

News

Retirement, Transfer and Promotion within Barron Electric Cooperative



Lineman Ben Brede was promoted to Spooner Line Superintendent.



Tyler Nanstad, former Spooner Line Superintendent, transferred to the Barron Line Superintendent position.

Jeff Nelson, Barron Line Superintendent, recently retired after 40 years of service. Jeff began his employment as a mechanic at Barron Electric Cooperative in 1985. Barron Electric offered Jeff an apprenticeship into the lineman's program, where he graduated top of his class. He became a lineman in 1990 and a leadman/technician in 2003. He was promoted to Barron Line Superintendent in 2008. Jeff was instrumental in improving reliability at the cooperative through technological advances.

Tyler Nanstad began his career as a lineman with the Barron crew in 2015. He was promoted to Spooner Line Superintendent in 2023, and due to Jeff's retirement, has now transferred to become the Line



Former Line Superintendent Jeff Nelson, second from right, retired after 40 years of service. He was instrumental in improving reliability.

Win a \$50 Credit with Winning Photo

E-mail your summer 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 June 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 publications and on our website.

Congratulations Bennett



Bennett was the winner of the Electrical Safety Poster Contest. He is joined by Linemen Andy Neff, Mike Kroeze, and Aaron Holten. The contest was hosted by Barron Electric and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association. Bennett won a \$25 VISA gift card. His poster was submitted to state competition. The contest for local third graders reminds everyone to be safe around electricity and electrical equipment.



GPS Project Continues



GMS crews may be on your property this summer as they take inventory of Barron Electric's equipment.

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.

Recipes for Success

“Strongman Smokehouse isn’t just a restaurant—it’s a family legacy, built with grit, passion, and a love for bold, smoky flavors.”

The Churchill family enjoys great food. From The Dock Coffee, Round Man Brewing Co., and Strongman Smokehouse, the family has worked together to create a variety of dining experiences.

Strongman Smokehouse

Outgrowing the brew system at Round Man, the Churchills went on a quest for land. When Uncle Mike’s Bar and Restaurant in Trego went on the market, the Churchills purchased it. After two years of renovation, Strongman Smokehouse became a reality. The name Strongman came from Spencer Churchill, who held the USS Wisconsin HWM deadlift record. Spencer is the Executive Chef at Strongman; he creates a menu that starts with high-quality meats that are smoked to perfection and are bursting with flavor. Some of the popular menu choices include the brisket patty melt and brisket nachos.



Join the Churchill Family at Strongman Smokehouse for great food, brews, and fun.

Find Your Brew

They brew seasonal, full-flavored beers which add to your dining experience. A few of their brews are canned including Red Right Hand, a red ale; Log Chain, an American lager; and Get to the Hoppy; a pale ale. These are sold at

Strongman, as well as 80 retail stores throughout Wisconsin.

Events

Sand volleyball leagues are held on Wednesdays. Enjoy live music on the patio from 1-4 on the weekends. If you have a pet, they are allowed on the patio.

The Weight Room

The Weight Room, a taphouse and party room, is available for gatherings. This room, which seats up to 35 guests, includes a fully-stocked bar with your favorite brews and a massive 110” TV. Guests can choose from customized catering options.

Enjoy a great meal at Strongman Smokehouse, located on Barron Electric lines, at N7017 Mackey Creek Road, Trego. Business hours are as follows:

Tuesday-Wednesday: 2 - 8 p.m.
Thursday-Sat.:11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday:11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Visit them on Facebook or their website at strongmansmokehouse.com.

Don’t Miss out on Summer Savings

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® All-in-One Washer/Dryer Combo.....	\$50
Energy Star® Dehumidifier	\$25
Energy Star® Dishwasher.....	\$25
Energy Star® Freezer.....	\$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 on our energy efficient rebates and energy saving tips.





Save time, money and trees by going paperless. Sign up for paperless billing; it only takes a few minutes via SmartHub at barronelectric.com or on your mobile device. At SmartHub, you can:

- View or print your electric bill
- Receive an automated e-mail notification when your monthly electric bill is ready
- Review your electric use, payment, and billing history



News

Barron Electric Cooperative
Aaron Torud - General Manager
Carrie Baribeau—Editor
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Office Hours
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

1434 State Highway 25 North
PO Box 40 • Barron, WI 54812
(715) 537-3171
Toll Free: 1-800-322-1008

For Outages Only:
866-258-8722

www.barronelectric.com

Published for the members of Barron Electric.
If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Barron Electric is an equal
opportunity provider.



Retirement, Transfer and Promotion

Continued from Cover

Superintendent in Barron. With Tyler transferring to Barron, the Spooner Line Superintendent position became available.

Barron Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the promotion of Ben Brede to the position of Spooner Line Superintendent. Ben has been a lineman for Barron Electric Cooperative for 23 years. He will be responsible for planning and supervising work for the construction, operations, maintenance and repair of the cooperative's electric distribution system in their northern service territory. Ben remarked, "I am honored to join the cooperative team in this role and contribute to advancing our mission-to serve, educate, and safely deliver energy and products to our valued members. Together, we'll continue to keep the lights on."

Barron Electric General Manager Aaron Torud commented, "Experience plays a vital role in delivering high-quality service to our members. It allows us to streamline processes and respond to questions and concerns with greater efficiency and confidence. We are fortunate to have a wealth of experience within our team and are especially grateful for the dedicated years of service Jeff provided. We also look forward to the continued contributions from Tyler and Ben in the years ahead. Our commitment to continuous improvement drives us to always seek better ways of serving our members. A key part of that journey is learning from the insights and expertise of our experienced team members. Their knowledge helps us grow, adapt, and improve each day."

*Condensed Board Minutes April 30, 2025



John Blaskowski 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.

- Ms. Williamson and Mr. Zabrocki from CarlsonSV presented the 2024 audit to the directors. They reviewed the audit procedure, findings and explained the process. Director Mandel moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to approve the 2024 audit as presented. Motion carried.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #104197 through #104329 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$791,012 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$13,124. Total receipts in the office \$3,026,000; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,679,413; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,022,897; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$215,429 and the power bill was paid on 04/30/2025 in the amount of \$2,067,731.
- As the Spokesperson for the Annual Meeting Committee, Director Kessler discussed the date of the 2026 Annual Meeting, and it was suggested to host a night meeting at the Cooperative Headquarters on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Other discussion was the opportunity to have 3 minutes available for candidates to speak, how candidates are listed on the ballot and prizes. The sound system will be addressed in the 2026 budget.
- A membership list of 50 was presented and approved without objection.

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

July 2025 News for You