may occur at any time, including the worst case scenario—an injured or unconscious lineworker at the top of a pole or in a bucket high in the air.

Bucket and pole-top rescue training is a required training exercise that each lineworker must complete annually—with the hope of never needing to use it.

Above, Jackson Energy Service Tech Andy Bales, right, completes his pole-top rescue training with Service Tech Mike Truett supervising the exercise. Below, Staking Engineer/1st Class Line Tech Jason Montgomery completes the bucket rescue training segment. Photos: Lisa Baker



**\$2,000
NO ESSAY**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications will be accepted
through November 30, 2021

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!

Jackson Energy sponsors a scholarship program each year that awards eight \$2,000 scholarships to outstanding students in our service area.

**For more information and to APPLY ONLINE,
visit our website at www.jacksonenergy.com.**