



# THE COOPERATIVE PURPOSE

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Our primary focus at Dunn Energy Cooperative will always be to safely deliver you energy that is reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible. But as you will read in the following pages, we do more than

As a member-owner you are part of a unique organization that serves a purpose, to safely deliver you reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy all while growing the communities we call home.

provide electricity for our members and community. Cooperatives from the very beginning were set up differently. With a mission to build up and strengthen our community, cooperatives are uniquely positioned to create a positive impact for our membership. (11811001)

As a cooperative member you have a voice in who represents you on the board of directors. Three director seats are up for election this spring and all three of the incumbents have reached their term limit of 12 years (four consecutive three-year terms). Many cooperatives do not have term limits. We are thankful for the work our current directors have done and we are sad to see them term out, but this is also a good opportunity for other cooperative members to become more engaged and take on a leadership role. The candidates are listed on page 18 of this magazine and more information on the election will be mailed to you before our annual meeting on May 16. I encourage you all to vote in the upcoming election and to participate in the annual meeting.

All the things the cooperative does day in and day out to deliver you energy that powers your daily life and our community wouldn't be possible without our dedicated team of energy professionals. Team DEC

might be smaller in numbers, but the impact we have is impressive. Our energy professionals serve over 10,000 accounts and maintain over 2,000 miles of electric distribution lines. They also spend numerous hours investing in our members through programs like our Energy Sense Rebates and Operation Round Up as well as through numerous local organizations. We also support the future of our communities through the Youth Leadership Conference. This is where

I got my start in the cooperative and I encourage any high school-age youth to take a look at this great opportunity right here in Menomonie this summer.

Cooperative members, your electric cooperative is more than just poles, wires, and a monthly bill. As a member-owner you are part of a unique organization that serves a purpose, to safely deliver you reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy all while growing the communities we call home. Thank you to our employees for working so hard to make the cooperative successful and thank you to the members for being engaged with your cooperative.



# ATTENTION JUNIORS!

## Scholarships

### Scholarships Awarded:

1st place - \$1,500

2nd place - \$1,250

3rd place - \$1,000

### Requirements:

- Student must be entering his/her senior year of high school in the fall 2024.
- Must be a son or daughter (or under legal guardianship) of an active member of Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC).
- Student must attend Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) hosted at UW-Stout, that is fully funded by DEC.
- Following YLC, the student must write an essay to be entered for a scholarship.

## Important Dates

May 28, 2024

Application Deadline

July 16-18, 2024

Youth Leadership Conference

*Email your interest to Jolene - [info@dunnenergy.com](mailto:info@dunnenergy.com).*

## More Info



**Dunn Energy Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 





# FARM FACTS

## STAY SAFE DURING PLANTING SEASON

As spring planting season nears, here are some Agriculture-related facts from the American Farm Bureau Federation:

- Each year, one U.S. farm feeds 166 people domestically and abroad. The global population is expected to increase by 2.2 billion by 2050. This means the world's farmers will have to grow approximately 70% more food than what they produce today.
- Two million farms dot America's rural landscape, and 98% are operated by individuals, families and family-run partnerships or corporations.
- Eighty-six percent of U.S. agricultural products are produced on family farms or ranches.
- Americans throw away approximately 25% of the food they buy to eat at home.
- Women make up 36% of the total number of farm operators in the U.S.; 56% of all farms have at least one female decision-maker.

As farmers return to their fields this spring, Safe Electricity urges workers to be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Follow these safety tips:

- Determine power line locations before going out into the fields, and designate preplanned routes that avoid hazardous areas.
- Be aware of increased height, including tall antennas, when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines.
- Do not attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. (2878001)
- Coming too close to a power line while working can be just as dangerous as contacting one since electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects.
- Non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.
- When grounded wires that stabilize poles, known as guy wires, are broken, they become hazardous. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself.
- If your equipment contacts a power line, stay in the cab and call 9-1-1 or the utility for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.
- If you must leave the cab, as in the case of fire, jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. If you are unable to hop, shuffle with the insides of your feet touching. Do not return to the equipment until the power has been deenergized.



As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. Keep these safety tips in mind:



### TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

### SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



### WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

### USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



### DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machinery or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

### CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with your feet together as far as you can.



Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

# NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

The committee on nominations met at the office of the Cooperative at N5725 600th Street, Menomonie, Wisconsin, on the 4th of March 2024 at 11 a.m. and having proceeded to make nominations for directors to be voted on at the Annual Meeting May 16, 2024, do hereby report that we do make the following nominations:

## Nominees for director to succeed Tom Zwiefelhofer:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Dennis Dvoracek<br>9280 County Highway T<br>Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 | 2. Stephen Scott<br>9669 County Highway N<br>Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 |
|---|---|

## Nominees for director to succeed James Wildner:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Tim Lienau<br>E4593 322nd Ave.<br>Menomonie, WI 54751 | 2. Jeff Wildner<br>N4987 County Road J<br>Menomonie, WI |
|--|---|

## Nominees for director to succeed Lee Jensen:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Krag Blomberg<br>E8175 County Road B<br>Colfax, WI 54730 | 2. Michael Jenson Jr.<br>E9853 County Road M<br>Elk Mound, WI 54739 |
|---|---|

The by-laws provide that 25 or more members may make their nominations in writing over their signatures on or before 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 19, 2024, and if such other nominations are made, they will also be posted with the above list of nominations made by the committee and such additional nominees listed on the ballot.

Anyone nominated for director by petition should turn in a picture and resumé of themselves when the petition is turned in. This will give voting members information on directors.

## BY-LAW CHANGES & RESOLUTIONS

Any by-law amendments or resolutions from the member must be in on or before 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, 2024, to accompany the annual meeting notice.



**CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:**

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's **ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST**

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to Dunn Energy Cooperative by **April 30, 2024**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

**1st place – Chromebook**  
**2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**  
**3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Visit [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) for details and an entry form.



## Hidden Account Numbers

If you find your account number hidden in the pages of this magazine and you call and tell us before the next issue is mailed, we'll put a **\$50 credit** on your electric bill. Happy hunting!

Last month's winners were Richard & Betty Misselt and Lee Hardy.

## Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

N5725 600th St., P.O. Box 220, Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-6240  
[www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com)

## Jolene Fisher, Editor



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