

# News FOR YOU...

**Barron Electric Cooperative**  
**January 2026**  
**Photo by Alyce Smith**

## Celebrate 90 Years of Service at Barron Electric's Annual Meeting Set for Thursday, April 9

All members are invited to Barron Electric Cooperative's 90th Annual Meeting on **Thursday, April 9 at Barron Electric Cooperative, Barron.** Registration and dinner will start at 4:00 p.m. with the business meeting following at 5:30 p.m. Learn more about your cooperative, receive industry updates, and elect directors to represent Districts 2, 4, and 8.

### Director Nominations

Our cooperative is led by members like you. Nominations of candidates to the post of Director may be made by petition signed by ten (10) members residing within the director district that the nominee would represent or from the floor during the Annual Meeting. Director Districts open

for nomination of candidates and election are shown on the map and listed.

### DISTRICT 2

(Three-year term)

Incumbent Tim Kessler turned in his notification of candidacy for District 2, which includes the Town of Dewey in Burnett County; Towns of Barronett, Bashaw, Evergreen and Spooner in Washburn County.

### DISTRICT 4

(Three-year term)

Incumbent Scott Warwick turned in his notification of candidacy for District 4, which includes the Towns of Cumberland, Lakeland and Maple Plain in Barron County; and Town of Roosevelt in Burnett County.

### DISTRICT 8


(Three-year term)

Incumbent Bill Effertz turned in his notification of candidacy for District 8, which includes the Towns of Almena, Arland, Crystal Lake, Prairie Farm, Turtle Lake and Vance Creek in Barron County; the Towns of Clayton and Clear Lake in Polk County; and the Towns of New Haven and Sheridan in Dunn County.

*See page 2 for important annual meeting information.*

			Brooklyn	Gull Lake	Stinnett	Hayward			
Scott	Casey	Trego	Spring Brook	Bass Lake	Bass Lake				
Rusk	Evergreen	Spoooner	Crystal	Stone Lake	Sand Lake				
Dewey	Bashaw	Beaver Brook	Madge	Birchwood					
Roosevelt	Barronett	Sarona	Long Lake	Birchwood					
Maple Plain	Lakeland	Bear Lake	Oak Grove	Cedar Lake					
Crystal Lake	Cumberland	Stanford	Rice Lake	Doyle					
Almena	Clinton	Barron	Stanley	Sumner	Strickland	Stubbs			
Clayton	Turtle Lake	Arland	Maple Grove	Prairie Lake	Chetek	Rusk	Big Bend		
Clear Lake	Vance Creek	Prairie Farm	Dallas	Sioux Creek	Dovre	Sampson			
New Haven	Sheridan			Sand Creek					

*Members will elect directors to represent Districts 2, 4, and 8, as highlighted on the map.*



## Save the Date

### Barron Electric's 90th Annual Meeting

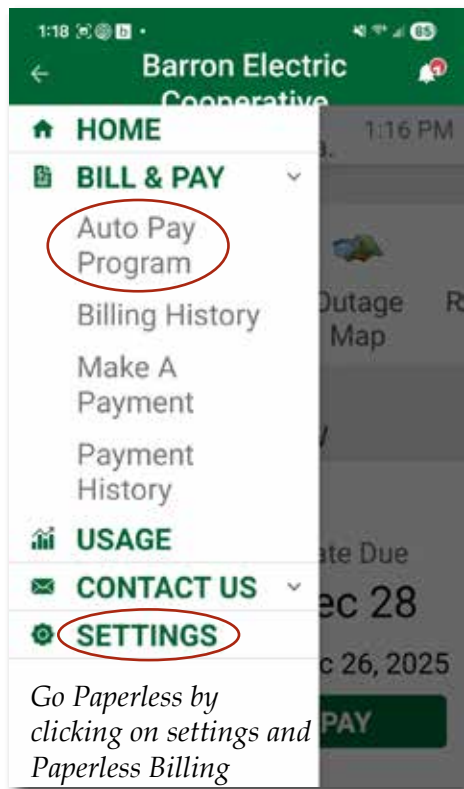
**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

Registration and Dinner start at 4 p.m.

**Barron Electric, 1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron**

# Add Magic to Your New Year with Auto Pay

Save time and money with Auto Pay. Sign up today with SmartHub and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit. Under Bill & Pay, click on the Auto Pay Program. Read the terms and click accept to continue. You can also sign up for paperless billing under the Settings option. You will still receive a bill statement via e-mail or you can log into SmartHub to view a PDF of your statement.



## Happy New Year!

Save money this New Year by purchasing Energy Star appliances. Visit [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) and click on rebates to see which appliances are eligible.



# Important Annual Meeting Information

*Continued from cover*

## How Can You Run for a Director Position?

1. Director nominees should obtain a petition from Barron Electric's office.  
-This requires signatures from ten(10) members, living within the director district that the nominee would represent  
-Nominees must meet director qualifications as printed in the Cooperative Bylaws. Log into your SmartHub account to view a copy of the bylaws, or contact our office at [barronec@barronelectric.com](mailto:barronec@barronelectric.com). Section 3 on page 6 lists the director qualifications. If you do not have a SmartHub account, you can create one by visiting Barron Electric's home page at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).
2. A photograph and candidate information submitted with the signed petition will be published in the candidate profile section in the annual report and in the News for You.
3. Petitions must be received by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026** in order to have the nominee's name appear on the printed ballot.
4. Mail petitions to: **Barron Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jennifer Horstman, PO Box 40, Barron, WI 54812.**
5. Nominations of candidates to the post of Director may be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 9.

