

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
April 2025
Captured by the lens of
Sarahanne Schloneger



Reliability Projects for 2025

As winter comes to a close, Barron Electric's line crews will continue their work of upgrading and replacing aging primary electric lines with new cable across several townships. Crews will also replace aging underground wire. In addition to these upgrades, crews will be enhancing substations and converting select overhead lines to underground lines for improved reliability. To further reduce outages caused by wildlife interference, animal guards are being installed on overhead lines, a measure that has proven effective in minimizing disruptions in many regions. Ongoing line patrols will also continue to identify and address potential issues, ensuring a safe and reliable power supply for our members.

Pictured: Lineman Trent Thole performed maintenance work, aiding in increasing reliability. Photo Credit: Andy Neff

Sign up Today for the Youth Leadership Conference and a Chance to Attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour in 2026

The annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) will be held July 15-17 at UW-Stout. YLC helps students build their leadership skills, while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses. Participants will get a glimpse of college life, stay and eat on campus, and make life-long connections. Barron Electric covers the registration cost.


(Continued on page 2)



The 2024 Wisconsin Youth delegation included three students who represented Barron Electric. They are pictured in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

Phantom Loads

Many electric devices continue to draw power, even in stand-by mode. Studies have indicated that up to 10% of the electricity used in the home are from these phantom loads. The Department of Energy has stated, "In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off." Examples of phantom load includes devices such as tvs, cable boxes, coffee makers, microwave ovens, toasters, laptop chargers, hair dryers, and cell phone chargers. Phantom load can be reduced by using a power strip or smart strip to reduce unwanted energy usage or turning off devices when not in use.



Calling All Third-Graders*

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's Electrical Safety Poster Contest. Submit an original poster (8 1/2 x 11, no larger than 11x14) supporting electrical safety by April 30, 2025 to:

**Barron Electric Cooperative
PO Box 40
Barron WI 54812**

A \$25 gift card will be awarded to the 1st place winner. The winner will advance to WECA for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

1st place Chromebook
2nd place..... \$100 Gift Card
3rd place \$75 Gift Card

Visit www.weca.coop/poster-contest for guidelines.
**Must be a Barron Electric member*

Youth Leadership Conference and D.C. Youth Tour (continued from cover)



HAPPY Easter

Our office will be closed on Friday, April 18 in observance of Good Friday. Have a safe holiday weekend!



Contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com for more information about the YLC.

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Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2025.

Washington D.C. Youth Tour

Students attending the Youth Leadership Conference will have the opportunity to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, all expenses paid. Travel to Washington, D.C. to explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress, and meet students from across the country.

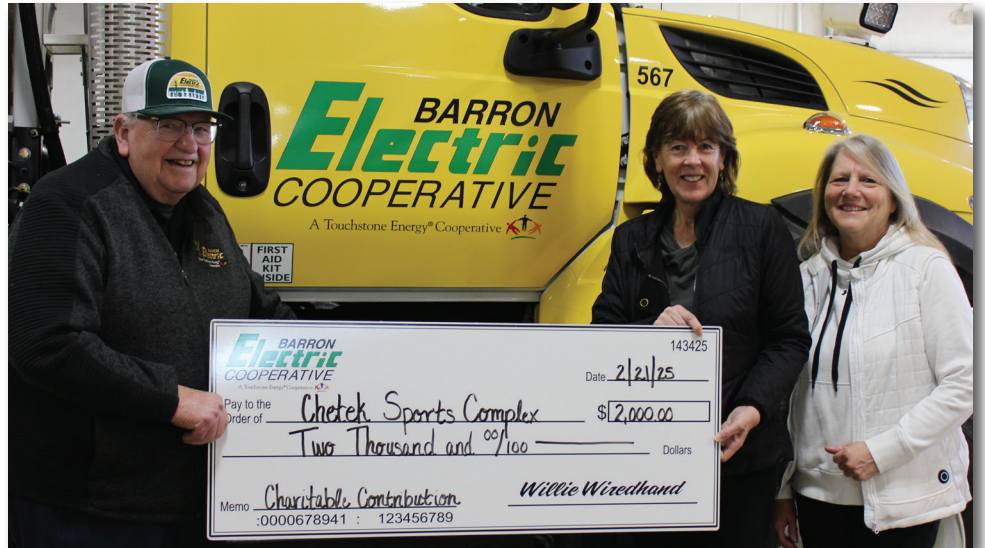
Barron Electric Helps Support Multi-Use Sports Complex

