

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
October 2019
Photo by Pamela Bruder



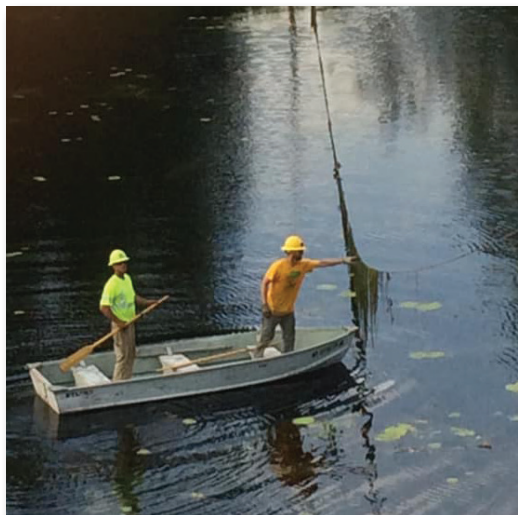
A Powerful Wedding Gift

Plans were in place for Meghan Ricci and Trey Waite's July wedding to be held at the home of David and Laureen Ricci, Meghan's parents, on Crystal Lake. On July 19, two tornadoes and two Derechos, which is a widespread, long-lived, and straight-line wind storm, left 9,500

Barron Electric members without power including the Riccis. With just over a week until the wedding, the Riccis were hopeful that they would have power for the big day. Laureen said, "Our food vendor was excited at the thought of his first generator wedding." David added, "We had several generators borrowed to us, just in case." When the linecrews needed a boat to pull the line up from the lake, Laureen quickly offered one. Both David and Laureen were thankful for all of the help. Zielies Tree Service, Barron Electric's Right-of-Way Contractor, even stopped to see what time the wedding was going to be held, so they could shut off their chainsaws. The Ricci's power was restored on Thursday, July 25, just two days prior to the wedding. Laureen remarked, "Every time a yellow truck drove past, I waved and yelled thank you."



#worththewaite



Linecrews recovered a downed line in Crystal Lake.



Top photo: A beautiful day for the wedding couple. Bottom photo: Lineman Ben Brede helped restore power just in time for the wedding of Meghan and Trey Waite.

Monthly Photo Contest Fall Landscapes

E-mail your fall landscape photos for our photo contest. Winning photos will be used on the cover of the *News for You*, and winners 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 October 5, 2019. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.

Scam Alert

The Federal Trade Commission received more than 940,000 fraud complaints in 2018, and 69% were via the phone. Hang up if:

- the caller threatens or scares you
- the caller asks you to wire money or pay with gift cards
- the caller claims to be a grandchild who needs money

Before you send money or give out any personal information, call a family member, friend or your local law enforcement.

Sources: AARP & Barron County Sheriff's Department

Employee Spotlight Working for our Members



Deidra Meyer is Barron Electric's CIS Specialist. She has held various positions since joining the cooperative in 2013, from answering calls in Billing as a Customer Service Representative to processing member rebates in Member Services. Now, she works closely with our primary software company to help manage new product implementation, like our new bill design and annual rate analysis for our large loads. Deidra said, "I enjoy the wide variety of job duties, as well as working with the employees and members of the cooperative."

Federal Disaster Declaration to Provide Storm Assistance

Electric cooperatives that experienced significant expenses related to destructive weather from July 18-20 may be able to recover as much as 87% of these costs under a federal disaster declaration. Barron Electric Cooperative had over \$1.5 million in damages. The federal government will cover 75% of the cost of eligible recovery activities. The remaining 25% is to be covered at the state level, with 12.5% paid by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the cooperative responsible for the remaining 12.5%.



Two derechos and two tornadoes left extensive damage on July 19.

Our Members Like Us More Than Chocolate!

Over 1,600 members completing an e-mail survey gave Barron Electric an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) Score of 87, our highest score since being measured by the ACSI. Barron Electric's score of 87 is among the highest in the nation. Barron Electric scored higher than one of the largest chocolate manufacturers in the world.

ACSI is the only uniform, national, cross industry measure of satisfaction. ACSI measures four key areas: overall customer satisfaction, how a utility measures up to expectations, how it compares to an "ideal" utility, and customer loyalty. The first three indicators are combined to create a single index score that can serve as a benchmark of the utility's overall performance.



Thanks to all the members who participated in the survey. Four members were randomly selected to win a \$50 electric bill credit and they included: Wayne Brenholt, Lee Carlson, Steve Englund, and Thomas Rolewicz.



Wisconsin Linemen to Help Electrify Village in Guatemala

Wisconsin electric cooperative linemen are partnering with those from Illinois and Iowa in a regional effort to help electrify a village in Guatemala and help families they have never met. The project, directed by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International, will provide power to 42 homes, a school and a health post in the village of Salinas 7 Cerros in north-central Guatemala. They will spend approximately two weeks working to bring power to this village.

A technical team leader from each state visited the area to familiarize themselves with the project design and address any questions or concerns.

Through NRECA International, the rural electrification efforts of U.S. electric cooperatives has

provided electricity access to 160 million people in 43 countries. This has helped boost agricultural productivity, creating millions of new jobs and has improved the quality of life for rural communities.

Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives donated \$33,000 to this project, a

first of its kind; Barron Electric donated \$2,500. Funds for donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, a fund consisting of unclaimed capital credits. This project exemplifies the seventh cooperative principle, "Concern for Community."



Director Notes

Tim Kessler represents District 2 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors, which includes the following townships: Evergreen, Spooner, Dewey, Bashaw, and Barronett.



Condensed Board Minutes

July 31, 2019

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #96351 thru #96517 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$463,335 and recording no capital credit estate checks. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,631,374; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,164,864; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$3,474,236; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$198,597 and power bill paid 07/31/19 in the amount of \$2,190,941.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$354,576.23 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$15,845.65 change jobs - \$9,803.73; miscellaneous - \$328,926.85 and 3 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 26,152 consumer hours off, which is 18.01% above 2018 hours of 22,160. Overtime year-to-date is 1,875.25 hours, which is 39.53% above 2018 hours of 1,344.

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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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Barron Electric is an equal
opportunity provider.



Cook's Corner

Bear B-Q
by Jim Hill

1-8 lb. bear roast
2-1 lb. bacon thick cut
1-12 oz. Sweet Baby Ray Barbecue Sauce
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. garlic powder
½ tsp. ground pepper black
1 medium onion diced
1 quart water
1 dozen 4" hamburger buns



In a slow cooker, slice the bear roast in ½" thick slices. Place a layer of bacon strips in bottom of slow cooker. Place 1 slice of bear roast. Mix all spices and onion together. Cover bear and roast slice with spice mixture. Continue with bear slices and bacon and spice mixture to fill crockpot. Cook on medium heat for 8 hours until tender. Add water to cooked mixture. Put in refrigerator overnight. Two hours before eating, turn crockpot on high heat. In a few minutes, take fat layer off top part of cooker. Discard. With a knife and stirring spoon, mix bear meat and bacon. Heat to proper eating temperature. Serve on buns. Enjoy.

Give Blood Give Another Chance Blood Drive at

Barron Electric Cooperative
1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron
Thursday, October 10, 2019
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please call 800-733-2767 or visit
redcrossblood.org and enter Barron Electric to
schedule an appointment.