## Resolutions

All formal resolutions, which are to be presented to the annual meeting, will be reviewed by a Resolutions Committee prior to the Notice of the Annual Meeting being sent. This will not restrict the right of any member to make simple motions at the Annual Meeting. Copies of resolutions to be presented and considered at the Annual Meeting will be mailed in advance to the membership so that each member will have time to review.

All resolutions must be in writing, properly signed, dated, and with member's address and phone number. Hand-written resolutions will be considered only if legible as determined by the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions to be considered must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026** and should be addressed to:

**Barron Electric Cooperative Board President**  
**c/o Resolutions Committee**  
**Barron Electric Cooperative**  
**PO Box 40**  
**Barron, WI 54812**



# Right-of-Way Clearing Helps Strengthen Electric System

Zielie's Tree Service will clear trees and brush in 12 townships, which are listed below. Benefits of the Right-of-Way Clearing program include:

- Reduces contact between trees and power lines; therefore, reducing power outages and blinking lights
- Improves accessibility and increases visibility
- Maintains safety

If you have any questions, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).



2026 Right-of-Way Clearing Schedule	
County	Townships
Barron County	Bear Lake, Crystal Lake, Maple Plain, and Stanfold
Rusk County	Big Bend, Rusk, Strickland, and Stubbs
Washburn County	Bass Lake, Brooklyn, Gull Lake, and Stinnett

## Supporting Our Communities

One of the seven cooperative principles is “Concern for Community,” and Barron Electric is proud to contribute \$1,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County.” This organization provides a fun and positive environment where students in grades K-12 can reach their full potential. Members have access to

educational programs, assistance with homework, as well as meals and snacks.

Barron Electric’s General Manager Aaron Torud said, “Barron Electric is pleased to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County as they play a vital role for families and the community.” The funds for

Barron Electric’s donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust that manages unclaimed cashback credits from former members. This foundation has specific guidelines on how the funds can be used. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use funds from cashback credits to lower rates.



Barron Electric Cooperative recently donated \$1,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County. Barron Electric Board Director John Blaskowski presents a check to Boys and Girls Club staff including April Hayes-Director of Operations, Lori Zahrbock-CEO, and Courtney Durand-Director of Programs.

## On a Quest for Cooperative History

Do you have a historical piece relating to Barron Electric Cooperative that you would be willing to donate? We would like to display items at the cooperative’s 90th annual meeting on Thursday, April 9. Items can be dropped off or mailed to Barron Electric’s office located at 1434 State Highway 25 North, PO Box 40, Barron, WI 54812, Attn: Member Services



## Winter Photos Wanted

Send in your beautiful winter photos for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- ☆ E-mail your digital image to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by January 15, 2026. 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 publications and on our website.

## \*Condensed Board Minutes October 29, 2025

*Patricia Mandel serves as secretary on Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 6 which includes the townships of Clinton, Barron, Maple Grove, and Prairie Lake.*



- Member Mark Dobberfuhl appeared before the board to request Barron Electric Cooperative waive the new service fee and installation for the new Welcome Center at the Pioneer Village Museum. Discussion regarding the request will move to the CoBank Sharing Success Program.
- The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, September 23, 2025, were approved as written.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #104764 through #105028 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$710,920. Total receipts in the office \$3,282,155; total receipts by wire and ACH \$2,379,725; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,191,089; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$220,496 and the power bill was paid on 10/29/2025 in the amount of \$2,071,397.
- Director of Finance Straw presented information to the board regarding the funds from the DPC Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Settlement in the amount of \$637,460.63 for the years 2019-2022. Straw recommended the option to retain the funds and allocate to members based on patronage for the years of 2019-2022 to be included in general retirement for those years. Notice of the additional allocation can be included with the 2026 allocation notices. Retaining the funds will appear as revenue/margins in 2025. Director Warwick moved, Director Mandel seconded, to approve Straw's recommendation. Discussion. Motion carried.
- Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding the pre-approval of SCADA to the 2026-2027 Budgets. Pre-approval of the NXT purchases needed for 2026 & 2027 budgets will allow us to purchase with the current pricing and not be billed until the inventory has been received. Director Effertz moved, Director Warwick seconded, to approve the pre-approval of the NXT purchases to the 2026 & 2027 budgets. Motion carried.
- A membership list of 88 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of September in the amount of \$494,112.34 was presented for approval and included new services \$80,845.66; change jobs \$27,219.76; Other Work Order Projects \$386,046.92 and 3 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 78,907.35 consumer hours off, which is 7.71% below 2024 hours of 85,500.41. Overtime year-to-date is 2,877 hours, which is 0.24% below 2024 hours of 2,844.

## News FOR YOU...

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866-258-8722

[www.barronelectric.com](http://www.barronelectric.com)

Published for the members of Barron Electric.

If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail [cbaribeau@barronelectric.com](mailto:cbaribeau@barronelectric.com)



Barron Electric is an equal opportunity provider.

\* View full board minutes on SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).

## January 2026 News for You