



News FOR YOU...

May 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 

Bylaw Change Approved, 100 Prizes Awarded, and Directors Reelected at 77th Annual Meeting

Nearly 800 members and guests attended Barron Electric Cooperative's 77th annual meeting on Saturday, April 6. Incumbents Michael Baker, District 3; Lynn Peterson, District 6; and Richard Bol, District 9; were all reelected to Barron Electric's Board of Directors. Senator Robert Jauch told members, "Cooperatives celebrate the ideals of democracy, by and for the people. This utility is yours."

Don Huff, Director of Environmental Affairs at Dairyland Power Cooperative, told members that renewables and environmental costs consist of 16% of their expenses. Dairyland forecasts that expense to increase to 21% by 2017. Don commented, "Dairyland's Board of Directors approved a 2013 budget with less than a one percent average wholesale rate increase over 2012." Don also discussed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Award. Dairyland refunded \$18.8 million to distribution cooperatives, while maintaining half the funds for future rate relief. "We are in the process of litigation to collect funds for 2007-2012," Don reported to members. As a result, Barron Electric Cooperative received \$1.26 million,

which the Board of Directors chose to refund to members.

General Manager Dallas Sloan gave a presentation on the frac sand industry, which highlighted six frac sand companies that receive electricity from Barron Electric. Seventeen Barron Electric linemen and 19 contractors



Donna Lloyd, Bob Hansen, and Bev Grocke were among nearly 800 members who attended the 77th Annual Meeting.

and vendors worked together for over 7 months to construct 3 new substations, upgrade 1 substation and build 4 three-phase line extensions. When asked if rates would decrease due to the frac sand plants, Dallas explained, "Barron Electric's Board of Directors has our rates reviewed by a rate consultant to ensure that they are fair and equitable for all members." He talked about safety at the cooperative and added, "Barron Electric employees have



Members had the opportunity to view products from Country Wood Shop, the featured business. Show your Co-op Connections® Card and receive a 2% discount on custom-made furniture orders.



Melissa Klump, Barron Electric's Member Technology Coordinator, talks with members about WiFi thermostats.

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Annual Meeting

driven over 800,000 miles without an accident.” He discussed Barron Electric’s Megawatt Community Service Award, which has been given to Nancy Kaner, Gary Solum, and Carolee Lundsten. President of the Board Selmer Nelson said, “Barron Electric has reached a longtime goal of

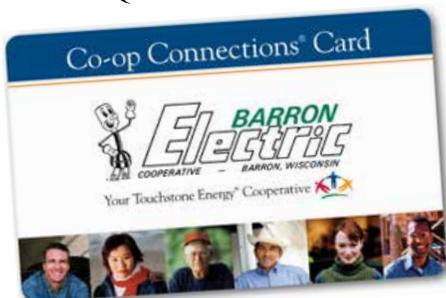


40% equity, which reduces interest rate expenses.” In February and March, 500 randomly selected members participated in Barron Electric’s loyalty survey. The

Kierra Schuebel was the winner of an iPod Touch at the Kids’ Carnival.

Members Save Over \$5,000 with Co-op Connections® Card

Barron Electric members have saved over \$5,000 on prescriptions by using the Co-op Connections® Card. For savings, visit connections.coop or scan the QR code below.



Scan for savings!

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survey gave Barron Electric a score of 81 on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. Selmer also presented the Friend of the Cooperative Award to Norman Busse, who served on Barron Electric’s Board of Directors for 39 years, retiring in 2012. New business included a proposed change to Barron Electric’s bylaw regarding payment to estates. The bylaw stated that the aggregate amount to be retired in any one year should not exceed \$75,000, while the amendment indicated that the amount should be left to the board’s discretion. The amendment to the bylaw carried with a vote of 332-18.

Confidential Records

shredded 1,800 pounds of documents, while 5R Processors collected over 8,000 pounds for recycling. Tom Olson of Cumberland was the grand prize winner of an Energy Star refrigerator. Slow cookers, coffee makers, and blenders were given to 99 members.



Barron Food Pantry collected 400 cans of food.

Concern for Community

Barron Electric Cooperative recently donated \$1,000 to help the Shell Lake Arts Center install a new air conditioning system. Barron Electric’s General Manager Dallas Sloan said, “Improving the quality of life in our service area is part of the cooperative’s mission. We are happy to help the Shell Lake Arts Center.” Shell Lake Arts Center has been providing creative arts education for over four decades. Executive Director Tara Burns said, “We are looking forward to the new air conditioning system and keeping our students comfortable throughout the summer months.” The Center will be host to more than 600 students, where master teachers and clinicians help motivate students to become better artists. For more information about their camps, visit shelllakeartscenter.org.

