



News FOR YOU...

October 2013

"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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Congressman Sean Duffy Visits with Electric Cooperative Employees and Directors

U.S. Congressman Sean Duffy visited with Barron Electric and Polk-Burnett employees and directors regarding electric cooperatives and legislative issues that may have an impact on electric rates. Barron Electric's General Manager Dallas Sloan thanked Congressman Duffy for his support of H.R. 2273 and voting for coal ash as a non-hazardous waste. Dairyland Power Cooperative, Barron Electric's wholesale power provider, recycles approximately 90% of its coal ash, depending on market conditions, in concrete and other materials.

Robert Thorsbakken, Board Director at Polk-Burnett, discussed the challenges of Clean Air Act and the impact this could have on electric rates. Sloan emphasized that nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter emissions have declined drastically from 1980 to 2000. He said, "Millions of dollars are spent today, but results in little benefit." Bill Schmidt, General Manager at Polk-Burnett Electric



Congressman Sean Duffy answered questions on a variety of topics at a legislative forum held with Barron Electric and Polk Burnett employees and directors, including Barron Electric's General Manager (pictured).

Cooperative, said "Polk Burnett and the USDA recently awarded a \$360,000 loan to the Grantsburg Fire Department, which helps spur future economic development."

Sloan also thanked Duffy for his support of the Department of Energy's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding large capacity electric water heaters capable of being used in demand response and thermal storage programs. Sloan said, "This allows Barron Electric to continue to promote large water heaters, which play an important role in our load management program."

Lineman Dan Ripplinger asked Congressman Duffy when a farm bill would get passed? "Cooperatives in the 7th District primarily serve rural areas, which makes the Farm Bill important," stressed Dan. Duffy explained that he

Blood Drive Set for October 10

The American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive at Barron Electric's office located at 1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron, on Thursday, October 10 in conjunction with Barron County Cooperative's "October is Cooperative Month" celebration. For appointments, please visit redcrossblood.org and search by zip code 54812 or call 800-733-2767. A driver's license or donor card is required.

The need for blood is constant. Every day, patients are helped by donors who give at blood drives coordinated by generous volunteers. Here are some examples of patients that may have been helped:

- A heart patient was given more than 60 units of red blood cells.
- A liver transplant patient required transfusions of red blood cells.

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Over \$650,000 in Capital Credits Will Be Returned to Members



5R Processors will host an electronic recycling drive.



The Barron Maple Grove Fire Department will present a Jaws of Life Demonstration at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Celebrate “Cooperative Month” and pick up your capital credit check at events set for October 8 and October 10. Members eligible for a capital credit check received a postcard in the mail last month. If you are unable to attend these events, checks will be mailed throughout the month of October.

Help stock the food shelves by bringing in non-perishable food items for area food pantries and receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb.

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Barron Electric’s Spooner Office
1550 Paulson Drive, Spooner
Lunch • Community Displays
Live Music
Recycling Drive • Free Shredding

Thursday, October 10, 2013 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Barron Electric Cooperative
1434 State Hwy 25 North, Barron
Blood Drive 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lunch • Prizes • Live Music
Co-op and Community Displays
Jaws of Life Demo
Recycling Drive • Free Shredding
Bring unused medication to the
MedReturn Drug Collection Box



Congressman Duffy Visit *(continued from cover)*

is hoping they can come to a consensus about the Farm Bill and pass one that meets the needs of his constituents. He said, “I know how important a Farm Bill is to Wisconsin; that’s why I have supported and worked for the progress we have made so far, we need a Farm Bill.”

Lineman Steve Root asked about

nuclear waste and Yucca Mountain. In August, a federal court directed the government to carry out its lawful obligations in developing a national repository for high-level nuclear waste. The order by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Court won’t necessarily mean

opening a repository for spent nuclear power-plant fuel at the partially completed Yucca Mountain facility in Nevada, but it does compel the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

(NRC) to proceed with review of the project. In 2013, nuclear waste will cost Barron Electric members \$282,235.

