

Co-op employees are dedicated to serving you and our nation

When Fleming-Mason Energy takes veterans to visit the United States Marine Corps War Memorial on our annual Honor Flight, I sometimes wonder how many of the 1.5 million people who see it each year know that one of the hero soldiers came from Kentucky.

Franklin Sousley, a son of Fleming County who was 19 in World War II, is one of six Marines immortalized by the statue near Washington, D.C. Being the one with the rifle on his back, he's easy to find.

When he and the other Marines raised the flag on the island of Iwo Jima, the troops below cheered. Sailors offshore saw it, too, blowing horns on every ship in the harbor.

It's a moment captured forever at the memorial honoring Marines who died in every conflict since 1775. For soldiers who saw the flag raised, a few called it the best sight of their lives. They knew they might not make it through the day, but the flag represented two priceless jewels: hope and freedom.

As our nation prepares to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, I am thinking of Franklin Sousley, who was from a family served by an electric co-op, and Iwo Jima because the memorial symbolizes the commitment of our men and women in uniform.

There are 302,000 veterans living in Kentucky.

Whether they waded through rice paddies in Vietnam, patrolled

streets in Iraq or climbed mountains in Afghanistan, veterans are committed to taking care of the person standing next to them.

We believe in that commitment here, too. Our employees know service involves sacrifice. They stand ready 24/7, working in all kinds of weather to provide power to serve you and our nation.

Service is never easy, and the memorial reminds us why. It sits on land next to Arlington National Cemetery, a stark reminder of the cost of freedom.

Just 31 days after landing at Iwo Jima, Franklin Sousley was shot and killed.

On Veterans Day 2020, we salute him. We thank all who have served. God bless you for what you have done and for your perseverance in defense of freedom.



TIM WEBB

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.



Joni Hazelrigg
PRESIDENT & CEO

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

Joni Hazelrigg

Board of Directors

Lonnie Vice
CHAIRMAN

Tom Saunders
VICE CHAIRMAN

Dina Gooding
SECRETARY TREASURER

Other Directors

Timothy S. Eldridge

Rick Hord

John M. Roe

Regina Rose

Attorneys

Marvin Suit

Earl Rogers III

Follow us on:



Holiday tips come in extra handy during tough times

Maybe you put the housekeeper who used to help you clean up every week or once a month on permanent vacation. You've probably been skipping your regular haircuts and have started doing your own pedicures. And you haven't been to the gym—or seen your trainer—in months.

You're not the only one.

The people who used to take such good care of you probably miss you more than you miss them—and that's a lot—but for a different reason.

Because you're not paying for appointments or offering tips, they're struggling from the loss of income.

This holiday season, don't just remember the people who are taking care of you and your family now. Remember the ones who used to and show them your gratitude for their

years of service by tucking a generous tip into a Christmas card. Or send a gift card for a local business to help your caretakers with their holiday shopping. Drop off a big turkey before Thanksgiving or leave a stocking stuffed with gift cards on the front porch of someone you used to count on to help you keep your home and your appearance in order.

These people are your neighbors and have become your friends over the years. Even if you're struggling during these tough times, too, let them know that you haven't forgotten about them.

And take care of those who are doing double-duty these days to deliver the extra packages you've been ordering since you've stopped shopping in stores as often. Offer a small holiday bonus to delivery drivers.

And even though you might be working at home instead of in the office, the administrative staff you rely on—and who typically get a big thank-you tip from the staff at the holidays—are still working on your behalf. Don't let out of sight, out of mind stop you from showing your appreciation for their virtual help.



Take the brrr out of winter

Warm up with these ideas before it gets cold

When temperatures drop, your monthly electric bill usually starts to climb. There's no need to panic, though. Fleming-Mason Energy can help take the brrr out of winter with a more energy-efficient home. Grab a cup of coffee and mull over these ideas and attractive incentives.

Deal with the ducts.

Improve the efficiency of your heating system dramatically by sealing leaky air ducts. By applying a substance called mastic with a paint brush to every duct seam, you'll plug the leaks. You can buy mastic from companies that sell wholesale to heating contractors.

Virtual Energy Assessment. Take the guesswork out of electricity use with a Virtual Energy Assessment. This free digital tool performs custom audits and identifies ways to save electricity. Learn more at www.fme.coop under the "Efficiency" tab.

Make the switch. Are you heating with an inefficient, costly electric furnace, baseboard heat or ceiling cable heat? Homeowners who replace an outdated heating system with a qualifying high-efficiency heat pump can receive up to \$750 as an incentive.

SimpleSaver Thermostat Program. Connected thermostats make it easy to manage your home's energy use.



Before cold temperatures arrive, Fleming-Mason Energy urges consumer-members to seal air leaks or take advantage of other programs to save electricity and money. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.coop.

Enroll a qualifying Wi-Fi thermostat in the program to receive \$10 per thermostat (up to two thermostats). If you purchased your thermostat on or after March 2, 2019, you may be eligible for an additional \$100 per thermostat. You can also earn an additional yearly \$20 in credits at the end of the summer season for participating. Details online at www.enrollmythermostat.com/simplesaver.

SimpleSaver AC. This program is another way that we are working to keep your electricity affordable and our environment healthy. We will pay you up to \$20 annually for each central air conditioner you enroll, and you will receive those bill credits each and every year you remain in the program. Plus, you may receive a sign-on bonus of up to \$20. With SimpleSaver, being energy smart pays. Just call (800) 305-5493 or go to www.simplesaver.coop.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOME'S ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Understanding how your home's electrical system functions is important not only to keep it properly maintained, but for your safety if a problem arises.

If your electricity short circuits or an overload shuts down power, your service panel is where you restore the flow. It is your responsibility to make sure no circuits are overloaded. A general rule is to have only one big ticket item on a circuit. This means you would not put your refrigerator and washing machine on the same circuit. If your circuits frequently overload, it may be time to contact an electrician to add more circuits to your service panel.



Your Safety Matters

Be safe when decorating with Christmas lights

The holiday season comes with traditions of festive lights and decorations. Unfortunately, without proper safety precautions, time-honored traditions can easily go from merry to scary.

When you're decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture, and inspect cords for breaks and damaged prongs before using them. Lights for indoor use should not be hung outside.

If your family enjoys a live tree, water it daily and discard it when it becomes dry and begins to drop needles. Don't forget to keep all decorations at least 3 feet away from heat sources—especially fireplaces, candles or any open flame.

To save time and money, use a timer to turn lights on in the evening and off before sunrise. Use lights that are light-emitting diodes (LEDs),



which use one-tenth the energy of traditional mini-lights, and are cooler to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

A practical gift for your family this holiday season would be to install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets where needed. These

outlets automatically shut off a circuit when it is overloaded. Many electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by GFCIs.

Fleming-Mason Energy wishes you and your family a safe and celebrated holiday season.

Holiday Hours

Our office will be closed
Thursday, November 26
Thursday, December 24
Friday, December 25
Friday, January 1

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