

June 2017

## FROM THE MANAGER— JIM HATHAWAY

### Early Summer Update

It's June and summer is here. With summer come graduation parties, barbeque season, and hot summer days. As in past years, Dunn Energy Cooperative took part in graduation season by giving out scholarships to children of our members. This year the cooperative gave out 15-\$500.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The money for the scholarships comes from capital credits owed to

former members who we can no longer locate. In the past, these funds were given to the State of Wisconsin in accordance with state escheat laws. More recently, however, the funds have been paid out in the form of scholarships. Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients!

Summer also brings construction season. Much of the power line that we build these days is put in underground. Once the ground thaws and things dry up, we can start building and replacing power lines again. The cooperative recently signed a contract to have over six miles of underground line installed in the southwest part of our system. The project will complete the upgrading of the line that runs from our Downsville substation south of Eau Claire to our Comfort substation west of Eau Galle. The new line will be capable of handling more electricity. It will also be underground which should reduce the likelihood of outages due to storms.

Along with line construction, new home construction typically ramps up this time of year. We also get a number of requests to upgrade service lines as members do home remodeling projects. If our linemen are not busy with construction they are out fixing and replacing lines and equipment. Our line inspection program is designed to detect problems before they result in outages. Other programs such as our pole testing program are also designed to identify problem poles and have them replaced before they fail. The key goal of all these programs is to improve power quality and reduce outages.

In the office we continue to take steps

to utilize technology to improve service and hold costs down. We continue to expand our use of data gathered from our new meter reading system to reduce outage times and detect system problems. We are in the process of converting old paper files to digital. This helps us reduce paper use and makes it easier to access member account and billing information.



***Our load control program helps with the demand for energy and helps reduce the cost of purchasing additional energy.***

We understand that our members are busier than ever and looking to save time and money. That's why we offer automated payments systems such as Bill4U, our online payment program, or our ACH program where members can have their electric bill payments deducted automatically from their bank accounts. You can log onto our website at [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com) and click on Payment Options to sign up for either of these programs. Or give us a call at the office.

Summer also brings hot weather and added air conditioning load means higher electric bills not only for members but for the co-op as well. There is more demand for electricity in the summer months. So it costs us more to buy electric power in the summer. Dunn Energy charges an extra penny and a half per kilowatt

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- 1 American Lutheran Homes Pie & Ice Cream Social** – 915 E. Elm Ave., Menomonie – 4-6:30 p.m. - \$7 includes BBQs, Potato Salad, Beans, Homemade Pie 7 Ice Cream, Beverage – Proceeds will go towards a new patio area for residents and their families
- 14 Veterans Memorial 17th Annual Flag Day Ceremony** – intersection of 2nd St. & Crescent St., Menomonie – 10 a.m. – Noon – For more information visit [cfdunncounty.org](http://cfdunncounty.org)
- 24 Menomonie Blue Caps 1860 Vintage Baseball Game** – Phelan Park. Menomonie – Game will be played from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – cost of admission is 2-bits (25 cents).

***If you have any upcoming events you'd like to post in our calendar, please call Jolene at 232-6240 or email her at [jolene@dunnenergy.com](mailto:jolene@dunnenergy.com).***

# Cooperation among Cooperatives



Dunn Energy sent a crew to Barron County at 4 a.m. following the tornado that ripped through Chetek on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Last month, when the storms ripped through Barron County, Dunn Energy Cooperative sent two linemen to help Barron County Electric restore power to the several thousand people who were out. One of the founding principles of a cooperative is Cooperation among Cooperatives. Through the national ROPE (restoration of power in an emergency) program, cooperatives can request help from other cooperatives. Help can come in the form of manpower, vehicles, or power poles and wire.

The help can also come from just about anywhere. In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina ravaged Louisiana, a caravan of linemen from Wisconsin, including some from Dunn Energy, headed south and stayed for two weeks at a time helping rebuild and restore the power system. We've sent linemen to North Dakota for ice storm restoration, and more locally to Siren, Wis. to help after the tornado a few years back. We've also had crews come help us after storms. Cooperation among Cooperatives is an important part of life in a cooperative family, and ROPE is just one example.

## Operation Round Up: Applications Due June 30

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!



## FROM THE MANAGER...

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hour during the summer months of June, July, and August to cover the extra cost of electricity. That, along with more use by members, means higher electric bills. We offer opportunities for members to reduce energy usage through our load management programs. This can help control the size of the electric bill.

Members who are signed up for our load management programs allow Dunn Energy Cooperative to shut off or control certain units like water heaters, air conditioners and hard-wired electric heat during peak demand periods. Air conditioners are actually cycled on and off every 15 minutes. This reduces the demand for energy and helps reduce the cost of purchasing additional energy. In return for allowing us to control these appliances, the co-op offers bill credits to participating members. Dunn Energy Cooperative's load management program is an easy way to hold down your electric costs. Call us today to see what you need to do to sign up for our load management program.

## Spotlight



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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