

# 7 News FOR YOU...

May 2016

**“Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve.”**

**Barron Electric Cooperative**

## Highlights of 80th Annual Meeting

Barron Electric celebrated 80 years of delivering affordable and reliable electricity at their member’s annual meeting on April 9. Congressman Sean Duffy and Senator Janet Bewley both recognized Barron Electric for their 80 years of service. Congressman Duffy expressed his thanks to Barron Electric for taking the lead and keeping him informed on issues facing the electric industry. He said, “This partnership helps me do my job better to assist in keeping your rates low.” Senator Janet Bewley presented Barron Electric with an 80th anniversary certificate from Wisconsin’s Governor Walker. Barbara Nick, Dairyland Power Cooperative’s President and CEO, told members, “Dairyland Power’s goal is to diversify their energy mix by building more renewables and shifting from coal to natural gas.” Dairyland plans to add 15 MW solar facilities throughout their service territory. General Manager Dallas Sloan discussed Dairyland Power’s maintenance projects, including the Van Loon Wildlife Refuge Project. He also emphasized Barron Electric’s commitment to worker safety, noting its extensive safety education and training program. He stressed, “Barron Electric’s safety record is the second best in the state

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*Above: Board President Selmer Nelson presents the Free Year of Energy Grand Prize to Jean and Leon Comeau of Springbrook. General Manager Dallas Sloan visits with members. Pictured left: Kids’ winners included front row: Zane Smith, Alexa Murray, and Maeli Baker. Back row included Grace Botty, Alec Schuebel, Kierra Schuebel-winner of the iPod Touch, and Christian Jorstad.*



# Grill Sale



Receive a 20% discount on electric grills and accessories during the month of May. Barron Electric offers three models at the following sale prices including:

- Lock & Go.....\$60.73**
- Smoker.....\$77.63**
- Cart-style.....\$133.53**

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008, visit [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) or e-mail [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com).

# Members Discuss Wide Array of Topics

More than 80 randomly selected members attended the “Get to Know Your Cooperative” event and discussed a variety of topics including: SmartHub, capital credits, and electric vehicle technology. Glenn and Sandi Kolb said, “We enjoyed the “Get to Know Your Cooperative” event. The evening was well planned and informative.”

### SmartHub

SmartHub is an online tool that allows members to access their account information, usage, pay their electric bill, and contact the office. Studies show that those who monitor their usage on a regular basis consume 12% less electricity, therefore saving on energy costs. Members can access SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com). Have your account number handy to get started.



### Capital Credits

Barron Electric has paid out over \$22 million in capital credits since 1965. Capital credits are typically paid back or retired after 20 years or when the financial condition of the cooperative permits.

### Electric Vehicle Technology

Electric vehicle technology is advancing quickly. According to the Department of Energy, more than 234,000 plug-in electric vehicles and 3.3 million hybrids are on the road in the U.S. today.



*Sue Dau, Barron Electric Cooperative’s Systems Coordinator, talks with members Mary Jane and Hank Drinken and Brian Sharpley at the “Get to Know Your Cooperative” event. Some of the topics they discussed included SmartHub, solar, and electric cars.*

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## Employee Spotlight



Kim Eder visits with a member about capital credits at a cooperative month event.

Kim Eder, Customer Service Representative, said, "I enjoy working with members on billing and capital credit questions, inquiries, and concerns. I love being able to assist members." Prior to starting at Barron Electric, Kim worked at Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) #11. She graduated from the Information Processing Specialist course at WITC-Rice Lake.

## 80th Annual Meeting

*Continued from Cover*

and has one of the lowest worker compensation rates. These savings contribute to keeping rates low. Barron Electric has gone five years without a rate increase." Board President Selmer Nelson reported to the members, "Our balance sheet shows that our members have contributed almost 42% of the capital required to finance the assets of the cooperative."

*"Outage reports indicate that our reliability is very high with an average of only one and a half hours of outages per member for the entire year," remarked Board President Selmer Nelson.*

## Supporting Veterans



Barron Electric Director Lynn Peterson presents a \$500 check to Larry Johnson, AMVETS Post 888 Commander. The money will help bring the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall to Barron's Anderson Park from September 8-12. "The Moving Wall" is a half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for over thirty years.

Incumbents Michael Baker, Lynn Peterson, and Richard Bol were all reelected to three-year terms, representing Districts 3, 6, and 9, respectively. Members had the opportunity to ask questions. One member asked, "Why does Barron Electric give out large rebates to businesses?" General Manager Dallas Sloan explained that these rebates were given to members who have made energy-efficiency improvements in their facilities. He added that rebates are also given to members who make energy-efficiency improvements in their homes. These rebates are funded through Dairyland Power. Another member asked about the security of the electric grid. Barbara Nick, Dairyland Power Cooperative's President and CEO, explained that the grid has redundancy and that there are strict protocols for security.

Leon Comeau of Springbrook was the grand prize winner of the one year of free energy. Kierra Schuebel of Cameron was the kids' grand prize winner of an iPod Touch.

# Director Notes



Larry Kuhl represents District 5 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors, which includes the townships of Long Lake, Bear Lake, Oak Grove, Stanfold, Rice Lake, and Doyle.

## Condensed Board Minutes February 24, 2016

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was printed as part of the board packet as follows: #89500 thru #89696 of Central Bank was in the amount of \$255,205, capital credit estate checks of \$9,280 and capital credit retirement checks of \$5,231. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$4,036,030; total receipts by wire and ACH- \$888,410; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,575,724; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$339,037; power bill paid 01/27/16 in the amount of \$2,209,220 and power bill paid 02/24/16 in the amount of \$2,195,270. A membership list of 29 was presented and approved by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$94,908.48 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$0; change jobs - \$0; miscellaneous - \$94,908.48 and 3 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 1,616 consumer hours off, which is 80.2% above 2015 hours of 320. Overtime year-to-date is 113.25 hours, which is 1.99% above 2015 hours of 111.

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Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.

# Jerry Thompson Wins Megawatt Community Service Award



Congratulations to Jerry Thompson, Barron Electric's Megawatt Community Service Award winner. Jerry was instrumental in developing the youth football program in the early 90s, where he helped raise money to buy football equipment. He was also a member of the Spooner City Council. He was a volunteer fireman for 18 years, as well as a member of the Lion's Club. In 1975, he joined Benson-Thompson Real Estate, which his son, Chris, now manages. His son, Matt, works at Anderson, Hager and Moe. He remarked, "We like to do our part for the community."

### Nominate a Member

The Megawatt Community Service Award supports Barron Electric Cooperative's mission to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve and promotes our 7th Cooperative Principle, "Concern for Community." Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award. Application forms are available at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008. Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit.



Lineman Jason Kircher is pictured with Jerry Thompson, Barron Electric's Megawatt Community Service Award winner.

## Cook's Corner

### Easy Baked Beans Geraldine Ryan

- 3 lb. can Bush's baked beans
- 1 lb. can butter beans
- 1 lb. can lima beans
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 1 ½ tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 small onion (diced)
- 6 strips bacon (fried)
- ¼ lb. Velveeta cheese (cubed)



Mix all together and bake in oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or put all ingredients in a crock pot. Cook on high until hot, then slow cook for 2 or 3 hours.