

Spotlight

January 2021

Annual Meeting to Stay in June

With 2020 officially behind us, we wanted to give you a quick update on things to come in 2021. Last year, due to COVID, we had to postpone the annual meeting several times and ended up holding it drive-in style in June at the Cooperative office. The Annual Meeting of Members has traditionally been held in the Spring. After being forced to move it to a warmer month and not contend with the possibility of snow and slippery parking lots, the Board of Directors has decided to continue holding the Annual Meeting in June at the Cooperative office, at least for the time being. Whether it is held inside or out

will depend on the status of COVID in our communities come summer.

If you are in a district that is up for election this year, you will see your Notice of Nominations in your mailbox in February. If you are interested in running for the board there will be information in that letter on how to proceed.

We have some potentially good news for 2021. Early projections show that there may not be a need for a rate increase for this year. That's good for everyone's pocketbook. See the Board Meeting Summary on the back of this newsletter for more information.

On the COVID front, we're staying vigilant in doing what we can to keep our employees healthy so we can continue to provide great customer service and respond to outages. As soon as it's safe, we'll have our doors back open to the public for those who like face-to-face interaction. Until then, you can always reach us by phone, through SmartHub, or by emailing info@dunnenergy.com. Payments can also be put in our drop box near the flagpole in our turnaround.

Watch our website and social media accounts for more information on the status of our lobby and other important announcements.

Time to ditch your old space heater?

If you can't remember when you purchased your space heater, it might be time to replace it. Just like the flip phones of yesteryear have progressed into today's modern cell phone, portable space heaters have come a long way too. Most of today's models have built-in safety features, such as non-exposed coils and sensors that detect overheating or touch, as well as an automatic shut-off feature in case it gets tipped over.

Regardless of whether your space heater is fresh out of the box or several years old, it should be used safely, since most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve using one, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, right behind cooking.

Along with using a unit that is in good working order, be sure to keep clothing, papers, rugs and other flammable items at least 3 feet away from a space heater. More than half of the heating-related home fires start when items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA, including upholstered furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Safe Electricity and Dunn Energy Cooperative recommend these additional space heater safety tips:

1. Read all instructions and only use as recommended.
2. Do not leave a space heater unattended.
3. Plug it directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater cycling on and off.
4. Unplug any other item from the outlet you are using; also try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
5. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
6. Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
7. Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
8. Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place on furniture, counters or carpet, which can overheat.

Use a space heater with care.
For additional safety tips, visit
[SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).



86% of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Safe Electricity.org

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

Beginning this month, we plan to publish a summary of Board Meeting highlights. Because of publication deadlines the information will be slightly delayed. For the newsletter to be published at the beginning of the month, our deadline is the 10th of the previous month. So, in this case the January newsletter will contain highlights from our November meeting, as our board meetings are held typically the last week of each month. This information will also appear on our webpage and will be accessible through SmartHub. If you ever have any questions about your Cooperative please feel free to contact Jesse Singerhouse, CEO. He can be reached at 715-232-6240 or via email housej@dunnenergy.com.

November 2020 Board Meeting Highlights



- Approved the minutes from the October 2020 Board meeting.
- Reviewed the monthly new member listing of the Cooperative.
- Approved the capital credit estate payouts for deceased members totaling \$7,217.79
- Operations report focused on outages, construction activities, and day-to-day work. 127 new services have been installed year-to-date. The final work plan project of the year is wrapping up. A line upgrade project was also done near Cheese Factory Road in the Town of Sherman. The Board approved the 2021 meter order.
- Energy Management activities include: updating of firmware for all meters, routers and collectors, inspection of irrigation control devices, conducting the annual dual heat test, and working on water heater sales. Plans for an electric vehicle car charger to be installed on the system are under way. There are still shares of SunDEC community solar available. Participants have received \$46.91 in credits for each share this year. A new generator is being planned for the headquarters in 2021.
- Financial report showed sales above budget for the month. For the year, sales are slightly below budget and expenses are significantly below budget. This results in net margins above budget, year-to-date.
- Approved deferring some revenue to 2022 which may mitigate the need for a rate increase.
- Approved the annual write-offs for 2018. The minimal number of write-offs done is excellent again this year.
- Approved the audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts.
- Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.
- Manager's report focused on the impacts of COVID-19 at Dunn Energy Cooperative, the programs available from USDA and succession planning.
- Approved the 2021 Scholarship program using unclaimed capital credit funds. There will be 15 scholarships for graduating high school students, one for a non-traditional student and one for a lineman-in-training at CVTC.
- Approved donations to several groups including the CFC Integrity Fund which helps Cooperatives in territory disputes, NRECA International Fund which helps build electrical distribution lines in underserved areas of the world, and Stepping Stones Food Pantry.

Operation Round Up®



Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations and non-profit 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!



This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



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