Jody Schlapper, Customer Service Representative, said, “We’re nearing retirement. My husband and two brothers are in partnership. Each of the family members has worked full-time outside the family farm and paid income taxes. How can we protect our retirement from capital gains?” Sean Duffy said that he knows how important family farming is to the 7th District.

Other topics discussed included Medicare, Obama Care, and Social Security. Congressman Duffy said that we need to support the seniors that have paid into these programs. Sloan commented, “Congressman Duffy has been willing to listen to our concerns and wants to do what’s best for northwest Wisconsin, these meetings are very productive.”



U.S. Congressman Sean Duffy talked with Barron Electric and Polk Burnett employees and directors on topics including climate change, the Farm Bill, Yucca Mountain, and Obama Care.

New Employees Providing Excellent Customer Service

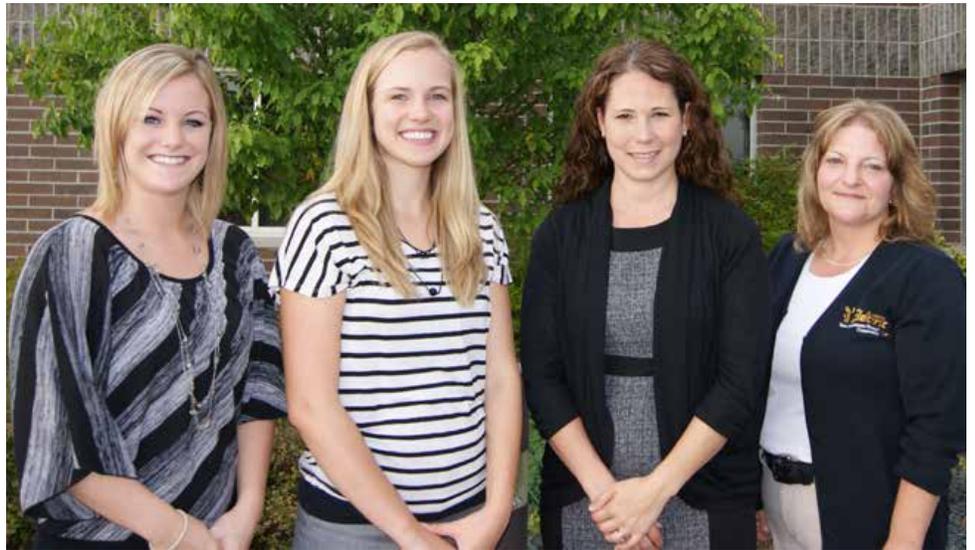
Meet Barron Electric's newest customer service representatives including Randel Peters, Deidra Meyer, Julie Anderson, and Kimberly Eder.

Randel Peters worked at the Jennie-O-Turkey Store, Gilligans, and the Barron Dairy Queen. She graduated from Barron High School. She has an Administrative Assistant Degree from WITC-Rice Lake. She commented, "I enjoy helping our members."

Deidra Meyer worked at Bank Mutual in Rice Lake prior to starting at Barron Electric. She studied sports medicine at a community college in Kansas. "I like the variety of job duties," said Deidra.

Julie Anderson has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. She worked at Dunn Energy Cooperative as a receptionist prior to starting at Barron Electric. She commented, "I enjoy helping members with new services and answering their questions."

Kimberly Eder worked at CESA #11 in Turtle Lake for 13 years. She remarked, "I like the capital credits portion of my work and providing excellent customer service to our members."



Customer Service Representatives Randel Peters, Deidra Meyer, Julie Anderson, and Kimberly Eder are helping members with billing, operations, and capital credit questions.

