



**Dunn Energy  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By James Hathaway,  
General Manager

## DEC ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Dunn Energy Cooperative will take place on Saturday March 17, 2018. The meeting will be held at the Off Broadway Banquet facility in North Menomonie.

Elections will be held for the board seats in districts 6, 7, and 8. Information on the members running for the director positions will be included in the annual meeting information that will be mailed out soon. Mail-in ballots will also be sent so members can vote for the candidates of their choice. This year members will also be asked to vote on proposed changes to the cooperative's bylaws.

**One of the biggest benefits of co-op membership is the opportunity to select those members who will represent your interests on the board of directors.**

Attending the co-op's annual meeting gives members a chance to meet the employees and directors of Dunn Energy Cooperative and learn more about the co-op.

Information on past performance and what the future holds for your electric cooperative and the electric utility

industry will be presented. Put simply, the annual meeting is your chance to learn more about your cooperative and to help choose its leaders. You provide direction for your cooperative through the annual meeting and daily communication with employees and directors.

I hope that cooperative members will take part in the voting for the board positions up for election this year. One of the biggest benefits of cooperative membership is the opportunity to select those members who will represent your interests on the board of directors. Hope to see you at the meeting! (1551)

### Electric Rates

At the December board meeting, the co-op's board of directors approved the co-op's 2018 budget. No action was taken on electric rates for 2018. Wholesale power costs will be increasing about 1.6 percent in 2018. And wholesale power costs represent about 70 percent of our total costs. Revenues based on current electric rates were about \$250,000 below what is needed to meet financial targets for 2018. But that is only about 1 percent of total revenues for the year.

In 2017, a mild winter and relatively cool summer resulted in revenues well below budget through the month of October. Cold weather in November and December resulted in electric sales well above budget, however. And as a result, revenues for the year ended up slightly above budget. The co-op's 2018 budget calls for a slight drop in electric sales. Members are switching to LED light bulbs and more efficient appliances. That should mean lower electric sales and lower revenues.

Weather still plays a big role in electric sales though. A cold winter or hot summer will mean more electric sales, perhaps enough to make up the shortfall in budgeted revenues. Knowing that, we have decided to take a "wait and see" approach to revenues and electric rates for 2018. We also have our engineering performing a cost-of-service and rate study this winter. The study will evaluate cost allocations and help us determine what changes need to be made, if any, to our rates.

### Software Update

As I have reported in past articles we are changing software providers this year. These days just about everything and every business relies on computers. For Dunn Energy members the change will mean that your account number will be changing. For those who pay by e-bill or ACH or credit card, you will need to re-register your information. Look for more information in coming newsletter and magazine articles.



Pictured (left to right) are Bonnie Stanton, Carma Koller, Ruth Hayden, Maria Garlie, Linda Harschlip, and Sue Dahl.

## OPERATION ROUND UP® HELPS COVER QUILT PROJECT

In 2017, Dunn Energy Cooperative granted funds to the Rock Creek Lutheran Church quilting group. The group quilts and donates the final products to local shelters, victims of fire, and through a group sending quilts to other areas of the country in need.

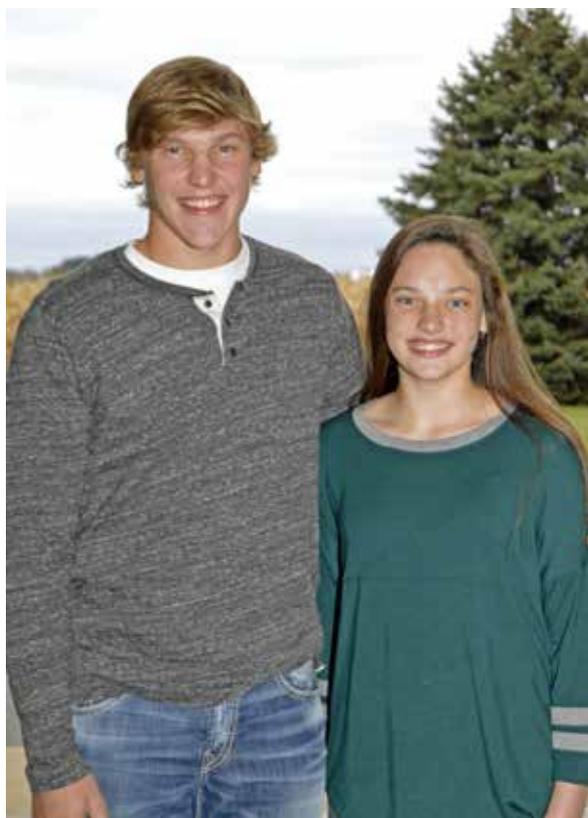
Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much-needed

