

News FOR YOU...

2020 State Record Set

Barron Electric Cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting on August 20 set a state record for attendance with 621 members and guests. Cooperatives adjusted their annual meetings in 2020 due to the pandemic. Attendance, of course, has been down considerably with these adjustments, with approximately 100 members attending a drive-in style meeting. When Barron Electric had the size of crowd that they did, it was unexpected. "We have a strong membership, always have the largest attendance numbers, and this year we had a very unique venue at the Stardust Theater," said Dallas Sloan, General Manager of Barron Electric.

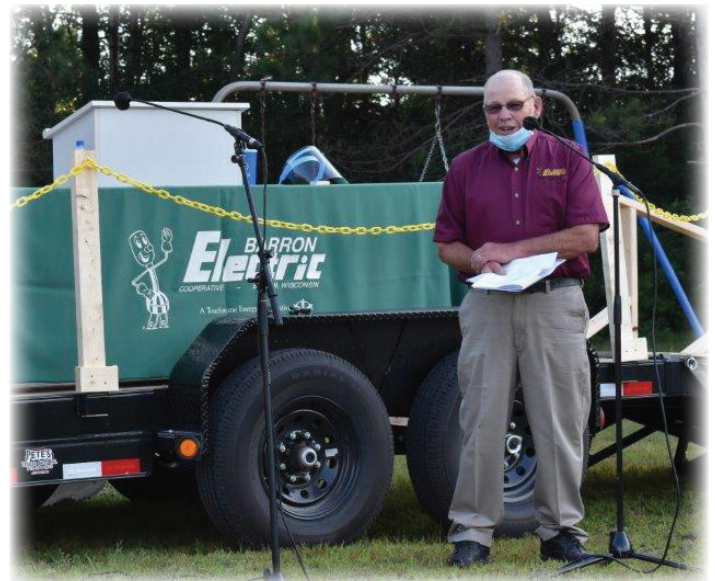
The membership bid farewell to Selmer (Sam) Nelson after 46 years on the Board. While a



The Stardust Drive-in Movie Theater was home to over 600 members and guests as they tuned into Barron Electric's annual meeting.



Lois Haynie was all smiles as her name was drawn as the winner of the grand prize, a free year of energy.



Members bid farewell to Selmer Nelson, honking their horns in appreciation for his leadership on the Board of Directors.

Annual Meeting *(continued)*

standing ovation was not possible, members honored Sam’s service on the board with a 250-car honk salute. He also shared his passion for parliamentary procedure, as demonstrated at this annual meeting, by reviewing changes to the bylaws, which were approved by the members. William Effertz of rural Cumberland was the newly elected director in district eight replacing Sam Nelson. Incumbents Tim Kessler and Scott Warwick, in districts 2 and 4 respectively, both won uncontested elections for another 3-year term.

Of course, the real news was the size of the crowd. Employees wore face masks and sanitized between each vehicle during the registration process, handing out door prizes and lunches as members registered. But, the cars kept coming and coming. The Stardust grounds were full, and it was difficult to fit more cars in. “We sincerely apologize to the members who had difficulty getting in that night. We had three or four times the number of members show up than we expected. We based our expectation on other annual meetings that were held at

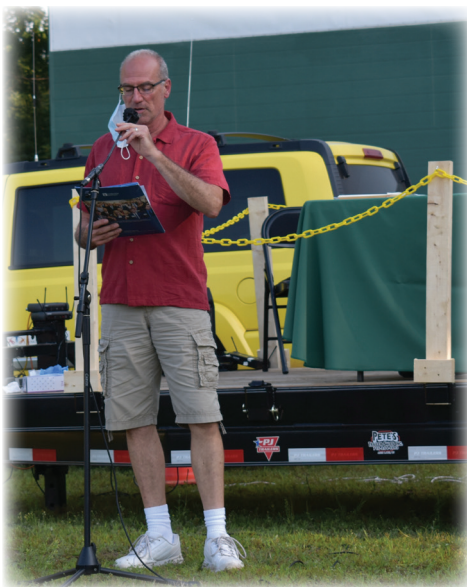
similar types of venues that saw low attendance numbers, so this was a shock. We want to thank the Stardust Theater for their hospitality,” added Dallas.

Lois Haynie of Rice Lake was

the grand prize winner of a free year of energy, excluding fixed charges. The Turtle Lake Food Pantry collected nearly 300 food items, and they greatly appreciated the support.



Employees wore face masks and sanitized to keep everyone safe as they registered members.



William Effertz of Cumberland was elected to District 8.

Energy Assistance Ends September 30

Energy Assistance will be open through September 30 for the heating season 2019-2020, with the 2020-2021 season beginning October 1. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Administration has adjusted the eligibility requirements for residents who are seeking heating and electric assistance through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). Eligibility will now be based on the household’s previous month of income, rather than the former requirement of the previous three months of income. This will allow those who are recently affected by COVID-19 to receive assistance quickly.

Contact your local agency:

Barron	715-537-5691
Burnett	715-349-7600
Chippewa	715-726-7840
Dunn	715-265-4271 ext. 0
Polk	715-485-8400
Rusk	715-532-2299
Sawyer	715-634-4806
Washburn	715-468-4747

Barron Electric Approved for over \$1,000,000 in FEMA Funds

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved over \$1,000,000 in storm damage reimbursement. On July 19, 2019, Barron Electric Cooperative members experienced a derecho, which included winds of over 75 mph and intense lightning, as well as two confirmed tornadoes leaving widespread damage costing \$1.25 Million. Over 50% of the membership was without power. Linemen from several cooperatives and municipals helped restore power, and Zielies Tree Service helped clear trees.

Barron Electric's damage included nearly 90 broken poles. Crews worked fifteen hour days in less than ideal working conditions, and the cooperative's call center answered 15,000 calls in ten days.



Pictured is some of the damage from the July 19, 2019 storm. Happy one-year anniversary to Meghan and Trey Waite who had power restored just in time for their wedding.

#POWERON

\$50 Bill Credit for Winning Photo



E-mail your fall 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 September 10, 2020. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric Cooperative permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.



Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

Have a safe holiday weekend!



Members Helping Members

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our members financially. Although, there are many forms of assistance available, including unemployment benefits, small business loans, and food through local schools and food pantries, there are still bills to pay. Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill.

If you would like to 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. If you have any questions, please contact our billing department at 800-322-1008 or billing@barronelectric.com for more details.

News FOR YOU...

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Access SmartHub at barronelectric.com or download the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store or Google Play.



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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 June 24, 2020

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97695 thru #97781 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$251,647 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$13,427. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$1,687,652; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$789,830; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,276,340; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$101,353 and power bill paid 06/24/2020 in the amount of \$1,677,936.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of May in the amount of \$183,103.71 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$10,909.38; change jobs - \$16,776.07; miscellaneous - \$155,418.26 and 6 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages through the month of May stand at 21,762 consumer hours off, which is 29.89% above 2019 hours of 16,754. Overtime year-to-date is 804.25 hours, which is 38.97% below 2019 hours of 1,317.75.

* View full board minutes on SmartHub.