Right-of-Way Clearing to Conclude in November

Zielies Tree Service will be concluding another year of Right-of-Way Clearing in November in eleven townships in Barron Electric's service territory. The cooperative hires contractors to clear trees and brush in sixty-one townships on a rotational schedule of every 5 years for Barron County and every 6 years in Washburn County. Trees and brush can cause power outages, lights to blink, blocks access for maintenance and repairs and can create a safety hazard for line crews.



The Jarraff allows improved clearance and moves more efficiently throughout the system.



Terry Lee of Zielies Tree Service handcuts brush along a fence line.

Changes to Mail Processing May Affect Delivery

The United States Postal Service is shifting much of its mail processing operation from the Eau Claire processing facility to St. Paul. Most local mail (going to zip codes beginning with 547 and 548) will continue to be processed in Eau Claire for now. You may notice mail going to zip codes outside of the 547-548 zip codes taking an extra day to be delivered. The USPS doesn't expect a significant impact on mail being delivered to local zip codes, but there may be some. Due to this change, please allow extra time for your payment to reach Barron Electric's office. Payments received after the 20th of the month are considered late and subject to a late fee.

Save time and money by signing up for Electronic Funds Transfer. Click on SmartHub at barronelectric.com or scan the QR code to visit our website.



Access My Account



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 July 31, 2013

- 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: #84910 thru #85060 on First National Bank of Barron was in the amount of \$256,507; capital credit estate checks \$2,686 and NWPA Refund checks of \$5,099. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,112,914; total receipts by wire, ACH, credit cards - \$1,080,567; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$3,666,704; transfer of funds was made for payroll - 163,233; power bill due 07/31/13 - \$1,892,596. A membership list was presented for review and approved.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$127,606.72 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$67,408.68; change jobs - \$7,100.72; miscellaneous - \$53,097.32 and 2 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 76,923 consumer hours off, which is 221.9% above 2012 hours of 23,894. Overtime year-to-date is 1684.75 hours, which is 30.3% above 2012 hours of 1293.

News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.
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the newsletter, please e-mail
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Don Peterson Wins the Megawatt Community Service Award



Congratulations to Don Peterson. Don has been President of the Barron Kiwanis Club, as well as a board member. He helps with fund-raising and said that the club's biggest fund-raisers are the Pumpkin and Squash Sales and Christmas Tree Sales. He is a member of the Volunteers in Mission Team. He said, "Over 35-50 volunteers from United Methodist Churches and community members travel to Texas and help repair houses." Don is President of the Barron Area Community Center Board and helped with early fund-raising. He is also a member of the Barron Ecumenical Christian Men's Club, Vice President of the Mayo Clinic Health Systems Northland Board, and has held numerous positions at Barron's United Methodist Church. Don is co-owner of the Barron Veterinary Clinic.



Sally Romanowski, CSR at Barron Electric, presents the Megawatt Community Service Award to Don Peterson.

Megawatt Community Service Award Process

Barron Electric is rewarding members and their families for community service by awarding a \$50 electric bill credit to the chosen winners on a monthly basis. Nominate a member by completing the application form, available at barronelectric.com in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.

Cook's Corner

Pockets of Lemon Cake Genevieve Gillert



1 package Pillsbury Moist Supreme White Cake Mix
1 1/4 cups water
1/3 cup Crisco oil
4 egg whites

Filling:

1 can (15.75-ounce) lemon pie filling or 1 (3.4-ounce) lemon instant pudding and pie filling (prepared)

Topping:

1 (16-ounce) can Pillsbury Creamy Supreme Lemon Creme or Vanilla Frosting
1 (8-ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 13x9 inch pan or spray with nonstick cooking spray. Prepare cake mix as directed on package, using water, oil and egg whites.

Spread batter in greased and floured pan. Drop pie filling by heaping teaspoonfuls evenly onto batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until edges pull away from pan and top is golden brown. Cool cake in pan for 45 minutes or until completely cooled. In medium bowl, combine frosting and whipped topping; blend well. Spread over cooled cake.