



# OUR CHOICES TODAY IMPACT THE FUTURE OF THE COOPERATIVE

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

ast year I participated in a conference with other cooperative CEOs from around the country. One of the speakers was talking about how the choices we make today will impact the cooperative and our members in the future. He said something else that has stuck with me as well. He stated, "You are creating the cooperative of the future, for the members you'll never meet, and the employees you will never lead."

I have such an appreciation for the history and importance of what it means to be a cooperative and this quote only reinforced to me how important it is to learn from the past to make the best decisions we can today that will give us the best chance to succeed in the future. That mindset can be applied to many things, and we need to think about that as we prepare for our energy future.

The choices each of us make in our homes, farms, or businesses on how and when we use energy will shape the future of our industry. The choices we make on how we treat our environment will have an impact on future generations. The investments we make, or don't make, in dependable generation resources will determine if our grid reliability becomes more challenging. Our investments in training and equipping our staff and board members today will determine how prepared they are to serve our members in the future. Decisions we make to keep our cooperative financially strong will determine our ability to keep rates affordable in the future. All those things together go back to our goal of safely delivering our members reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy today and in the

future. (10004002)

For close to 90 years cooperative members, directors, and employees have made decisions that impacted the future. Today you have those same opportunities as a member-owner of Dunn Energy Cooperative. Can you help us lower energy use during peak demand events by waiting until after 8 p.m. on weekdays or waiting until the weekend to use large electric appliances? Can you take advantage of things like paperless billing or auto-pay to help the cooperative save the cost of printing an envelope or mailing a bill? Will you vote in our upcoming director election to help determine who represents you on the Cooperative Board? Cooperative members, these are just a few things you can do to be

are just a few things you can do to be engaged in your cooperative and help determine our energy future. Together we are creating the cooperative of the future!

## 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 Harold Schmidt and Richard & Ralina Arrington.

# COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES AND EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS: A PERFECT MATCH

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

Our top priority is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, but 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 diverse 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. (4074002)

Each year Dunn Energy provides educational scholarships to 15 high school students who are embarking on higher education, as well as one nontraditional scholarship for someone going back to school to further their education after being in the workforce a while or raising their family. We also provide a scholarship at CVTC in memorium of Todd Bauer, a lineman we lost too early to cancer. His scholarship benefits a person going into the Electrical Power Distribution Program.

We believe in supporting the future generation of leaders in our communities. To make it as convenient as possible, you will find copies of both the youth scholarship application and the non-traditional scholarship application in the following pages of this month's magazine. Applications are due the first week of March.

# THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

#### Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organization open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

#### **Democratic Member Control**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions

#### Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

#### Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control and autonomy.

#### Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.

#### **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

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#### **Concern for Community**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



from our membership educational scholarships, to promote

\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

"Energy Through Excellence" Dunn Energy Cooperative A Touchstone Energy Cooperative	Youth Scholarship Application	
Each year Dunn Energy awards local high school students from our membership educational scholarships, to pradvanced education. We firmly believe our future lies within these young leaders. Dunn Energy will choose 15 applicants at random as the winners of the \$1,000 scholarships.		
Name:	DEC account no	
Permanent address:		
Home phone:	E-mail address:	
Name of parent/guardian who is a member of Dunn Energy:		
How you want your parents listed in the program:		
High school you attend:		
<u> </u>		

School you propose to enter: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list three goals you have for the future:

### THIS SECTION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR PRINCIPAL

	1. Name of applicant			
	Signature Principal/Counselor	Date		
Return application to:Or by email to:Dunn Energy Cooperativejolene@dunnenergy.comP.O. Box 220P.O. Box 220				
M	enomonie, WI 54751	Applications are due the first Friday in March		
Qualifications:				
1.	1. Parent or guardian of student must be a member of Dunn Energy Cooperative.			
2.	2. Student must be a graduating high school senior and plan to begin college or vocational training the following year.			
3.	3. Student must hold a 3.0 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale.			
4.	4. Complete basic application and have it signed by guidance or school official.			
5.	. Checks will be presented to students after Dunn Energy Cooperative receives a copy of your first semester college grades.			

Disbursement of scholarships will be awarded after all qualifications are met and with receipt of transcripts and verification of enrollment from eligible recipient.



# Non-traditional Scholarship Application

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student returning to a university, vocational, or technical college after spending a minimum of three (3) years in the workplace or raising a family.

Name:	DEC account no	
Permanent address:		
Home phone:	E-mail address:	
Current school and program you are enrolled in:		
How far along are you in your program?		
Why did you choose to go back to school?		
Return application to: Dunn Energy Cooperative P.O. Box 220 Menomonie, WI 54751	Or by email to: jolene@dunnenergy.com	
<ul> <li>Applications are due the first Friday in March</li> <li>To be eligible: <ol> <li>The applicant or their spouse must be a member of Dunn Energy Cooperative and a bona fide resident of the cooperative's service territory.</li> <li>The applicant must be in good standing with Dunn Energy Cooperative.</li> <li>The recipient must have maintained a 2.5 (or better) grade point average during their current quarter or semester of post-secondary education.</li> <li>The recipient must be enrolled in a course of study leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree or certificate.</li> <li>The recipient must be enrolled with a minimum of five (5) credits and be in good standing at the school they are attending.</li> <li>Children of full-time DEC employees or directors are not eligible.</li> <li>The non-traditional scholarship will be limited to a one-time award. After receiving a scholarship, the individual will not be eligible for future awards.</li> </ol> </li> <li>The program must be a minimum of one year.</li> </ul>		
Disbursement of non-traditional scholarships will be awarded after all qualifications are met and with receipt of transcripts and verification of enrollment from eligible recipient.		

## Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

N5725 600th St., P.O. Box 220, Menomonie, WI 54751 715-232-6240 www.dunnenergy.com

### Jolene Fisher, Editor



