



KEEPING RATES FAIR— A CHANGE TO RESIDENTIAL BILLING



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Over the past few months, we've been sharing information with you about our energy rate structure including how demand affects the cost of providing electric service. Your board of directors has been discussing this issue for several years, however. During that time, we added a demand charge for commercial accounts, and at the March board meeting, the Board approved a rate and structure change to add a demand charge for residential accounts as well. You'll see this change reflected on the bill you receive in early May.

For roughly the past 18 months, we've been displaying your monthly peak demand on your bill to help you become familiar with how and when you use electricity. You can also view more detailed energy use information by logging into your SmartHub account.

As mentioned in previous issues of this magazine, moving to a three part rate with a base monthly charge, an

energy charge, and a demand charge will more closely align your bill with the actual costs the cooperative incurs to serve your electric needs. This helps reduce the potential of one member subsidizing another. Today, more than 50% of our wholesale power costs are driven by demand, or how much electricity is needed at peak times. Aligning our rates with those costs helps keep them fair and equitable for all members.

By adding a demand charge to residential accounts, we are able to reduce the energy charge per kilowatt hour (kWh) by approximately 1.8% throughout the year.

For residential accounts, the demand charge will be \$0.85 per kilowatt (kW) based on your highest peak of energy use during the month. The average residential account reaches a peak demand of about 8 kW, which results in a demand charge of approximately \$6.80 per month. Some members will

have higher demand while others will have lower demand depending on how electricity is used in the home. As we've talked about before, spreading out (or unstacking) the use of large appliances, such as avoiding running an electric dryer, oven, and water heater at the same time, can help reduce peak demand. The demand charge will not apply to meters enrolled in our dual fuel off peak electric service.

By adding a demand charge to residential accounts, we were able to reduce the energy charge per kilowatt hour (kWh) by approximately 1.8% throughout the year. This is an increase of approximately 2.25% from 2025.

The board of directors and your management team take rate changes seriously. This decision reflects years of discussion and careful consideration. We believe the time is right to better align our billing structure with how costs are incurred, while continuing to provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible service to our members. (7375003)

If you have questions about your bill, understanding your demand, or ways to manage your energy use, our staff are available to help.

Working for You

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: Rodney Bauer and William Toennes.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



May is National Salad Month and National Asparagus Month. Yum! While both of those observances sound incredibly delicious and worth celebrating with our taste buds, there are also more serious observances this month, including National Mental Health Awareness Month and National Motorcycle Safety Month. While all of these deserve attention, we can only really speak to National Electrical Safety Month.

Electricity can be extremely dangerous but is often out of sight and out of mind.

There are precautions you can take both inside and outside your home when it comes to possible electrical dangers. For example, when you're outside, always be aware of overhead power line locations and never come within 10 feet of a line while trimming trees, carrying a tall ladder, flying a kite, or other far-reaching objects.

If you see a downed power line near your home or on your travels, always assume it is energized and NEVER go near it.

Safe Electricity offers these other electrical safety tips:

- **Cell phones make strange bedfellows:** Do not sleep or lounge in bed with a cell phone or other device that is charging: This can cause burns to your skin, and it can cause the soft bedding materials to ignite.
- **Charging devices and water don't mix:** Do not use a plugged-in (charging) cell phone near water. Take a break from your phone while bathing, swimming, or sitting in a hot tub. Deaths have occurred when a plugged-in cell phone has fallen into water. DO NOT use any plugged-in items near water.
- **Do not overload outlets or circuits.** While it can be tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or on one circuit, drawing too much power can damage your electronics or cause more serious problems, like a fire.
- **Do not use portable heaters unattended or around**

small children or pets. Do not place flammable items near a space heater.

- **Test your GFCI buttons once a month:** GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working properly.
- **Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home.** If your lights flicker often, if your outlets are warm to the touch, or if you smell odors like something is overheating there may be problems with your home's electrical system. If you notice any of these symptoms or other unusual electrical oddities in your home, consult a qualified electrician.
- **Make sure your home is protected with AFCIs,** which stands for arc fault circuit interrupters. When there is an arc fault, it means that an electrical source in your home is malfunctioning. When that happens, an arc (intense heat or light) can be discharged. Because of that, AFCIs are required by National Electric Code since they help prevent home fires. Have a professional electrician assess your home to make sure AFCIs are installed, especially if your home is older.
- **Include electrical sources when baby- or child-proofing your home.** There are many electrical components that toddlers and children can tamper with, such as exposed outlets, dangling cords, and accessible power strips or surge protectors. Be aware of potential electrical dangers throughout the home by getting down on the floor and seeing what is at eye level or within reach. Tamper-resistant outlets became required by the NEC (National Electric Code) in 2008; many homes built before then do not have them.

For more tips on electrical safety, please visit SafeElectricity.org.



THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE: YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

This month marks 89 years since the very first Annual Meeting of Dunn Energy Cooperative. That's 89 years of serving our community, our friends, and our neighbors. At first glance, your electric cooperative might not look much different than any other utility. You flip a switch, the lights come on, and the bill shows up each month.