A group of dedicated pickleball players joined together to start planning a multi-use sports complex in Chetek. They felt the community could use recreational facilities for the general public, especially the youth. The future sports complex at Gotham Pioneer Park at City Park Drive includes six pickleball courts, two basketball courts, and one tennis court. Barron Electric Cooperative donated \$2,000 to the Chetek Sports Complex. Aaron Torud, Barron Electric General Manager, said, "We are proud to help fund a project that will help enhance the Chetek area."

"With pickleball being the fastest growing sport in the country, we know the potential is unlimited. The new sports facility would allow us to grow the youth and adult programs and host tournaments for all to enjoy," remarked Cathi Ellingson, member of the Parks and Beach Fundraising Committee.

Funds for Barron Electric's donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed cashback credits of former members. The Federated

Youth Foundation has specific requirements for which the funds can be used. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use funds from cashback credits to reduce rates.



Barron Electric Cooperative donated \$2,000 to the Chetek Sports Complex. Richard Bol, Barron Electric Director, presented a check to Cathi Ellingson of the Parks and Beach Fundraising Committee and Cindy Maher, Vice President of the Chetek Pickleball Club.

New Rate Schedule Effective April 1, 2025

Barron Electric Cooperative's new rate schedule will be reflected on the May 1 electric bill. The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see a 8.52% annual increase or approximately \$15 per month. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 800-322-1008.

Residential	New Rate effective 4-1-2025
Facilities Charge	\$46 per month (average of \$1.5123 per day)
Summer Charge/kWh June, July, and August	\$0.12335 per kWh
Winter Charge/kWh December, January, and February	\$0.11335 per kWh
Other Charge/kWh March, April, May, September, October, and November	\$0.10335 per kWh

GPS Project Continues

Global Mapping Solutions(GMS), contracted by Barron Electric, will continue gathering data on our system, which may include working weekends and any daylight hours. They may be on your property by foot, ATV, or UTV, taking photos of Barron Electric equipment, posting signs, or locating cable.

GMS employees will have a badge, letter of contract with Barron Electric letterhead, and their equipment will include a contracted by Barron Electric Cooperative sign.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or operations@barronelectric.com.

Win a \$50 Credit with Winning Photo

E-mail your spring photo to memberservices@barronelectric.com for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by April 15, 2025. 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.



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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Barron Electric is an equal opportunity provider.

Funds from Wisconsin Emergency Management Help with Storm Expense



Barron Electric Cooperative received over \$82,000 from Wisconsin Emergency Management to help cover some of the expenses from the August 26, 2024 storm. Pictured are Jordan Riebe-Lineman, James Williams-Wisconsin Emergency Management Regional Field Services Supervisor, Mandy Straw-Barron Electric's Director of Finance, and Trent Thole-Lineman.

*Condensed Board Minutes

January 29, 2025



Bill Effertz serves on Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 8, which includes the townships of Crystal Lake, Almena, Clayton, Turtle Lake, Arland, Clear Lake, Vance Creek, Prairie Farm, New Haven, and Sheridan.

- The board reviewed the 2024 Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) Summary of Net Assets and a 5-year history and projection of the cooperative's FYF donations. Director Olson moved, Director Kessler seconded, to approve the 2025 donation list as presented. Motion carried.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #103939 through #104036 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$203,825 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$17,576. Total receipts in the office \$3,014,083; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,576,733; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,275,876; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$221,638 and the power bill was paid on 01/29/2025 in the amount of \$2,386,970.
- A membership list of 41 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of December in the amount of \$1,956,872.76 was presented for approval and included new services \$176,160.36; change jobs \$54,818.38; Other Work Order Projects \$1,725,894.02 and 12 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

* View full board minutes on SmartHub at barronelectric.com.