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!



The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that in 2016, about 279 billion kilowatthours (kWh) of electricity were used for lighting by the residential and commercial sectors in the United States. This was about 10% of the total electricity consumed by both of these sectors and about 7% of total U.S. electricity consumption.

Can you imagine what those numbers would look like if co-ops across the nation didn't have incentive programs for changing your old incandescent bulbs to new LED bulbs?

Together we can make a difference for young adults, like Cooper and Jensine here. We started our Energy Sense rebate and incentive program 10 years ago to empower our members to make common sense choices about energy. Energy conservation has been a priority at Dunn Energy for nearly 80 years. We care about our members and as a local cooperative we have a vested interest in the future of energy in our community.

Dunn Energy is ready to make a difference for their generation, and the next. Are you?

Visit our website at [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com) or call us at 715-232-6240 to learn more.

**Energy Sense**™   
Together we can...



# Farm Bill UPDATE

Every five years, the U.S. Congress considers the Farm Bill, a bill that has huge implications for America's electric cooperatives, including Dunn Energy. The bill sets food and agriculture policy for the entire nation, affecting everything from which crops are grown to funding for food nutrition programs. The Farm Bill is due to be reauthorized by the federal government this year.

The Farm Bill is about much more than agriculture policy. It promotes rural economic development and allows co-ops to finance basic electrification activities, deploy high-speed communications, and enhance smart grid technologies. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national service organization, America's electric cooperatives are working to ensure lawmakers in Washington know what our priorities are for the 2018 Farm Bill. Here are a few.

## Rural Broadband

Increasing high-speed internet access in rural communities is a priority for many co-ops. Broadband access isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. But 34 million Americans in mostly rural areas lack access to high-speed internet. So, co-ops have asked Congress to use the Farm Bill to provide significant funding for broadband loans and grants to all viable internet providers, including cooperatives.

## Economic Development

Co-ops aren't just electricity providers. They are engines of economic development—powering and empowering the communities they serve. The Farm Bill's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program is an important source of financing for economic development projects in rural

communities. Over the last two decades, electric cooperatives have partnered with community stakeholders on hundreds of projects to renovate hospitals, build libraries, and expand businesses. Co-ops have asked Congress to ensure ample funding for this program in the next Farm Bill and beyond.

## Innovation

Not-for-profit electric co-ops are natural incubators of innovation because they are driven solely by the needs of members like you. The USDA runs a number of programs that help fund innovative projects, including the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP). Co-ops use these programs to save members money by financing investments in energy efficiency, constructing new renewable energy resources, and deploying electric grid modernization technologies. REAP and RESP help ensure that co-ops are poised to meet the evolving needs of their members. (1544)

## USDA Rural Development

The health of our nation is dependent on a healthy rural America. Rural America grows most of the food, generates much of the power, and manufactures many of the goods consumed by the nation. USDA's office of Rural Development operates many different programs that provide fundamental assistance to those rural communities. Co-ops have asked Congress to maintain a strong rural development in the Farm Bill to reaffirm the importance of these programs.

