

News FOR YOU...

Members Will See a Rate Increase on the May 1 Bill

Barron Electric Cooperative works hard to keep rates stable and affordable. Our last rate adjustment was in 2018. The cost to deliver safe, reliable power has increased. Dairyland Power Cooperative, Barron Electric's wholesale power supplier, rates increased 6.95%. Higher prices for equipment, supplies, and services have also affected the bottom line. Barron Electric's Board of Directors approved a 2.7% rate increase, effective on the May 1 electric bill. The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see an increase of \$4.80 per month. Barron Electric will be evaluating future rates and rate options to help members save money.

"We're doing our best to hold expenses down for members, while providing the excellent service you rely on. In 2022, the cooperative absorbed over \$740,000 in Power Cost Adjustments (PCA), instead of passing them on to our members. Barron Electric continues to make system improvements and uses technology to work more efficiently to save time and money, while improving services," said Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud.

In 2022, members received three PCAs as credits on their electric bill. Since we are not-for-profit, we retire cashback credits annually. In July 2022, the board approved a special cashback credit distribution of more than \$2,000,000. Since 1965, Barron Electric has returned over \$30 million in cashback credits to members.

Resources to Help You Save Energy

We're here to help. We have Energy Sense rebates to help save energy and money, while improving comfort in your home. See page two and three of the newsletter for rebate information and energy saving tips. We encourage you to sign up for SmartHub to help track and manage your energy use and costs. Visit barronelectric.com to get started.



Line crews changed out a regulator at the Shell Lake Substation. Maintenance projects help to increase reliability and reduce outages, therefore, helping to reduce costs.



*Condensed Board Minutes November 30, 2022



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.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #100992 thru #101147 of CCF Bank in the amount of \$479,993 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$17,169. Total receipts in the office - \$2,564,505; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$2,292,400; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$3,471,358; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$211,221 and power bill paid on 11/30/2022 in the amount of \$1,821,596.
- A membership list of 73 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of October in the amount of \$252,201.76 was presented for approval and included new services - \$30,650.08; change jobs - \$48,308.15; Other Work Order Projects - \$173,243.53 and 5 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

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



\$28,000 in Scholarships to be Awarded to High School Students

Barron Electric is offering two \$1,000 Cooperative Achievement Scholarship opportunities to each of the following schools: Barron, Birchwood, Cameron, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Clayton, Clear Lake, Cumberland, Hayward, New Auburn, Prairie Farm, Rice Lake, Shell Lake, Spooner and Turtle Lake. Applicants must have parents or guardians that are Barron Electric Cooperative members. Please check with the school counselor's office to obtain an application and the eligibility requirements.

Greta Jorstad, one of last year's scholarship winners, said, "Thanks to Barron Electric Cooperative for the opportunity they provide students to receive a scholarship. Thank you for the positive impact you're making on my path to becoming a speech therapist." Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud said, "We are proud to help high school seniors achieve their goals. Barron Electric has awarded more than \$360,000 to more than 400 students since 1985." Funds for scholarships are derived from unclaimed Cashback Credits. Members can donate their Cashback Credits toward scholarships. Please e-mail memberservices@barronelectric.com if you have any questions.

Monthly Photo Contest



**Winner receives
a \$50 Credit**

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

- 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 February 10, 2023. 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.

Your Energy Bill Needs



Many of us are looking for ways to save money. When purchasing new appliances, look for the Energy Star label, which ensures you are buying one of the top efficient models. Barron Electric offers rebates on the following appliances:

Energy Star® Clothes Washer	\$25
Energy Star® Electric Clothes Dryer	\$25
Energy Star® Dehumidifier	\$25
Energy Star® Dishwasher	\$25
Energy Star® Freezer (>= to 10 cubic feet)	\$25
Energy Star® Refrigerator (>= to 10 cubic feet)	\$25
Inductive Range	\$25
Refrigerator or Freezer Recycling	\$25
Room Air Conditioner Recycling	\$25

Rebates must be submitted within three months of purchase. Visit our website at barronelectric.com for more details.



Save the Date for Barron Electric Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting

March 25, 2023
at the Barron High School

Registration & Breakfast
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Enjoy a breakfast served by the VFW including pancakes, eggs, sausage, and refreshments.

Director Elections for Districts 2, 4, and 8

Director elections will be held for Districts 2, 4, and 8. See the January News for You for more details.

Food Donations Needed

Bring a food donation for the Cameron Food Pantry. They are in need of soups, cereals, tuna, any types of soaps, and monetary donations.

Energy Saving Tips

The kitchen typically uses the most energy compared to other rooms within the house. Save energy by following these tips:

- Load the dishwasher fully before washing.
- Reduce the number of times the refrigerator is opened.
- Keep range-top burners clean, since they will reflect the heat better and save energy.
- Use the microwave when possible.
- Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators. Frost build-up decreases the energy efficiency of the unit. Don't allow frost to build up more than one-quarter of an inch.
- Switch to LED bulbs, which use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.



Save a Life Give Blood

Blood Drive
Friday, February 24
9 am - 3 pm

at Barron Electric Cooperative
Call 1-800-RED CROSS to make an appointment.



Preparing for Winter Storms



Winter storms can cause extended power outages. Be prepared by keeping the following supplies on hand:

- Water, one gallon per person per day, for several days
- Food, three-day supply of non-perishables
- Flashlights
- First Aid Kit/prescriptions
- Extra batteries/wireless phone chargers
- Manual can opener
- Extra blankets
- Extra pet food

Portable Generators

Portable generators can help with preparation for such power outages while providing peace of mind. As with all things involving electricity, the incorrect use of generators can create potentially hazardous situations.

Here are some safety tips:

- Read all the information on installation, safety and maintenance, and follow instructions regarding maintenance and testing.
- When you need to use the generator, first turn off the main power switch or breaker in your home.

- Use it wisely. Don't overload the generator. It should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment. Overloading it will cause wear and tear and could present fire and safety hazards.
- Always isolate the generator from the utility supply system by plugging appliances directly into generator itself. Don't try to wire your home's electrical system into the generator. The generator could feed power back into utility lines as power crews work to restore your electric service, putting those workers' lives at risk!
- Take care when fueling your generator! Never try to refuel the unit while it's operating. Avoid spilling gasoline or other fuels on hot components.
- Provide adequate ventilation and air cooling for the generator to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes.
- Properly shut down portable generators by turning off and unplugging all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Exercise caution around portable generators, which have exposed engine parts that could burn or injure an individual. Keep children and pets away from a running generator.

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.*

Take a Vacation with Auto Pay Win a \$50 Bill Credit

Congratulations to Pat Mattmiller who won a \$50 bill credit in the Auto Pay drawing. He said, "I really enjoy the convenience of Auto Pay." Save time and money when you sign up for Auto Pay at barronelectric.com. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.

