Safety performance at LG&E and KU this year has been bittersweet.

Internally, we have achieved historic milestones.

For the first time in two and half years, the entire workforce completed a full month with zero injuries.

The summer stretch was the best on record.

The company’s recordable rate continues to be in the industry’s top quartile.

And the safety performance of Gas and Electric Distribution, Transmission and Customer Services employees and contractors have been very good.

Unfortunately -- or fortunately -- recent serious incidents have snapped us to attention as they tend to do.

One of our contractor employees recently lost his life during a preventable, but bizarre incident.

A serious near miss in the field could have taken the lives of two other contractor workers.

And although he was not one of our own, Campbellsville fire chief Tony Grider was seriously injured and later passed away, while promoting a worthy cause amid an enthusiastic, cheering crowd.

Needless to say, we all were deeply impacted by the circumstances of the incident and the severity of his injury.
Events like these remind us that there is much more to safety than using the proper practices and tools, wearing the correct PPE, and following rules and regulations. It is much more than attending these meetings and checking that box.

Overlooking the less-tangible aspects of safety is often what stings us.

As leaders, you are responsible and accountable for ensuring that your workers also exercise the right behaviors to prevent injuries.

First and foremost, employees and contractors alike must abide by the cardinal rule: Think first and always **Stop or refuse to do what you think is unsafe work!**

There is no reason or excuse to do anything else.

Whether a situation is obviously unsafe or the individual’s gut says it is unsafe – he or she should stop the job; talk to a supervisor; and address the issue.

You know, they say 99 percent of the time your gut is correct!

**Slow down and think about safety.** No job is so urgent or circumstances so important that a person should sacrifice safety.

Safety comes before the customer experience, before the budget, before making that extra overtime buck, and especially before peer pressure that can easily influence anyone to do the wrong thing.

**Take care of each other.** There is no better way to prevent injuries than watching for conditions or practices that might hurt someone, and then having the courage to speak up about it.

Taking care of each other should come naturally in our culture.
Stay alert and take nothing for granted. Complacency and a lack of focus on safety are among our most dangerous hazards.

No matter how prepared you think you are, you are never beyond injury.

Always be constantly cognizant of potential risks and prepared to mitigate them.

Captain Girder and his co-workers were trained on the dangers of high-voltage transmission lines when they went up in that bucket at Campbellsville College.

However, the excitement of the moment overrode the danger.

The bottom line is we all provide our employees the tools, the rules, the PPE, the behaviors and the knowledge to protect themselves and others from injury.

So, when it comes to safety, there is “No Compromise in Our House,” and there should be no injuries.

Thank you, and make this meeting mean something: stop injuries and save lives.