

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
January 2021
Photo by John Berthiaume

Barron Electric Returns more than \$900,000 in PCA Credit on December Bill

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), Barron Electric's wholesale power supplier, reduced expenses during 2020, which created excess margins. They returned this excess to their members including Barron Electric. Barron Electric's Board of Directors approved passing the Dairyland Power credit through to members in the form of a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). General

Manager Dallas Sloan remarked, "Barron Electric's Board of Directors approved passing on the DPC credit to our members, as well as an additional \$500,000 to lower the cooperative's margins. We hope this made the holidays brighter for our members." The average member using 1,150 kilowatt hours received a credit of nearly \$40.00 on the December bill statement.

Use your credit to help those in need. See page 3 for more details in the Members Helping Members article. If you have any questions regarding your electric statement, please contact Barron Electric's billing department at billing@barronelectric.com or 800-322-1008.

Making the Rural Area a Better Place to Live

Two organizations, both with the same mission of helping those in need, were grateful for Barron Electric's support. "We are proud to help Nature's Edge Therapy and Family House on Heart Island fulfill their missions of helping make the rural area a better place to live," remarked Dallas Sloan, General Manager at Barron Electric Cooperative. Barron Electric gave a \$1,000 donation to each organization which includes a match from Barron Electric's lender, CoBank, who administers the Sharing Success Program. The program is designed to match the contributions of CoBank customers to the charitable groups they support throughout rural America.



Catherine Raj, occupational therapist at Nature's Edge Therapy, right, and Candra Peck, left, barn manager, with Pride the pony, accept a \$1,000 donation from Nellie Cupp, member account representative at Barron Electric.



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Visit our website at barronelectric.com for payment options, outage information, rebates on energy efficient equipment, news, and more.



Access your account through SmartHub to view your usage, payment history, or contact the office.

Employee Spotlight



Jordan Riebe is pictured with the buck he shot during the 2020 gun season.

Jordan Riebe is a graduate of Barron High School. He worked as a lineman with WE Energies prior to starting at Barron Electric in 2015. Jordan helps construct and maintain the cooperative's electric distribution system. He has an Electrical Power Distribution Degree from Chippewa Valley Technical College. Jordan commented, "I enjoy working with a great group of co-workers!"

#POWERON

Be Prepared for Winter Outages

Keep safety in mind during winter power outages.

- When outside, stay away from downed power lines. A power line doesn't have to be sparking or arcing to be energized. Equipment near power lines can also be energized and dangerous.
- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact your utility.
- Never drive over a downed line, as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- Be careful approaching intersections where traffic or crossing lights may be out.
- If you plan to use a generator, know how to operate it safely
- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights, and a supply of fresh batteries. Also, have water, blankets, and non-perishable food.
- Keep your electronics safe by unplugging them when the power goes out. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- Never use a charcoal grill to cook or heat with inside the home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- If you live with a child or elderly person, you may need to take them somewhere with power, so they can stay warm. Keep warm by staying inside and dressing warmly in layered clothing.



Making the Rural Area a Better Place to Live *Continued from Page 1*

Nature's Edge Therapy

Nature's Edge Therapy treats patients of any age who need speech, occupational, and physical therapy. Their main focus is those with autism, traumatic brain injury and cerebral palsy. Licensed staff along with a variety of therapy animals help patients attain their highest potential for living.

Family House on Heart Island

The Family House on Heart Island opened in 2015 to help care for the homeless. Individuals receive a hot meal, a warm place to stay, as well as help with various resources including drug and alcohol programs.

The Rice Lake Community Health Foundation is helping match donations given to Nature's Edge Therapy and Family House on

Heart Island. Funds for Barron Electric donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation,

an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members.



Carrie Baribeau, left, communication specialist at Barron Electric, presents a \$1,000 donation to Mary Hrdkicka, Director at the Family House on Heart Island and Duana Bremer, Chair of the Board for Family House on Heart Island.

Why Buy an Electric Car?

Electric vehicles (EVs) are fun to drive, safe, comfortable, and convenient to refuel. They cost less to operate per mile and produce no tailpipe emissions. While there is a growing network of public charging stations nationwide, most EV drivers prefer to charge at home, because it's convenient and saves money. Electrifying all forms of transportation could reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 by 57% versus 2015 levels. Approximately 46 EV models are available new today and 127 models, including pick-up trucks, are expected by 2023.



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Free Electric Vehicle Charger

Barron Electric offers a free Level 2 electric vehicle charger to members who purchase an EV. The charger works with all J1772 complying cars, as well as Tesla vehicles using Tesla's charging adapter. Some conditions do apply. Visit our website at barronelectric.com for more details on this rebate.



Members Helping Members

Use your PCA credit to help others

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our members financially. Although there are many forms of assistance available, bills still need to be paid. Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill. Use your recent PCA credits on your electric bills to help those in need. Mandy Straw, Director of Finance, commented, "Thank you to those who have supported this program. Members who have received these funds have been very grateful."

Help a member by paying \$50, \$100, \$200 or any amount desired towards their electric bill; please send a check with the member's name, address and phone number. Please contact our billing department at 800-322-1008 or billing@barronelectric.com for more details.

Photo Contest

Winner receives a \$50 Credit



E-mail your winter photos for our photo contest. The winning photo will be

used on the cover of the *News for You*, and the winner will receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill.

Criteria for the photos include:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape).
- Photos must be high resolution, at least 300 dpi.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by January 9, 2020. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.



*Condensed Board Minutes

October 28, 2020

* View full board minutes on SmartHub.

Photo by Scott DeVoe

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.



- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #98177 thru #98265 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$276,563 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$20,851. Director Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,279,518; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,017,616 disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,562,114; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$191,447 and power bill paid 10/28/2020 in the amount of \$1,920,231.
- A membership list of 98 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of September in the amount of \$271,087.07 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$10,920.64; change jobs - \$8,145.70; miscellaneous - \$252,020.73 and 7 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages through the month of September stand at 77,621 consumer hours off, which is 81.57% below 2019 hours of 421,053. Overtime year-to-date is 3,029.75 hours, which is 43.00% below 2019 hours of 5,315.25.

News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.
If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail
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