



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COOPERATIVE

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Since 1937, members of Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC) have been investing in their cooperative to achieve the goal of providing safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to the homes, farms and businesses across our service territory. What started with just a few members working together, has grown to nearly 10,000 members because of the foresight, investment and commitment of every member over the years.

DEC has a commitment to investing in our cooperative. Each year we upgrade several miles of line, replace old poles, change out transformers, clear trees from our right-of-way, update equipment and trucks, educate our employees and directors, add electric services for new members, and retire capital credits to our members. Those are just a few of the ways we are investing in our cooperative. We operate the cooperative with a consistent and steady long-term focus on achieving our mission and adding value to our membership.

The monthly bill you receive is more than just the cost of the energy you used that month. It also goes to cover the cost of running the cooperative, including the poles, wires, meters, transformers, office facilities, and people needed to have that energy available to you at the flip of a switch. The revenue to invest in the cooperative comes from two main sources: rate revenue collected from our members each month and borrowing from the Rural Utilities Service or other lenders. In simplistic terms, when the cooperative invests \$500,000

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in a line upgrade, 50% is paid for with rate revenue and 50% is borrowed. That approach keeps the cooperative financially strong and provides for a steady investment in our distribution system.

The cost of investing in our cooperative distribution system and keeping the cooperative financially strong requires a rate change of roughly 4.75%. We last changed rates in January of 2023, and in the last two years we have seen increased interest rates, and higher costs of materials and equipment. We've also experienced flat energy sales and higher demand charges from our power supplier. Thus a rate change was needed and will be effective with the bill you are receiving in early February. (140019398)

The board and employees of your cooperative are committed to delivering value for your energy dollars and protecting the long-term financial health of your cooperative. Through sound investments in our lines, equipment, headquarters, and employees, we will be able to achieve our mission of safely delivering reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to you and our community.

Members can also help us invest in making our cooperative stronger by filling out the postcards enclosed in this issue and sending them to your State Senator and State Representative. This will show our support for ROFR, or Right of First Refusal legislation related to essential electric transmission lines in Wisconsin. Look for more information on ROFR in the articles in the general portion of this magazine.

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 Paul Stauffacher and Scott & Sarah McHenry.

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. (5763001)

Each year Dunn Energy provides educational scholarships to 15 high school students who are embarking on higher education, as well as one non-traditional 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


memoriam 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.



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.




AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.




DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.




EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.



MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.



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 promote advanced 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: _____

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 _____

2. Does the applicant have at least a four-year cumulative GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale? YES / NO

Signature Principal/Counselor _____

Date _____

Return application to:
Dunn Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 220
Menomonie, WI 54751

Or by email to:
jolene@dunnenergy.com

Applications are due the first Friday in March

Qualifications:

1. Parent or guardian of student must be a member of Dunn Energy Cooperative.
2. Student must be a graduating high school senior and plan to begin college or vocational training the following year.
3. Student must hold a 3.0 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale.
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.



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**
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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

Applications are due the first Friday in March

To be eligible:

1. The applicant or their spouse must be a member of Dunn Energy Cooperative and a bona fide resident of the cooperative's service territory.
2. The applicant must be in good standing with Dunn Energy Cooperative.
3. The recipient must have maintained a 2.5 (or better) grade point average during their current quarter or semester of post-secondary education.
4. The recipient must be enrolled in a course of study leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree or certificate.
5. The recipient must be enrolled with a minimum of five (5) credits and be in good standing at the school they are attending.
6. Children of full-time DEC employees or directors are not eligible.
7. 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.
8. The program must be a minimum of one year.

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

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Jolene Fisher, Editor



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