

# Spotlight

March 2022



## Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations and non-profit groups within the Dunn Energy Cooperative service territory.

If you, or a group you are a part of, are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, you can find the application and our Giving Guidelines on our website at [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com) or by emailing Jolene for an application at [jolene@dunnenergy.com](mailto:jolene@dunnenergy.com). Grant applications are due March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 and reviewed shortly thereafter.

Thank you for your interest. Let's show the community the Power of Change!



## Spring Clean Up



Are your electric bills a mess? It's time to clean them up by setting up recurring and stored payments through SmartHub.

While you're there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage
- Manage your account
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Communicate directly with the co-op

Clean up your bills by signing up for SmartHub online. It's Dunn Energy Cooperative's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password.

Questions? Call, click, or visit us at 715-232-6240 or [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com).



## January 2022 Board Meeting Highlights



### Monthly Reports:

Operations recapped the outages from the December severe weather event and reported that 5 new services were installed in January. It was also reported that crews continue to work on pole replacements, retirements, and line maintenance. A discussion

was held regarding the supply change challenges the Cooperative is experiencing.

The Member & Employee Engagement report contained an update on the Giving Tuesday donations, social media communications, and the National Survey of the Cooperative Difference. Dunn Energy scored above average in every category, including in the overall American Consumer Satisfaction Index. The national average for investor owned utilities scored 72, whereas the average Cooperative utility score was 83. Dunn Energy scored an 85.

Financially, 2021 came in as expected with sales about 1.3% over budget. The Cooperative had a good year and was able to return about \$1.3 million in power cost credits back to members on their power bills as well as a larger capital credit retirement. The cost of energy generation is increasing as we start 2022 due to higher natural gas and coal prices as well as overall inflation on the goods and services the Cooperative is using.

The CEO/General Manager gave an update on the front office remodel. The demolition has been done and the front counter and restroom rebuilds have begun. Planned opening is still on target for early May. The strategic plan goals were also discussed.

### The following items were approved:

- Minutes of the December 2021 Board meeting
- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts.

### Other Business:

Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the monthly governance video that discussed the Value of Diversity in the Boardroom

Upcoming meetings for the board to attend

## SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air and that means more than just a change of season for farmers. During the busy planting season, follow these eight safety tips:



### TRANSPORT SAFELY

Ensure equipment is compliant with agriculture road and travel safety rules



### SHARE SAFETY TIPS

Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards



### ENCOURAGE YOUNG WORKERS

Be sure to match age and ability level with each chore



### BE CLEAR

Explain where the "back 80" or Smith field is; not everyone may know how to get there



### WRITE IT DOWN

Keep directions (with proper road and farm ground names) at home, in the shop and in cabs



### LOOK AROUND

Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting



### EVALUATE PROCEDURES

Consider new safety precautions you can implement, such as lockout/tagout



### MEET AND DISCUSS

Conduct morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day and talk about potential hazards

Sources: Rural Mutual Insurance Co., farmprogress.com

Safe Electricity.org®



This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



N5725 600th Street/ P.O. Box 220  
Menomonie, WI 54751-0220  
Phone: (715) 232-6240 or 1-800-924-0630  
Web site: [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com)  
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