

Barron Area Phone: (715) 537-3171
Toll Free: 800-322-1008
Fax: (715) 537-5146



Dallas Sloan
General Manager
www.barronelectric.com

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Contact Person: Carrie Baribeau, Marketing Specialist
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Highlights of Barron Electric Cooperative's 73rd Annual Meeting

Nearly 800 members and guests attended Barron Electric Cooperative's 73rd Annual Meeting held on Saturday, March 28 at the Barron High School. State Representative Mary Hubler addressed the members commenting that Barron Electric was ahead of the curve in going green by promoting compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for years. Hubler added, "Barron Electric has set an example that Wisconsin and the United States can follow." Bill Berg, President and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative, told members about cost pressures on Dairyland Power resulting from coal, coal transportation, new generation and environmental and renewable legislation. Berg indicated that 2009 would be a challenging year for generation and transmission. Berg remarked, "We encourage members to contact their local legislators about how these issues will affect their electric bills." Members can visit www.ourenergy.coop to start the dialogue with legislators about keeping electric rates affordable. Share Brandt, Manager of the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, and Selmer Nelson, President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors, echoed the message of Berg by emphasizing the importance of contacting legislators. Nelson encouraged members to complete a postcard, which will be sent to local legislators regarding members' concerns about legislation that will affect electric bills. Brandt discussed the Carbon Cap and Trade and Carbon Tax Programs and how this environmental legislation will impact electric bills. Barron Electric Cooperative's General Manager Dallas Sloan told the membership, "Barron Electric collects less revenue than other cooperatives in the Dairyland Power system, and continually looks for ways to reduce costs by working more efficiently."

Incumbents Arlyn Helm, District 1; Norman Busse, District 5; and Beverly Buckner, District 7; were all re-elected to a three-year term on Barron Electric's Board of Directors. At an organizational meeting following the annual meeting, the following directors were elected to the respective positions: Selmer Nelson, President; Norman Busse, Vice President; Arlyn Helm, Treasurer; and Barbara Holman, Secretary. Lynn Peterson was re-elected to serve as Barron Electric's delegate on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board.

Maxine Lendl of Chetek was the grand prize winner of an Energy Star refrigerator. Stefania Mazon of Weyerhaeuser was the winner of a chest freezer. A \$50 electric bill gift certificate was awarded to 40 lucky members. And, Allison Buchli of Rice Lake was the winner of the bike, awarded as part of the kids' program.
