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## Laws and order: staying connected with legislators

**W**e've heard the phrase "we're going to get through this together" quite a lot during the COVID-19 pandemic, but, as a cooperative, that sentiment is nothing new for Jackson Energy.

That cooperative spirit rings true as the Kentucky General Assembly gets down to business this month in Frankfort. After a few organizational days in January, the meat of the session begins on February 2. In coordination with fellow co-ops across Kentucky, Jackson Energy advocates for local interests and policies that support our community. And we need your help.

It is important for the elected leaders who represent you to know that you support Jackson Energy's efforts to ensure electric co-ops are treated fairly in Frankfort and have the flexibility and financial relief we need to deliver affordable, reliable electricity. One year ago, the voices of co-op members were heard loud and clear by lawmakers who agreed with our opposition to adding a sales tax to residential power bills.

On RuralPowerKY.com, you can sign up for free updates and join the grassroots coalition to speak up when lawmakers need to hear us.

In 2021, co-ops continue to defend your interests, including any attempts in Kentucky to add extra charges to electric bills to pay for expenses unrelated to the services provided by Jackson Energy.



EJ RODRIGUEZ/ADOBÉ STOCK

In addition, Kentucky co-ops are working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to communicate with our congressional delegation and the Biden administration on issues that affect our local communities and the services we provide.

As a public service, we are proud to provide the *Kentucky Electric Cooperatives Legislative Guide* in this issue of *Kentucky Living*. In addition to the Senate and House district maps, this guide also includes a custom listing for each electric co-op territory, including Jackson Energy on page 9.

Simply look next to the county where you live to find your legislators. The guide also includes photos and contact information for Kentucky's constitutional officers and congressional delegation.

We encourage you to reach out to the elected leaders who represent you and let them know you are a member of Jackson Energy. We appreciate their service and look forward to answering any questions as they consider legislation.

Finally, happy Presidents Day. As we honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, let us never forget their example of leadership, integrity and service.

## SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor  
Published by Jackson Energy

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Clover Bottom

Jackson Energy

*Working for You*

# Committed to a co-op culture

Over the years, you've heard me explain why and how Jackson Energy is different—because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Jackson Energy, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

When our electric co-op was founded in 1938, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Jackson Energy was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.



By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Jackson Energy was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today.



Carol Wright  
President & CEO

# Automated metering—what's in it for you?

**W**ant instant information that can lower your electric bill? Getting timely, accurate data about your electric use is just one of the ways the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) in use by Jackson Energy is making life better for our members.

This small piece of a larger, technologically advanced system provides efficiencies and information that significantly benefit Jackson Energy's members.

A few of the ways automated meters are good for you:

## Accurate measurements

The meters, teamed with computer technology, measure electric use more precisely than older, analog meters. Data is collected hourly and daily so you can track your energy use in real time. Your automated meter enables Jackson Energy to offer prepaid service for your account.

## Faster outage restoration

The communications capabilities of automated meters give



Jackson Energy the ability to pinpoint trouble along power lines, meaning line crews can make repairs more quickly.

## Less dispatching of trucks

Issues that previously required a co-op employee to make a trip to a member's property, such as manual meter reading or service connections, can be done remotely. This reduces visits to your property, speeds service and lowers co-op expenses.

## Improved power quality

Co-op employees can better monitor the grid to improve reliability,

efficiency and security. Identifying system inefficiencies can lower the co-op's operational costs.

You can look at your automated meter data via Jackson Energy's mobile app, SmartHub. In addition to monitoring your electricity use 24/7, you can pay bills, manage account services, report outages and view your billing and usage history all at your fingertips.

Jackson Energy continues to research and implement the latest technologies available to ensure we continue to provide dependable, safe and consistent service to our members.

# Celebrating Engineers Week



Founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951, Engineers Week (February 21-27) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing the understanding and interest in engineering and technology careers.

With electrical and civil engineering considered two of the most difficult majors in the field, Jackson Energy is privileged to have five engineers on staff and working for you.

Jackson Energy's engineers earned their bachelor of science in electrical engineering (BSEE) or civil engineering (BSCE) degrees at the University of Kentucky. Collectively, they have 70 years of service at Jackson Energy and continue to provide the knowledge and insight that are critical as Jackson Energy continues to look toward the newest technical innovations in all aspects of our industry.

From left, standing, are Sr. Distribution Engineer Ben Jones, President & CEO Carol Wright, Purchasing Agent Jim Ball; seated are COO Derrick Dean and Manager of Engineering Services Rick Caudill.

# Time to connect to health savings

February is Wise Health Care Consumer Month, a perfect time to connect to savings on medicine and other health care costs. Jackson Energy members can do just that with the free Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections program.

Just by being a co-op member, you can save money on prescriptions and healthcare expenses such as vision and dental—in February, and every month. Being “connected” means you get more than 150,000 discounts from businesses in our area and national companies. There are also cash-back offers for online shoppers and deals for travelers.

It was a dental offer that convinced Billie Smith to give Co-op Connections a try.

The teacher’s savings story began in 2016 when her son was getting braces.

“I saw an ad at the orthodontist’s office about how I could get a discount through Co-op Connections,” she says. Thanks to their “powerful connection,” the Smiths netted a 20% discount on their orthodontic bill.

The discount was again applied when a second child needed braces. The Smiths saved a whopping \$1,758 in all, thanks to White, Greer & Maggard Orthodontics participating in the program.

“Thinking about the things we could do by saving that money—just by being co-op members—was great,” Billie says.

She now looks for a Co-op Connections discount whenever she shops. It’s easy to check—go to [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) or [www.jacksonenergy.com/co-op-connections-savings](http://www.jacksonenergy.com/co-op-connections-savings)—to find a list of businesses that participate in the co-op discount program.

The money saved using Co-op Connections is a win-win for her family, Billie says. “We not only get these great discounts, but we also get affordable, reliable service.”

You can start saving today, too. Find discounts immediately by downloading the free Co-op Connections app for mobile devices. Search “Co-op Connections” in your favorite app store. If you prefer to use a discount card, please call our office at (800) 262-7480 to request one.

Get connected, and keep more money in your pocket. Co-op Connections—it’s just one more benefit of being a member of Jackson Energy.



Billie Smith saved \$1,758 on the cost of braces for her children, Liddie and Davis, through the Co-op Connections program available from Jackson Energy. Photo: Tim Webb

## GO BEYOND THE CARD.

HEALTHY SAVINGS

Co-op Connections Card

**JACKSON ENERGY**  
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## FIND ALL THE WAYS TO SAVE

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES