

Barron Electric Cooperative

June 2026

Photo by Jill Koenitzer

**Pat and Larry Nichols herd of cows

News FOR YOU...

Cooperative Leaders Push for Reliable, Affordable Power

Wisconsin Electric Cooperative leaders joined 1,500 cooperative personnel in Washington, D.C. to meet with lawmakers and federal agencies at a pivotal moment for the nation's energy future. Representing 42 million Americans, they came with a clear message: smart energy policies are urgently needed to address increasing threats to reliable, affordable power.

Demand for electricity is rising rapidly, while reliability risks are increasing. Digital services are expanding including AI, social media, cloud computing, streaming services, while the size and number of data centers is growing rapidly, with many being sited in rural areas served by electric cooperatives. These 24/7 members will require huge amounts of power, which brings new opportunities and challenges for cooperatives. As data centers continue to grow, electric cooperatives remain committed to working closely with our members and community partners to ensure the best interest of the local communities we serve. Electric cooperatives are investing in new generation, transmission, and distribution, but outdated federal policies are slowing that work down and driving up costs.

As they met with lawmakers and federal agencies, they were focused on several key policy priorities: advancing common-sense reforms in permitting, disaster response, wildfire mitigation, and infrastructure financing. These are practical steps that will help ensure the lights stay on and power remains affordable for the communities served.



Pictured: Wisconsin Electric Cooperative leaders met in Washington D.C. to meet with legislators on policies to encourage reliable, affordable power. Photo credit: WECA



From Scholarships to Success

Barron Electric Cooperative is proud to present the 2026 scholarship winners. Since the program's inception in 1985, the cooperative has awarded over \$470,000 to 518 students. Each student pictured received a \$1,000 scholarship through the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed cashback credits of former members, as well as Dairyland Power Cooperative's Scholarship Program.

The Federated Youth Foundation has specific requirements for where the funds can be used. Legally, Barron Electric is unable to use the funds from unclaimed cashback credits to reduce rates.



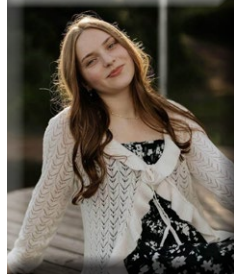
District 1



**Danielle
Hacken**



Aurora Kupsch



Kayla Pechacek

District 2



Jordan Cahill



**Dawson
Lee-Daniels**



Layla Thompson

District 4



**Thomas
Dettinger**



Alexis Witthoft

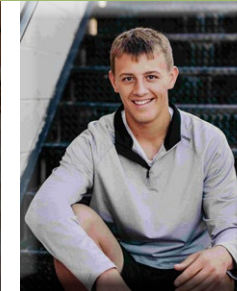


Jacob Wicke

District 5



Marin Donze



Gavin Richter

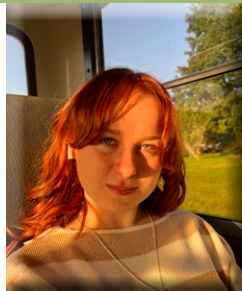


Avery Weinstock

District 6



**Damien
Dickens**



Lanah Gesler



Jayton Silvernail

District 7



Hailey Hince



**Jeremiah
Martinson**



**Miranda Garcia-
Rodriguez**

(Continued on Page 3)

From Scholarships to Success *(Continued from Page 2)*

District 8



Ian Sellent



Jade Schallock



Emily Zemke

District 9



Casey Haugen



Shawn Holten



Brodrick Olson

Electric-Trade Related



David Bos III



Dayton Eck

Non-Traditional



Chasta Udelhofen

Dairyland Power



Patricia LaTour

Honoring Students Committed to Military Service

The 5th Annual High School to Heroes Banquet honored 41 students from 18 high schools who have committed to serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Event organizer Jim Richie remarked, "A grateful nation thanks you." Guest speaker Colonel Steven Bensed encouraged the students, saying, "As you prepare for your journey, I congratulate you on what you are about to do. Serving your country is not easy – you will miss out on many events – but you are answering a higher calling. Remember to be loyal, act with integrity, and don't be afraid to take initiative." Students shared a range of motivations for enlisting, including family military traditions, a desire to be part of something greater than themselves, and assistance with college costs.

Richie recognized Barron Electric for their ongoing commitment and meaningful contributions, which have played

an important role in the event's success over the years. Aaron Torud, General Manager of Barron Electric, added, "We express our sincere gratitude to these students and their dedication to protecting our freedom."

The funds for Barron Electric's

donation come from the Federated Youth Foundation, a trust that manages unclaimed cashback credit funds from former members. These funds are restricted in how they can be used and cannot legally be applied to reduce electric rates.



Barron Electric donated \$1,500 to the High School to Heroes Banquet. Barron Electric Board Members are pictured with recruiters.



Photo Credit: Susan Wallace

Share Your Summer Photos

Send in your summer 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 photo by June 15 to: memberservices@barronelectric.com. 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 our website.



Be Someone's Hero
Give Blood

Blood Drive
Friday, June 19
at Barron Electric Cooperative
1434 Hwy 25 North, Barron
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

*Condensed Board Minutes March 25, 2026



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.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #105452 through #105571 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$383,347 with capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$11,608. Total receipts in the office \$3,359,394; total receipts by wire and ACH \$2,504,248; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$5,246,599; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$211,567 and the power bill was paid on 03/25/2026 in the amount of \$2,513,577.
- A membership list of 34 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of February in the amount of \$160,169.67 was presented for approval and included new services \$31.89; change jobs \$0, Other Work Order Projects \$160,137.78 and 6 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 3,742.33 consumer hours off, which is 151.74% above 2025 hours of 1,486.58.
- Overtime year-to-date is 301.25 hours, which is 68.53% above 2025 hours of 178.75.

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



Happy 4th of July

Our office will be closed on Friday, July 3. Have a safe holiday weekend.

News FOR YOU...

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

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

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