



COOPERATIVE MONTH REFLECTIONS



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

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

October is Cooperative Month, a time to celebrate something that makes Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC) different from most other businesses. We belong to you; the members we have the privilege to serve.

When people think about their electric cooperative, they often think about keeping the lights on, restoring power after a storm, or receiving their monthly bill. But being an electric cooperative means our relationship with members is more than just a transaction. At Dunn Energy, every employee and board member works on behalf of the people who own the cooperative. We aren't serving distant shareholders or investors. We are serving our neighbors, friends, family members, local businesses, and the communities where we live.

That local connection has been at the heart of Dunn Energy for nearly 90 years.

The cooperative was created because people came together to solve

a problem that no one else was willing to solve. Families and farmers worked side by side to bring electricity to our rural areas. While the world around us has changed dramatically since then, that same spirit of cooperation is at the center of everything we do.

Every day, we see examples of that spirit throughout our service territory. We see it in the students working toward their futures, the family farms that have been passed down through generations, the small businesses creating jobs, and the volunteers who help make our communities strong. Our role is to provide the reliable energy those people depend on while supporting the continued growth and success of our area.

Being a cooperative also means investing in more than poles and wires. It means investing in people and causes that have an impact on our community. Through scholarships, youth programs, Operation Round Up, economic development efforts,

community partnerships, and educational opportunities, Dunn Energy strives to help strengthen the communities we serve. When local businesses grow, when young people find opportunities here at home, and when our communities thrive, we all benefit. (5419001)

One of the cooperative principles is "Concern for Community," and that principle remains as important today as it was when the cooperative was founded. It reminds us that success is measured not only by the electricity we deliver, but also by the positive impact we make together.

As we celebrate Cooperative Month, we want to thank you for being part of DEC. Your ideas, feedback, and support help shape the future of this cooperative. Together, we are more than an electric utility. We are neighbors helping neighbors, communities working together, and member-owners building a stronger future for our region.

Happy Cooperative Month and thank you for allowing us the privilege of serving you.

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: Christina & Ryan Larson and Kevin & Pamela Vasey.

You're Invited

THE POWER CONNECTION

Conversations with Your Cooperative



Do you like breakfast snacks?

Do you like learning about things that directly affect your pocketbook and our community?

Do you have an hour and a half, a handful of days a winter to hang out with others who also like breakfast snacks and learning?

If you said yes to the above, you might just be interested in our newest learning offer! The Power Connection: Conversations with Your Cooperative is five sessions over six months. Each month we take a deep dive into the cooperative business model, the grid, the challenges and opportunities the future will deliver, and more.

Each session is a short presentation and a lot of conversation. Our aim is not to present at you, but to offer topics and have discussions with you to learn more about our members' perspective.

Broad topics that have been covered in recent sessions include:

- What sets cooperatives apart from other businesses
- Reliable, affordable, and responsible energy
- Managing electric load across the regional grid
- How DEC bills vs. how DEC is billed from the power provider, and the challenges it provides
- Cooperative financials, weather, and capital credits
- Future opportunities and challenges including legislation, renewable energy, electric vehicles, member participation



There are a limited number of spots available for this course. If you are interested in participating, please contact our office by emailing info@dunnenergy.com or calling 715-232-6240.

DUNN ENERGY COOPERATIVE UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Looking for Former Members

As we get closer to fall, and the time to send out capital credit checks or apply credits to electric bills, we wanted to recap what capital credits are, what happens to them when they aren't claimed, and let you know who we're looking for. In years past, we listed pages of names in our monthly magazine. But, in recent years we decided to go electronic. You can find that listing and comprehensive capital credit information on our website at dunnenergy.com.

This year, we'll be returning over \$1 million to our members in the form of checks or bill credits. Unfortunately, over time, we've lost track of some people. So, what happens when we can no longer find previous members to send them their check? We will mail a postcard to their last known address in hopes that it is forwarded, and we'll advertise that

we're looking for them. Should they contact us, we'll send them their check for unclaimed funds in October with the regular retirement of capital credits.

If you're one of our members who like to peruse the list of names and find someone you know, please tell them to contact us. It's best practice for us to hear directly from the person we're looking for. If you know someone on the list that has passed away, please let their next of kin know, so the executor of the estate can contact us. We can only discuss the matter with the executor.

As a reminder, if you plan to move, make sure to let us know your forwarding address so we can continue to send you your checks and you don't end up on the dreaded list.



OPERATION ROUND UP DEADLINE MARCH 31

Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much-needed grant dollars for community projects, 501(c)(3) organizations and nonprofit 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 or by emailing Jolene for an application at 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!

MORE THAN YOUR ELECTRIC UTILITY

October is a special month for us. Every year, National Co-op Month gives us an opportunity to celebrate what makes cooperatives different, and more importantly, to show you what that difference looks like right here in the communities we serve.

We aren't just your electric utility. We're your cooperative. We're your neighbors. And we're invested in the communities we call home.

So far this year, we've provided more than \$26,000 in grant funding to 14 local organizations, supporting everything from soccer clubs and fire departments to schools and community projects. We've awarded more than \$20,000 in scholarships to local students pursuing post-secondary education. And this month, we're returning more than \$1 million in capital credits to you—our member-owners. (140019254)

That's the cooperative difference: when you do business with us, the benefits come back home.

And we couldn't do any of it without our incredible team.

There are just 27 of us, but together, we have a big job. This year, our team has maintained more than 2,060 miles of power lines, answered nearly 7,000 calls from members, processed more than 1,300 walk-in payments, and handled more than 10,000 bills every month.

But those numbers only tell part of the story.

They don't count the members who stopped in with

questions about a new service. They don't count the conversations about rebates or capital credits. They don't count the member who flagged down a line crew to ask a question, or the conversations happening every day on social media. And they certainly don't capture the countless small interactions that happen when our employees are out in the communities we serve.

Because the majority of our staff don't just work here. We live here. We shop here. We raise our families here. We volunteer here. We're part of the same communities you are.

That makes what we do personal. Safely providing affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible energy is our job. But being a good community partner is part of who we are.

That's because cooperatives are built on guiding principles that put people at the center of the business. They aren't simply words on a page or suggestions for how we might operate. They are the foundation of how we do business.

We answer to you, our member-owners, not to shareholders somewhere across the country or around the world.

And that means when you support your cooperative, you're supporting an organization that is right here with you, working to make our communities stronger.

That's something worth celebrating—not just during National Co-op Month, but all year long.





October is Cooperative Month!

DUNN COUNTY Cooperative COOKOUT

Lunch includes: Hot Dogs, Beans, Chips, Deep Fried Cheese Curds, Cookies, and Beverages

CO-OPS
BUILD
ECONOMIC
POWER



**Saturday, October 31
11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Dunn Energy Cooperative
N5725 600th Street, Menomonie

- 🍌 Cooperative Displays
- 🍌 Kids Trick-or-Treating
- 🍌 Raffle Prize Drawing
- 🍌 Come in Costume!



**Food Drive
& Diaper Drive**



Please consider supporting Stepping Stones of Dunn County Food Pantry with a **non-perishable food donation** or The United Way's Menomonie Diaper Bank by making a **diaper donation**.

Together, we can make a difference!



CO-OPS BUILD ECONOMIC POWER



#CoopMonth #CoopsBuildEconomicPower



Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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

Jolene Fisher, Editor



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