Funds for community donations are made available through the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members.



Barron Electric’s Board Director Barb Holman presents a \$1,000 check to Shell Lake Arts Center Executive Director Tara Burns.

Youth Conference Focuses on Cooperatives and Leadership

More than 100 Wisconsin and Minnesota high school students attended the CO-OPS YES! Youth Leadership Conference in Eau Claire. Barron Electric Cooperative sponsored Hannah Schweitzer to the conference; she was also elected to the Youth Board. Hannah remarked, "Craig Hillier gave a Breakthrough Leadership talk and inspired me to truly excel in life. This persuaded me to run for Youth Board. I am very excited to have been selected to be on Youth Board and represent Wisconsin this coming year. I plan to be an accountant when I grow up. I found the differences between a cooperative and a for-profit business fascinating."

The conference was designed to help students gain a better understanding of the role and operation of cooperatives. They were also taught leadership skills, discovering a problem-solving process they can use, and adjusting to the teen issues that they face. The conference included sessions on maximizing students' potential, credit unions, our energy future, and careers global co-op development.



Hannah Schweitzer was elected to serve on the Cooperative Network's Youth Board at the CO-OPS Yes! Youth Leadership Conference.

Kerrs Awarded Megawatt Community Service Award



Meet Jim and Mary Kerr, Barron Electric's latest Megawatt Community Service Award Winners. Jim spends innumerable hours visiting area nursing homes, toting his equipment and singing to the residents. His wife, Mary, helps by keeping his schedule in order and helping with the equipment. Jim is a current member of Kiwanis and VFW. They are both past members of the Cumberland Lions and active members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Cumberland. Jim and Mary play an active role in the Doctor J. Chris Kerr Memorial Scholarship fund created in honor of their son, Chris, who lost his life in a bicycle/truck accident.

Nominate a Member for the Megawatt Community Service Award

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. General Manager Dallas Sloan said, "This directly reflects Barron Electric's mission statement to improve the quality of life in the area we serve and exemplifies the 7th cooperative principle of concern for the community."

Nominate a member by completing the application form, available at barronelectric.com in the news area or by contacting the office at 800-322-1008.



Save \$30 Annually with Central Air Program

Members are eligible for a \$10 monthly credit during the months of June, July, and August, \$30 annually, by participating in the load management program for central air conditioners. Appointments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.



Yes, I want \$30 (\$10/month for 3 months). Sign me up for the Central Air Program. Please return this form with your electric bill. Appointments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Barron Electric Account #: _____

Director Notes



Beverly Buckner represents District 7 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors, which includes the following townships: Stanley, Sumner, Strickland, Stubbs, Rusk, and Big Bend.

Condensed Board Minutes February 27, 2013

- The minutes of the January 30, 2013 board meeting were approved as printed. 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: #84184 thru #84344 on First National Bank of Barron was in the amount of \$301,596; capital credit estate checks \$18,866 and capital credit retirement checks \$1,784. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,583,554; total receipts by wire, ACH, credit cards - \$857,307; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,642,436; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$160,329; power bill due 02/27/13 - \$2,162,665. A membership list was presented for review and approved.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$20,673.48 was presented for approval. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 8,093 consumer hours off, which is 4.57% below 2012 hours of 8,481. Overtime year-to-date is 117.50 hours, which is 11.82% below 2012 hours of 133.25.

News FOR YOU...

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the newsletter, please e-mail
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Nearly 20,000 Members Receive Special Refund Check



Barron Electric Cooperative directors Beverly Buckner, Scott Warwick, Lynn Peterson, Selmer Nelson, Larry Kuhl, and Richard Bol present a check for more than \$50,000 to Jennie-O-Turkey Store, represented by Scott Sand (holding check). Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), Barron Electric's wholesale power provider, was awarded a settlement from the federal government. Barron Electric's share of this settlement was over \$1.25 Million. The board approved a refund to the members that averaged \$60 per residential member.

Cook's Corner

Delicious Meat Balls Darlene Bratager



- 3 pounds ground meat
- 2 Cups cracker crumbs
- 1 Cup milk
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tablespoon onion chopped (more if you like)
- 1 teaspoon each salt, pepper
- 1 ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt
- 2 eggs

Sauce:

- 1 ½ Cups brown sugar
- 2 Cups ketchup
- 1 teaspoon each salt, dry mustard, chili powder, Worcestershire sauce

Mix all the first group of ingredients and make into balls. Place into a large baking dish. Cover with sauce. Bake 300 degrees for 1 hour or until done. (Leftovers freeze beautifully!) Serves 12-15

Each recipe winner will receive a Farm Technology Days cookbook. Please e-mail your recipe to barronec@barronelectric.com or send your recipes to:

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