

## Thank a lineworker

### *Fleming-Mason Energy celebrates National Lineworker Appreciation Day*

All of us at Fleming-Mason Energy are dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve, and no one works harder toward that goal than our co-op lineworkers.

It's a marvel of this era that electricity is a given. Thanks to co-op leaders of previous generations, we have a system in place to serve you. Our lineworkers play a critical role in making sure Fleming-Mason Energy's infrastructure is built and maintained so that we can consistently provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity for our consumer-members.

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of each April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day, and on April 8, Fleming-Mason Energy will honor these hardworking individuals who often face challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We are proud to recognize the 29 lineworkers who maintain over 3,600 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Our lineworkers' efforts and sacrifices are plain to see, but you may

not realize the amount of training and study it takes to become a lineworker in the first place. It's about a four-year process to advance from an apprentice to a journeyman lineworker. Apprentices work alongside our veterans, learning best practices and what we expect of them.

We stress safety every day at Fleming-Mason Energy. When working with electricity, diligence and professionalism are absolute necessities. That's why the lineworkers who work to restore and maintain your power never stop training. In conjunction with our statewide association, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, lineworkers are always learning and are held to professional standards to keep everyone safe.

Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining infrastructure that's critical to our electric system, lineworkers are Fleming-Mason Energy's first responders, and they're always ready to get the job done, day or night.



TIM WEBB

In honor of National Lineworker Appreciation Day, we invite you to take a moment to thank lineworkers for everything they do. Use #ThankaLineworker on social media to show your support.

### **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.**



**Brandon Hunt**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## 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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# Take ladder safety to new heights

Spring cleaning sometimes involves Fleming-Mason Energy members scaling ladders to accomplish off-the-ground maintenance or work on their roofs.

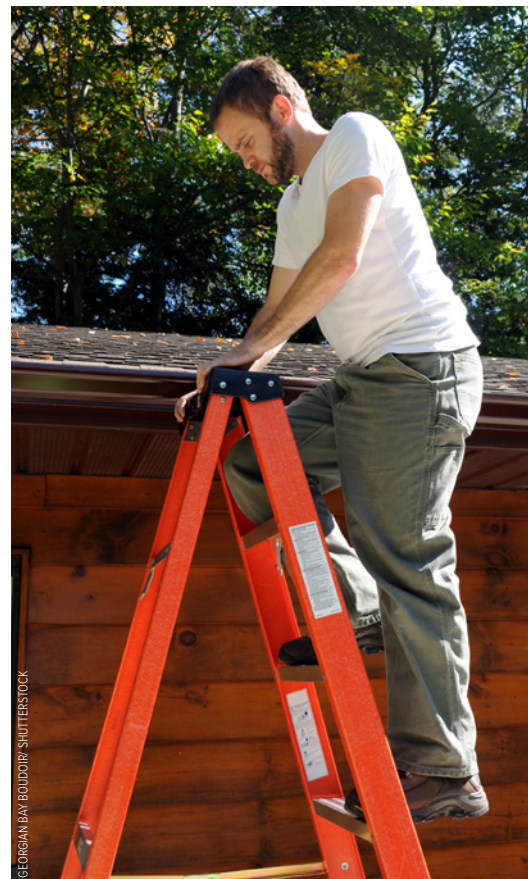
“A ladder can help you climb up closer to what you want to work on, but it can also put you dangerously close to overhead power lines,” says Dustin Skaggs, Fleming-Mason Energy’s safety coordinator.

Whether your project is washing the siding, cleaning out gutters or pruning trees, Dustin urges co-op members to take ladder safety to new heights by remembering these three words:

**LOOK:** Look up to find the location of all power lines and electrical equipment. Ensure the area above the ladder is clear before placing it upright. Look down at where you will be walking and moving around and remove any clutter or obstacles.

**LOWER:** Always fully lower a ladder before moving it. Carry the ladder horizontally when moving it from one area to another. Ask for help when carrying and setting up a long ladder.