But behind the scenes, there's something fundamentally different about how a cooperative operates. A cooperative isn't owned by distant investors or shareholders. It's owned by the people it serves. That means the same people who use the electricity — our local homes, farms, and businesses — also have a voice in how the cooperative is run. Decisions are made by a board of directors made up of members, not by a corporate office hundreds of miles away. (5504007)

That local ownership changes everything. That local ownership is currently in your hands. As a member-owner, you should have received your ballots in the mail recently. We encourage you to take a few minutes to learn about the candidates that will represent you, make your choice, and mail your ballots back in before our **Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 14.**

The cooperative advantage also means decisions are made with the long term in mind. Keeping the lights on during the coldest winter nights and the hottest summer days requires

careful planning and ongoing investment. Your cooperative isn't looking for short-term gains. It's working to ensure the system is strong and dependable for years to come.

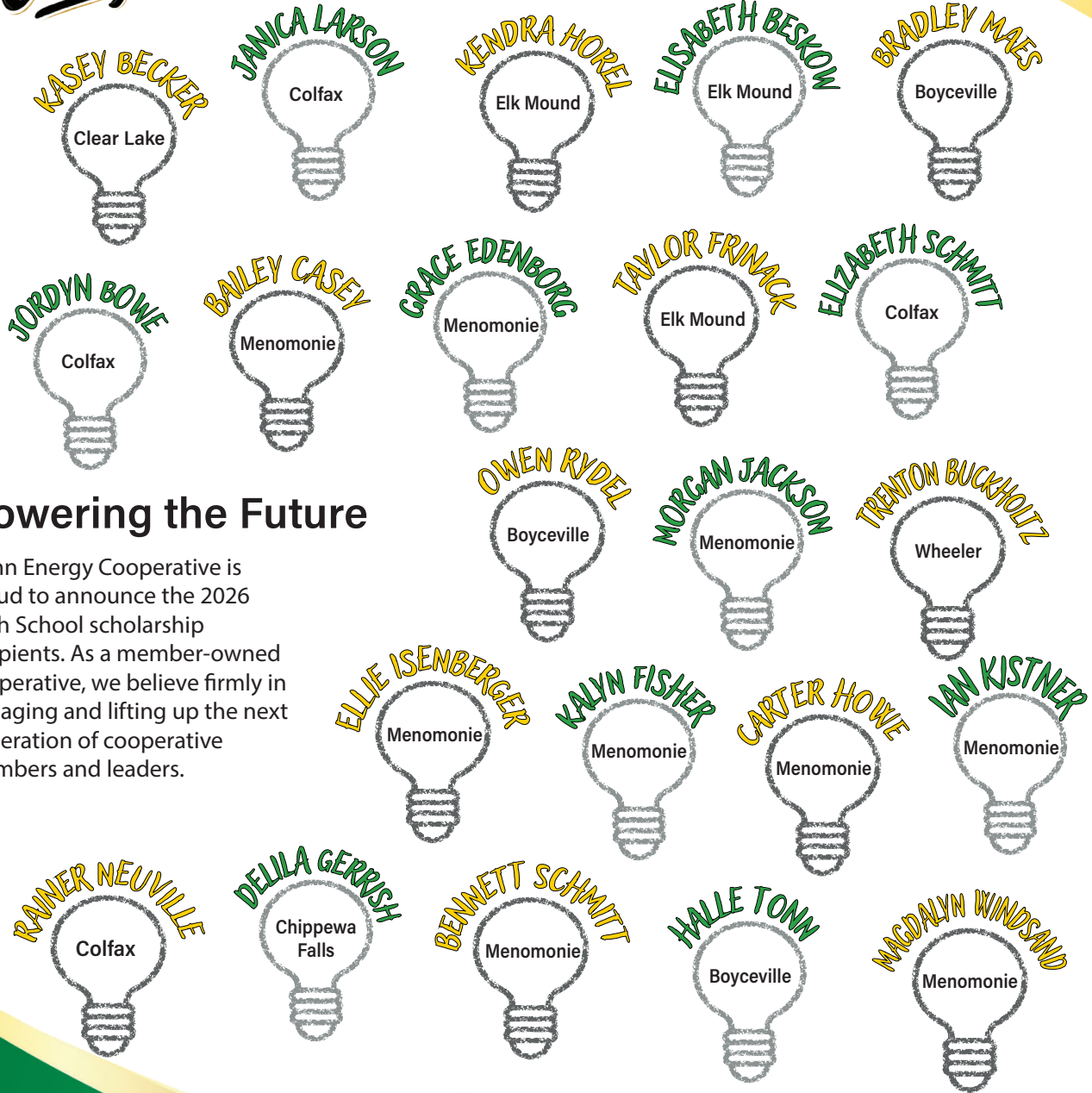
And just as important, your cooperative is accountable to you. Members are encouraged to stay informed, ask questions, and take part in decisions. Whether that's voting in board elections or learning more about programs that can help manage energy use and costs is up to you.

At the end of the day, being part of a cooperative means more than receiving a service. It means being part of something that is owned by the community, guided by local voices, and focused on doing what's best for the people it serves. That's the cooperative advantage.

Please join us for our Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Dunn Energy Cooperative. Registration and a light buffet dinner will be served starting at 5 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m. Guest speaker, Ashley DeMuth, CEO of the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce will present on the state of our county. Bill credits ranging from \$25 - \$400 will be given out during the meeting and all participants will leave with a pound of cheese from our cooperative partner, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery. See you there!



Congratulations!



Powering the Future

Dunn Energy Cooperative is proud to announce the 2026 High School scholarship recipients. As a member-owned cooperative, we believe firmly in engaging and lifting up the next generation of cooperative members and leaders.

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