# Fleming-Mason Energy cooperative news

## In the spirit of giving

From bell ringers at store entrances to TV ads promoting perfect present ideas, giving is a hot topic at this time of year. At Fleming-Mason Energy, we embrace the spirit of giving throughout the year—no holiday required.

Beyond providing safe, reliable and competitively-priced power to our members, we are deeply committed to building stronger, sustainable communities. We take tangible steps to honor the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" through donations of time, money and other resources.

Fleming-Mason Energy put energy into these distinct areas of giving in 2024:

Families and children. We helped area families with sick children by collecting supplies and volunteering at the Ronald McDonald Houses in Lexington and Louisville. Along with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we provided sponsorship and volunteers for the Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games that hosted 1,200 athletes, including several from our area.

**Veterans**. Your co-op made it possible for Donald Brown of Fleming County and Jerry Ruggles of Lewis County to participate in this year's

Honor Flight to view national memorials honoring their military service.

**Safety**. Fleming-Mason Energy employees presented free classroom programs to teach our children how to play it safe around electric power lines and at home.

**Environmental stewardship.** Our Cooperative Solar program offers an easy way for members to support renewable energy initiatives.

**Economic development.** Along with fellow Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we're investing in initiatives to attract business investors and bring more jobs here.

**Education**. The co-op awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to 12 local high school seniors to defray costs for attending a college, university or trade school.

In these ways and more, we strive to make every day a season of giving, because it's the cooperative way.

All of us at Fleming-Mason Energy send best wishes for a happy holiday.

May you fully experience the joy of the season.

### At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.



### All I want for Christmas: a Cooperative Solar subscription

Harness the power of the sun for a unique holiday gift. A solar panel license for Cooperative Solar Farm One allows cooperative members to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without installation hassle or expense. For a one-time payment of \$460 per panel, your gift recipient receives a 25-year license to one of the panels at Cooperative Solar Farm One. Each month, license holders receive credit on their energy bill for the energy generated by their panels. Learn more at cooperativesolar.com.



Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative K



#### Contact us:

In Fleming County: (606) 845-2661

> Other Counties: (800) 464-3144

Hours: 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Editor Lori K. Ulrich

President & CEO Brandon Hunt

Board of Directors Tom Saunders Chairman

> John M. Roe Vice Chairman

Dina Gooding SECRETARY TREASURER

#### Other Directors

Timothy S. Eldridge Rick Hord Regina Rose Shane Smoot

> Attorney Earl Rogers III

Follow us on:









### Support and save

### Show your Co-op Connections card when shopping

The holiday shopping season is here. Fleming-Mason Energy's Co-op Connections member discount app can help you save while keeping your dollars local.

Visit the Co-op Connections website (Connections.coop) to download the free Co-op Connections smartphone app and find all the ways to save locally. Check out the mobile app's "Deals Near Me" option to take advantage of discounts offered to Fleming-Mason Energy members. Use one of the participating dining options to fill up at local restaurants after filling your trunk with toys, clothes, home goods and more.



This year, support local businesses while saving on your holiday shopping with the Co-op Connections app available free to Fleming-Mason Energy members.

### **GENERATOR SAFETY** FOR YOUR HOME

#### Generator Do's and Don'ts

**DO** operate a generator outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation.

**DO** install carbon monoxide alarms inside the home to provide an early warning of this colorless, odorless gas that can kill you.

**DO** turn on the generator before plugging in appliances.

**DO NOT** plug a generator into the wall without installing a transfer switch to prevent backfeed.

**DO NOT** use a generator as a permanent solution.



# Fleming-Mason Energy crews part of historic mutual aid deployment

The largest mutual aid deployment in Kentucky electric cooperative history was boosted by crews from Fleming-Mason Energy who responded to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in late September and October.

At the height of the mutual aid response, more than 250 personnel from 19 Kentucky co-ops were working in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In addition, more than 100 Kentucky co-op contractors also responded to the calls for help.

Employees from Fleming-Mason Energy, including Drew Oney, Justin Dailey, Alec Hart, Cameron Crawford, Aaron Howard and Josh Hamm, spent eight days in Alma, Georgia, helping Satilla EMC restore power. Upon their return, Kevin Clevenger, Jason Story, Jacob Bruch, Tommy Parks, Bradley Edmond and Bubby Pollitt assisted Satilla for an additional six days.

Veteran co-op crews said they had never witnessed this combination of tropical storm-force winds, rainfall and flooding.

Fleming-Mason Energy crews were among nearly 10,000 co-op personnel from 24 states who descended upon the areas hardest hit by Helene.

Fleming-Mason Construction Foreman Cameron Crawford was among the first group to go. He noted the conditions were less than ideal.



Crawford said the mosquitoes were terrible—worse than normal conditions for that part of Georgia, according to locals. He went on to say their crew started work each day at 6 a.m. and did not stop until 8 p.m. Crews showered in a trailer designed for mutual aid crews and slept in an Army-style cot smaller than a twin size bed for a few hours. Crawford said it was worth the hours and exhaustion, because so many members stopped to say how grateful they were after having lost electricity 15 days before.

Helene knocked out electric service to an estimated 1.25 million co-op members in the southeastern U.S., including 100,000 co-op consumer-members in Kentucky. Many of the crews who helped in other states responded first to mutual aid requests within Kentucky.

The top priority of Fleming-Mason Energy is service to our consumer-members. Before committing resources to mutual aid requests, we ensure we have ample crews available for all local needs, including routine maintenance and emergencies.

"Some of the co-ops who received mutual aid support after Helene have helped Fleming-Mason Energy restore power here after the natural disasters we have experienced," says Fleming-Mason Energy CEO Brandon Hunt. "We are guided by cooperative principles, including 'Cooperation Among Cooperatives,' and state borders are no barrier when any member of our co-op family is in crisis."

By helping our fellow co-ops, Fleming-Mason Energy is also better prepared to respond to power restoration challenges here.

"Mutual aid deployments provide invaluable training opportunities," explains Hunt. "The real-world experience our crews received after Helene will help us serve Fleming-Mason Energy members."











2025 YOUTH TOUR WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 16-21



- EXPLORE CO-OP ENERGY ISSUES
- MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE
- INCLUDES ALL-EXPENSES-PAID DAY TRIP TO FRANKFORT AND WEEKLONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (application required)





High school juniors apply by January 17, 2025!

Learn more at www.fme.coop/youth-tour

## Happy holidays

Fleming-Mason Energy's fifth annual light show will begin on Friday, November 29, at 6 p.m., repeating every half hour. The last show Sunday through Thursday is 9:30 p.m. The final show on Friday and Saturday is 10:30 p.m.

The Fleming County Rotary Club will present its third annual Memory Tree Project this holiday season. The project is designed to remember and/or honor loved ones. Trees were sold earlier in the year as a fundraising project. The trees will be on display on the Fleming-Mason Energy grounds beginning Saturday evening, November 30. The Memorial Tree Lighting



Ceremony will take place at 6 pm. Be sure to visit with Santa following the tree lighting ceremony and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies.

Our office will be closed Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, for Christmas, and Wednesday, January 1, for New Year's Day. Our Fleming-Mason Energy family wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Our dispatch and payment centers are available 24/7 and may be reached by calling (800) 464-3144.