**LIVE:** Keep yourself, the ladder and tools away—at least 10 feet in all directions—from overhead power lines, including the service line that runs to your home. Stay aware to avoid contact with overhead power lines, which can result



in severe injury or death.

Before you begin any job, whether it’s using a ladder when pruning trees, cleaning gutters or doing other work around your home, remember to look for electrical safety hazards—including power lines—and make sure you stay away.

“The power lines we see every day can be easy to ignore when you’re focused on an outdoor project,” Skaggs says. “So, before you begin any job, remember to look for electrical safety hazards—including power lines—and stay clear of them.”

# Meet our engineering crew

Pictured from left are members of our engineering department: Engineering and Operations Work Order Administrator Ellen Darnall; Joint Use and GIS Engineer Heath Burnett; Staking Engineer Blake Manning; and Staking Engineer Marc Masters.

When you're building a new home or installing a new security light, these folks help plan exactly how the lines to your home will be placed and make sure all electrical specs are followed.



LORILURICH

# Support your community

As the weather gets nicer and you feel like getting out of the house more often, consider spending some time helping neighbors and others in your community.

Local food pantries have been trying to keep up with an

unprecedented demand for food from community members who are struggling financially.

How about volunteering to deliver food or donating items on a regular basis?

If you have neighbors who live

alone or are elderly or have a disability, would you be willing to help them make a few improvements that could save them energy this summer?

For example, you could take your caulk gun over and seal cracks and air leaks, or you could wash a neighbor's windows so the sunlight can come in more easily.

Another springtime idea is to gather some neighborhood teenagers to participate in community clean-up days or to help even one person by picking up fallen branches, blowing away leftover fall leaves and clearing debris away from the outdoor air conditioning unit.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of helping their communities—and so do the consumer-members who belong to the utilities. Do your part this spring to show your cooperative spirit.



DAISY DAISS/ADORE STOCK

# Fleming-Mason Energy sponsors Frankfort Youth Tour

Nearly 100 high school students representing Kentucky's electric co-operatives gathered at the Kentucky Capitol on February 21 for the Frankfort Youth Tour, a program designed to offer rising young leaders a personal understanding of Kentucky history, civic engagement and their role as citizens and members of electric cooperatives.

Students were welcomed by Rocky Adkins, senior advisor to the governor, before touring the Capitol and attending meetings of the Senate Health Services and Senate Natural Resource and Energy committees. Throughout the busy day, students interacted with legislators and elected officials in the hallways. They heard from Gov. Andy Beshear and Rep. Samara Heavrin about their legislative priorities and issues facing Kentuckians. In June, many of these students will travel to our nation's capital during the Washington Youth Tour.

McKenzie Cunningham and Chasity Gies, both juniors at Lewis County High School, and Izzy Hughes, a junior from Bath County High School, were the students chosen to represent Fleming-Mason Energy during the Frankfort Youth Tour.

Since the inception of the youth tour program, co-ops have sponsored more than 1,800 Kentucky high school students in Washington, D.C., and thousands more in



*From left are Chasity Gies, McKenzie Cunningham and Izzy Hughes.  
Photo: Tim Webb*

Frankfort. Fleming-Mason Energy is proud to invest in our future leaders.

The launch of the 2024 Co-ops Vote initiative—a nonpartisan effort to boost voter turnout in the areas served by rural electric cooperatives—coincided with the Frankfort Youth Tour. Secretary of State Michael Adams spoke to students about the importance of participating in the democratic process and making their voices heard by voting.

“Over the past four years, our commonwealth has received attention and praise nationally, and even internationally, for how we conduct our elections,” Adams says. “I

encourage all Kentucky voters to take advantage of the increased ease in voting, and to be heard.”

Sophia Stover, a 2023 Youth Tour alum, and Co-ops Vote ambassador, along with Hardin County Clerk Brian Smith, shared their experience launching the first county-level Co-ops Vote project.

“I implore you to see voting not just as a right, but as a privilege that generations before us fought tirelessly to secure,” Stover told youth tour students. “Let's honor their sacrifices by actively participating in the democratic process. Our future is in our hands, and it's up to us to shape it.”