

Taking flight

Every year, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including our co-op, sponsor veterans to go on an Honor Flight. It is one of the most important days of the year for our co-op and it is always one of the most memorable days for the veterans from our area on the flight.

Veterans Donald Brown of Wallingford and Jerry Ruggles of Tollesboro served this country during Vietnam. Until a few weeks ago, neither had visited our nation's capital to view the memorials erected in honor of their military service.

On Saturday, Aug. 24, our veterans joined other Kentucky war veterans for this year's Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. The experience is a busy day of touring and tributes to recognize veterans' service and sacrifices.

The Honor Flight itinerary included seeing memorials dedicated to those who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The group also viewed a monument recognizing Marine Corps veterans. This year's Honor Flight participants witnessed a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.



On the way home the veterans participated in a "mail call" reminiscent of their wartime duty. Each received notes of appreciation sent by friends, family, school children and electric co-op employees.

As a fitting finale to the day, Fleming-Mason Energy members and employees were on hand for a special homecoming celebration at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. Honor Flight participants were greeted by flag-waving and cheering as they paraded through the airport terminal building.

This is the 13th year Fleming-Mason Energy has sponsored Honor Flight. It's a small way of expressing thanks to all Kentuckians who have served this great country. We owe them so much.

To apply for a flight or learn more about Honor Flight Kentucky, visit www.honorflightky.org.

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

Save money in the attic

Simple projects in your attic can save you money every month

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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Remember when your mom insisted you wear a hat on really cold days so the heat wouldn't escape from the top of your head? The same concept applies to the attic of your home.

More than a place to store old items, the attic provides a protective barrier to prevent heat from escaping your home, while also keeping humidity and moisture out during cold weather. Take these steps to maximize its energy efficiency, ensuring comfort and saving money.

- 1. Stop air leaks.** Trouble spots include anything that comes through the attic floor, such as recessed lights, chimney, attic hatch and pipes and ducts or wires. Use inexpensive caulk, expanding foam or weather stripping to seal gaps. Install an insulated cover for pull-down stairs or attach weather stripping and insulation around the attic door.
- 2. Evaluate insulation.** The U.S. Department of Energy estimates you can save between 10 and 50% on heating costs simply by improving attic insulation. If you can see the ceiling joists on the attic floor, more insulation is likely needed. The DOE recommends a minimum grade of R-49, or about 16-18 inches of insulation, for Kentucky.
- 3. Verify ventilation.** Moisture and heat build up in an under-ventilated attic. During ice or snow accumulations, a warm attic can cause damaging ice dams to form in gutters. The typical Kentucky home has ridge vents to promote airflow. Ensure these vents are uncovered—even in the winter—to allow air to circulate properly.

For detailed guidance about upgrading the energy efficiency of your attic, visit togetherwesaveky.com/energy-tips and click on any of the attic energy tips.



ALEXSS/ADOBE STOCK

2025 Washington Youth Tour

Each year, Fleming-Mason Energy selects up to four high school juniors from our service area to spend a week touring Washington, D.C., as participants in the Washington Youth Tour. This all-expense-paid trip is a week full of activities including tours of the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution and a meeting with Kentucky's congressional delegation. Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky Electric Cooperatives sponsor this special event.

Up to eight semi-finalists will be selected for a one-day trip to Frankfort for the Frankfort Youth Tour. The two winners of the Washington Youth Tour are selected from that group.

To be eligible, you must be a high school junior between 16 and 18 years old and in good academic and disciplinary standing. Your parent(s) or guardian(s) must receive electric service at their primary residence (home) from Fleming-Mason Energy. Each youth tour participant must complete an application form, be involved in school and community activities, complete an essay and



TIM WEBB

agree to abide by the terms and conditions. Children or grandchildren of Fleming-Mason Energy employees, directors and attorneys are not eligible.

Contact Lori Ulrich at (606) 845-2661 for complete information. Deadline is January 17, 2025. Go to our website www.fme.coop to download an application. The 2025 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 16-21, 2025. The Frankfort Youth Tour date will be in February 2025.

Fleming-Mason Energy 2024 Annual Meeting

More than 1,000 members registered at this year's annual meeting and member appreciation day. The weather was perfect as members picked up their buckets and bulbs. All eight counties were represented with over 700 from Fleming County alone. Logan Smalley, son of Fleming-Mason Energy employee Sonja Smalley, opened the meeting by singing our national anthem. During the business meeting, our 10 scholarship winners were presented to the crowd. We also drew names for two additional

\$1,000 scholarships. Winners had to complete an application before the event. Thank you to all who stopped by that day. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Scholarship drawing winners: Hannah Florence, left, and Karlee Sutphin.



Scholarship winners, from left, Madison Prather, Devin Craig, Megan Jones, Weston Maxey, Elizabeth Womack, Clay Manley, Maddie Johnson, Katie Switzer and Isabella Thacker. Not pictured, Aubrey Hicks. Photos: Tim Webb

Power in preparedness

We never know when to expect severe weather, but we know every single year we have storms that can turn severe quickly. Several of our rural communities are still recovering from damaging tornadoes. Remnants of hurricanes have done severe damage across Kentucky.

With severe weather always comes the possibility of a prolonged power outage or other emergency. Being prepared for that possibility means having enough food, water and other supplies to last at least a few days.

In conjunction with National Preparedness Month in September, Fleming-Mason Energy is urging our members to use the power of preparation as the fall thunderstorm and winter season approaches.

“Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event,” says Dustin Skaggs, the co-op’s safety director.

Take these steps recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Fleming-Mason Energy to be ready in the event of an emergency:

1. Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (1 gallon per person, per day), formula and diapers for babies, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and



DAVID FERREIRA/ADOBE STOCK

2. Create a household evacuation plan.
3. Plan for medically fragile family members. Refill prescriptions and have medicine on hand. Have an available cooler and ice for refrigerated medicines. Those reliant on in-home, electricity-dependent medical equipment should have a backup power option.
4. Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (via text, social media or messaging app).
5. Microchip your pets and keep the contact information updated.
6. Have extra cash available. During a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
7. Store important documents (birth certificates, property deeds, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
8. Consider investing in a generator. Now, before you need it, is the time to buy. Choose from a portable generator to keep a few lights on, a standby generator that will automatically switch on when it senses an outage or one that’s powerful enough to light the whole house. Remember: It’s critical that any generator be installed and used safely.