



YOUR COOPERATIVE'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Keeping your lights on is our primary mission, but your cooperative plays an important role in many other aspects of our community. From electrical safety education and youth programs to Operation Round Up, we are proud to support the communities we serve in many ways.

Another key part of our work happens behind the scenes as we support economic development efforts in our region. For years, your cooperative has partnered with local communities and economic development agencies on projects that support smart energy growth. These efforts help strengthen our local economy and allow us to continue providing safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy for years to come.

Recently, I attended a county meeting to discuss a proposed project considering locating within our service territory. During that discussion, we talked about how the business had contacted Dunn Energy early in their planning

been a better option for the member. The lesson is simple, involve your cooperative early. It helps avoid surprises and ensures your project is set up for success from the start.

Beyond individual projects, your cooperative remains actively involved in local economic development organizations and chambers of commerce. We believe that supporting smart, sustainable growth benefits everyone—our members, our communities, and the cooperative itself. By working together, we can continue building a strong, reliable energy future for our region.

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process. That's not unusual, and it's often the difference between a project moving forward or looking at a different location. Adequate electric infrastructure is a critical factor for any new business or expansion. If the infrastructure isn't in place, projects can stall or become significantly more expensive. (140018674) In fact, we're currently working with several existing members on expansion plans, along with new businesses exploring opportunities in our area. Many of these projects are still in early stages, where proactive planning makes all the difference.

A recent example highlights this perfectly. A member installed a large piece of equipment that would draw significant amount of energy before contacting us. While we were ultimately able to serve the additional load with some modifications, it was a close call. If upgrades had been more extensive, relocating the business might have

SUMMER LOBBY HOURS

Monday - Thursday:

7:30AM - 5:00PM

Friday:

7:30 - 11:30AM

From June 1 to September 4,
2026 the Dunn Energy lobby
hours will be changing.

Payments can be made by
phone, through SmartHub or be
dropped in the dropbox.

Crews will still be available and
outages can be reported by
phone and through SmartHub.

DUNN ENERGY COOPERATIVE CELEBRATES



Dunn Energy Cooperative celebrated their 89th Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, May 14, 2026. Over 130 people attended, enjoying a buffet dinner and conversation. Members heard from guest speaker, Ashely DeMuth of the Menomonee Area Chamber of Commerce on the State of Dunn County. One surprising fact that DeMuth mentioned was that 65% of children entering primary school today will work in job categories that don't yet exist. In her round up of Dunn County's communities, the theme was opportunity and success. She finished with the message that Dunn County's story is still being written, and Dunn Energy's members are an important part of it, and encouraged engagement at the very local level.

General Manager/CEO Jesse Singerhouse took time to

"Dunn County's story is still being written, and Dunn Energy members are an important part of it."

— Ashley DeMuth

recognize the twenty-two scholarship recipients, those who took part in the second cohort of the cooperative's Power Connection Program, and employee milestones. Several long-time employees are retiring in 2026 including John Hestekin, Journeyman Lineman (37 years), Becky Weber, Billing/Accountant (27 years), and Dee Fox, Compliance Officer (22 years).

In lieu of a President's message by board president Jeff Gasteyer and a State of the Cooperative Message from Singerhouse, the two did a more informal Question and Answer session in the form of the recently debuted Plugged In video podcast the cooperative launched. During the session, Singerhouse and Gasteyer covered broader topics, like the big topics handled in the board room in 2025, cooperative financials, energy policy, and more. Members were encouraged to ask questions, and did so, asking about topics like grid stability, artificial intelligence, and renewable energy.

During the business portion of the meeting, the three incumbent directors retained their seats. Karl Varnes will continue to serve District 1 in his second term. Dean Stokke will continue to serve District 4 in his fourth and final term, and Rachel Kummer will continue to serve District 9 in her third term. In the reorganizational meeting held following the

Working for You

CELEBRATES 89TH ANNUAL MEETING

third term. In the reorganizational meeting held following the annual meeting, Gasteyer was elected president, Varnes as vice president, and Kummer as secretary/treasurer.

All members were treated to a pound of cheese from

cooperative neighbor Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery for attending, but six lucky members won bill credits ranging from \$25 to \$400. All in all, it was a successful and informative Annual Meeting of Members.



Dunn Energy Cooperative recognized its 2026 scholarship recipients during the 89th Annual Meeting. Pictured with the recipients are General Manager/CEO Jesse Singerhouse (far left) and Board President Jeff Gasteyer (far right).



Left: Ashley DeMuth, president and CEO of the Menomonie Area Chamber & Visitor Center, served as the guest speaker and shared an update on the State of Dunn County, highlighting growth, opportunity, and community success throughout the region. Right: Dunn Energy Cooperative General Manager/CEO Jesse Singerhouse and Board President Jeff Gasteyer hosted a live "Plugged In" question-and-answer session during the cooperative's 89th Annual Meeting, discussing cooperative finances, energy policy, grid reliability, and member questions.



DUNN ENERGY LAUNCHES VIDEO PODCAST: PLUGGED IN

Your cooperative is meeting you where you are! Join Dunn Energy CEO Jesse Singerhouse and Director of Engagement Jolene Fisher to listen to their new video podcast, *Plugged In!* Twice each month, Singerhouse and Fisher will talk about cooperative happenings, board meeting recaps, and more.

You can find the video podcast on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and on the cooperative's website at dunnenergy.com. (6023001) If you have an idea of what you'd like them to cover, you can drop a line at info@dunnenergy.com.



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: Breanna & Thomas Larson and Eli Ford.

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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