

# Spotlight

September 2020



## FROM THE MANAGER — JESSE SINGERHOUSE

### Staying Safe, Keeping the Power On

COVID-19 has impacted many things in our lives. That holds true for Dunn Energy Cooperative as well. I wanted to give you a quick update on the current procedures at the Cooperative to protect our members and keep our employees safe to respond to your energy needs.

We are asking that all members who visit the office wear a cloth face covering if you are medically able to do so. We are also limiting the number of people in our lobby to a max of three at a time. As we have talked about in the past there are many convenient payment options including online, over the phone, and in the dropbox located under the flagpole near our front entrance. Our SmartHub account management program, found at [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com) or through your app store, allows you to pay your bill, look at your energy use, and take control of your energy account. If you need help getting set up on SmartHub call one of our Member Services staff; they would be glad to help you.

Our line crews continue to work in separate teams and our office staff members are wearing masks while practicing good social distancing. We've worked with the local health department and industry partners to put a pandemic plan in place that allows us to adjust our operations as the conditions of the pandemic change in Dunn County. Watch our website, social media, and newsletters for more information should things change.

We hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy during this challenging time. We will continue to do our best to deliver your energy service in a safe and reliable manner.

### Operation Round Up® Deadline Approaching

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](http://www.dunnenergy.com) or by emailing Jolene for an application at [jolene@dunnenergy.com](mailto: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!



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## License to Live: Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives Launch Educational Campaign for Drivers



### THIS IS YOUR LICENSE TO LIVE

A group of representatives from Wisconsin electric cooperatives, including Dunn Energy Cooperative, along with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and Safe Electricity, are launching an educational campaign aimed at making sure drivers know what to do if they are in a crash that involves power lines or other electrical equipment. "License to Live" includes an educational video and other instructional materialism and was funded by the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

The idea was sparked by Carol Blaken, member relations manager at Jackson Electric Cooperative, after she witnessed a crash in which a young

teen driver had a very close call after hitting a utility pole.

"The car was flipped on its hood. My husband went to assess the accident while I called 911. The driver of the car was out of the vehicle, hands on his knees, and my husband said if the driver would have reached up with his arms he would have touched the sagging power lines," Blaken recalls. She also stopped the teen from returning to the car to get his cell phone.

Realizing how many drivers of all ages are unaware of the clear and present danger of downed lines, Blaken approached Benjamin Bella, safety & compliance coordinator for a group of four western Wisconsin electric cooperatives, who organized a group of representatives from Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, Jackson Electric Cooperative, Oakdale Electric Cooperative, and Riverland Energy Cooperative, and the "License to Live" campaign was born.

"Our goal throughout this entire project has been simple. Education and Awareness. If we can put together a quality product illustrating what to do during a car vs pole emergency; it WILL save lives," Bella said.

"At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we too often hear of and respond to automobile accidents that involve a utility pole or transformer box," said Monica Obrycki, Chief Administrative Officer at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. "Ideally, these incidents would not happen at all, but the reality is that they do. This video will help educate young drivers on what to do if this happens to them."

The "License to Live" campaign is aimed at making sure people know exactly what to do when your car comes into contact with a utility pole or wire, including:

- STAY IN YOUR vehicle and call 911
- ONLY get out of the vehicle if it is on fire
- IF you must get out, jump from the vehicle with both feet together, and shuffle your feet on the ground as you move away from the scene
- ALWAYS assume all wires and equipment are electrified

The planning committee is also working to get the information incorporated into driver's education curriculum and are distributing the "License to Live" video and educational materials through Wisconsin electric cooperatives.

To learn more about *License to Live* and view the video, go to: <https://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live/>



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

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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