

Learning new lessons, then and now

When the coronavirus pandemic upended our lives in March, we all had to adjust and make sacrifices. Regardless of what you think about the social distancing restrictions, one consequence of dealing with this crisis is how it revealed our community's creativity to still get things done while caring for each other.

These last few months remind me of the Fleming-Mason Energy story. Begun in 1938, we are grateful for the foresight and example of those who first brought electricity to the communities we serve.

That dedication, commitment and creativity did not end in that first generation. Fleming-Mason Energy has continued to meet new challenges and persistent threats so we can serve

you with safe and reliable electricity at a competitive rate. We learned new lessons along the way to make our service more efficient, more resilient and safer for all involved.

For instance, the headgear worn by Fleming-Mason Energy lineworkers up to about 1950 were soft, Stetson-style hats. Thermoplastic hard hats gained widespread use in the 1970s and '80s, and today they are insulated with a special polyethylene to protect against blows to the head.

The expectations for the people who wear those hats have also evolved over the years. To serve as a Fleming-Mason Energy lineworker, an apprentice goes through a multi-year, multi-tiered training regimen. Throughout every year of a lineworker's career, that training is constant to meet new standards and adapt to new challenges.

Another example is the technology Fleming-Mason Energy uses. The electric meters at your home, the equipment on the lines and the infrastructure of the substations have all changed over the years to make your electric service more reliable

and to help us respond to problems more quickly and more safely.

Every year, Fleming-Mason Energy and our power provider, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, must meet new and evolving regulations that can be costly and difficult. Just as the people who built our cooperative had to overcome challenges, we work creatively to meet these regulations in a cost-effective way to limit the effect on your bill as much as possible.

So, as a new school year gets underway, I understand the trepidations of teachers, administrators, parents and students as we all pray for a safe and fruitful experience uninterrupted by the coronavirus.

But I also know that no matter what curveballs are thrown at us, the people served by Fleming-Mason Energy demonstrate the values we strive to achieve. You are reliable, resilient and responsive, and we will all do what it takes to still get things done while caring for each other.

At your service, 24/7

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



WADE HARRIS



Joni Hazelrigg
PRESIDENT & CEO

Congratulations to our 2020 Annual Meeting Scholarship finalists

Contact us:

In Fleming County:
(606) 845.2661

Other Counties:
(800) 464.3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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Fleming-Mason Energy thanks veterans selected for Honor Flight

Improving the quality of life for those we serve is our everyday mission at Fleming-Mason Energy. 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 August flight had to be canceled due to health concerns related to COVID-19.

This year's flight would have included 70 veterans from across the state.

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

For 10 years now, your co-op and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have sponsored the all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Participants fly from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport to Washington,



D.C., for a full day of honors and sightseeing. They visit the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials on the National Mall. The group also tours memorials dedicated to those who served in the Air Force and Marine Corps in Arlington, Virginia. One of the biggest highlights

of the day is viewing the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Any veteran interested in participating can learn more about the opportunity and submit an application at <https://honorflightky.org>.

2020 Washington Youth Tour finalists



Peyton Hall
Fleming County High School



Jersey Stanfield
Lewis County High School



Leyten Thayer
Lewis County High School



Madison Welch
Lewis County High School

Local museum hosts Fleming-Mason energy exhibit

The Fleming County Covered Bridge Museum in Flemingsburg recently hosted a rotating exhibit featuring the history of our co-op. Fleming-Mason Energy was officially incorporated on March 12, 1938. Items on display included photos, annual meeting mementos and copies of old and new *Kentucky Living* magazines.

The museum located at 119 East Water Street is entirely run by volunteers. According to Brenda Plummer,

president of the Museum Society, the City of Flemingsburg donates the building along with utilities. All other expenses are taken care of through donations and membership dues.

The Fleming-Mason Energy display was part of the museum's rotating displays for the month of June. The museum is home to several permanent displays including Fleming County Schools: Past and Present, Famous Fleming Countians and, of course, Covered Bridges.

Plummer says the museum hosts eight to 10 tour groups per year along with local visitors. The museum also hosts school groups on a regular basis.

The museum opens each year in March and closes in December. It is open Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tours can be scheduled by contacting the Fleming County Chamber of Commerce at (606) 845-1223.

LEARNING STARTS NOW

Educate children on bus safety before they leave for school.

Keep these situations in mind when talking to your children about school bus and bus stop safety:

- Don't play near or around power lines or poles while waiting for the bus.
- Stay away from pad-mount transformers (those big green boxes) or other electrical equipment.
- Plan with your children the different scenarios they could find themselves in.

In an emergency, your child may need to jump out of the vehicle, with both feet together, avoiding contact with the bus and the ground at the same time until at least 40 feet away. Then, he or she should shuffle away with small steps, being sure to keep both feet together and on the ground at all times. This will reduce the risk for electrical shock or electrocution. Take the opportunity to practice this with your child, even if it's just from your own vehicle.

Having continuous, proactive conversations with your kids is a great way to help them remember safety when the time comes.