We look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders to pass a Farm Bill that promotes economic growth in rural America and allows co-ops to continue meeting the needs of their members.—*Dan Riedinger*



## NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

The committee on nominations met at the office of the Cooperative at N5725 600th Street, Menomonie, Wisconsin, on the 30th day of January 2018, and made the following nominations for directors to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on March 17:

Nominees for director to succeed Tom Zwiefelhofer:

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| 1. John Paulus<br>5049 83rd Ave.<br>Colfax, WI 54730 | 2. Tom Zwiefelhofer<br>6745 118th Ave.<br>Bloomer, WI 54724 |
|--|---|

Nominees for director to succeed James Wildner:

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|--|---|
| 1. Tim Lienau<br>E4593 322nd Ave.<br>Menomonie, WI 54751 | 2. James Wildner<br>E4695 330th Ave.<br>Menomonie, WI 54751 |
|--|---|

Nominees for director to succeed Lee Jensen:

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|---|---|
| 1. Lee Jensen<br>2911 County Road N<br>Colfax, WI 54730 | 2. Gerald Strand<br>N8265 948th St.<br>Colfax, WI 54730 |
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The bylaws provide that 25 or more members may make

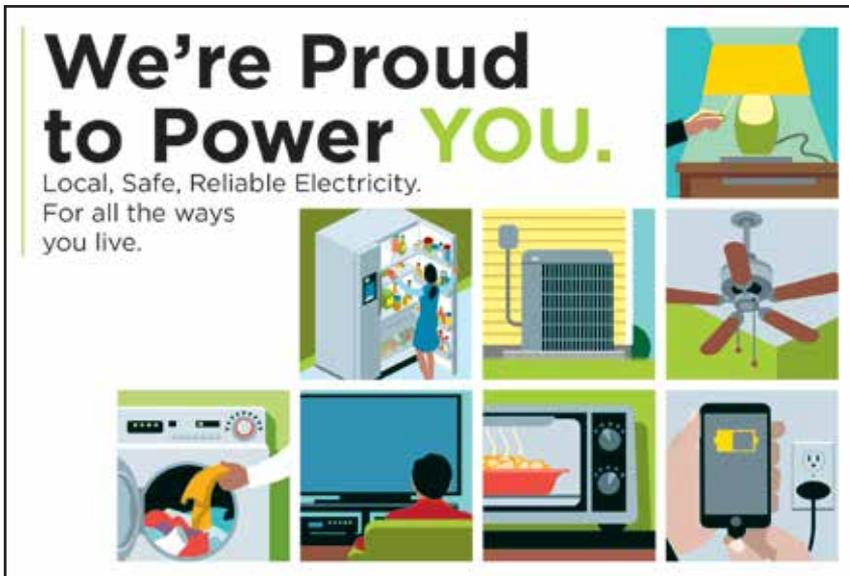
their nominations in writing over their signatures on or before 4:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2018, and if such other nominations are made they will also be posted with the above list of nominations made by the committee and such additional nominees listed on the ballot.

Anyone nominated for director by petition should turn in a picture and resumé of themselves when the petition is turned in. This will give voting members information on directors.

### Reminder of proposed bylaw changes

In last month's issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine, we discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws. There will be a separate ballot for each of the three changes we are proposing. If you didn't have a chance to read the article last month regarding the proposed changes, we highly suggest you do so.

Cooperative Principle #2 is Democratic Member Control. This means you are not just an anonymous customer to us. You have equal voting rights. We want members to make informed decisions. This is why we send you things like our monthly newsletter and the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine. We hope to see you, or at least your ballot, at the annual meeting on March 17!



### \$\$ FOR HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

If your account number is one of the two hidden account numbers in this issue, it will mean \$10 credit on your account if you call the office before the end of the month. Two customer account numbers have been randomly selected and are hidden in the Dunn Energy Cooperative section of this *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*.

### James Hathaway, Manager

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### Jolene Neisius, Editor



"Energy Through Excellence"

## Dunn Energy Cooperative

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