

News FOR YOU...

Lighting the Way for 90 Years *(Continued on Page 2)*

Barron Electric Cooperative celebrated its 90th anniversary at its annual meeting on April 9, held at the cooperative's headquarters. The theme, "Lighting the Way for 90 Years," was reflected throughout the event, which drew nearly 300 members and guests. Members reelected three incumbent directors to the Board: Tim Kessler (District 2), Scott Warwick (District 4), and Bill Effertz (District 8).

Update from

Dairyland Power Cooperative

Guest speaker Jeremy Browning, Vice President of Generation at Dairyland Power Cooperative,



Board President Randy Cook is pictured with Barron High School music students, who sang the National Anthem.



Members talked with Guest Speaker Jeremy Browning, Vice President of Generation at Dairyland Power, pictured second from left.



Nearly 300 members and guests attended the 90th annual meeting.

Reducing Energy Costs

90th Annual Meeting

Continued from cover

Check out these energy tips to reduce energy costs and save money.

- Keep your house warmer than normal during the cooling months, and lower the thermostat setting when you return home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat allows you to do this automatically.
- Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators. Frost build-up decreases the energy efficiency of the unit.
- Energy Star products use less energy and help protect the environment. Barron Electric offers rebates on Energy Star appliances. Scan the QR code below or visit barronelectric.com/2026-energy-rebates for more information on energy rebates to save you money.



addressed attendees on the evolving energy landscape. While Dairyland's energy portfolio continues to change, Browning emphasized the cooperative's commitment to delivering safe, reliable, and competitive power. He discussed the effects of Winter Storm Fern on the electric grid and highlighted key drivers of increasing energy demand, including manufacturing, electric vehicles, residential growth, agriculture, and data centers. He also outlined long-range transmission planning efforts aimed at strengthening system reliability.

Financial Report

Mandy Straw, Director of Finance, presented the financial report, including details about the allocation notices mailed to members in March. These notices reflect each member's cumulative unretired balance of cashback credits. "Since 1965, over \$37 million has been returned to members and former members," Straw noted, emphasizing cashback credits as one of the key benefits of cooperative membership.

Reliability and Rates

General Manager Aaron Torud provided updates on infrastructure investments designed to improve

service reliability. "We are making progress in reducing the number of outages," Torud said. "Our goal is to continue this positive trend by making strategic, thoughtful investments that further reduce outages and enhance system reliability."

Board President Randy Cook informed members that Barron Electric has incurred additional power costs from Dairyland Power Cooperative due to expenses related to Winter Storm Fern. As a result, members saw a wholesale power cost adjustment on their January, February, and March electric bills. Despite these increases, Cook noted that Barron Electric remains cost competitive. "When compared to other cooperatives and utilities, Barron Electric Cooperative's bill for 1,200 kWh's is in the lower half of that group."

Prize Winners

Twelve members were awarded \$100 electric bill credits: Jeffrey Becker, Robert Bergen, James Cotone, Jerry Fabert, Mark Javner, Jay Keppen, Steve Meyer, Michael Nesgoda, Richard Ogren, Jean Olund, Roger Path, and Suzanne Winkelman.

In addition, the Cameron Food Pantry collected 184 pounds of food during the event. Teresa Drost expressed appreciation for the community's support, saying, "Thank you for the generous donations that will help support the Cameron Food Pantry."



Honoring Those Who Served

Memorial Day is a time to reflect and remember the ultimate sacrifices made by our nation's heroes. Barron Electric's office will be closed on Monday, May 25. Have a safe weekend.



General Manager Aaron Torud, center, answers member's questions at the 90th annual meeting.



Pole Testing Helps Boost Reliability

American Energy Services is testing poles in the townships listed below. A sign that displays Barron Electric Cooperative's name will be displayed on their vehicles, while a 4-wheeler may be used to move efficiently throughout the system. If you have questions, please call 800-322-1008 or e-mail operations@barronelectric.com.



Barron County
Chetek

Rusk County
Big Bend
Rusk

Sawyer County
Bass Lake
Hayward

Washburn County
Bass Lake
Springbrook



ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

ROOM BY ROOM

Check these monthly to keep your home and family safe.

Kitchen

- Clean refrigerator coils and allow space for airflow.
- Store and use appliances away from the sink.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or frays.
- Keep cords off counters; unplug when not in use.

Bathroom

- Keep appliances away from water (sink, toilet, tub, shower).
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.

Bedroom

- Place and test smoke and CO detectors on every level and near sleeping areas.
- Keep cords out from under rugs or furniture.
- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use.
- Make sure lightbulbs are the correct wattage.
- Plug window AC units into a dedicated circuit.

Living Room

- Use safety caps on unused outlets, especially if children or pets are present.
- Ensure electronics have space for airflow.
- Replace cracked light switch or outlet covers.
- Avoid overloading outlets, power strips and surge protectors.

Basement

- Ensure washer and dryer are stable and ventilated.
- Remove dryer lint after each use.
- Set water heater to 120°F or lower.
- Have furnace inspected and confirm proper ventilation.

Garage

- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or damage.
- Unplug tools and appliances when not in use.
- Place garage refrigerators/freezers on dedicated appliance circuits.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org



Linemen visit elementary schools each spring sharing information with students about the importance of electric safety. Pictured: Lineman Trent Thole talks with students about electric safety and why their specialized gear is essential when working around electricity.



*Condensed Board Minutes

February 25, 2026



David Olson represents District 1 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors, which includes the following townships: Brooklyn, Gull Lake, Stinnett, Hayward, Scott, Casey, Trego, Springbrook, Bass Lake, and Rusk.

Share Your Farm Photos

Send in your farm 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 May 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 on our website.

- Warehouseman Dylan Carey was introduced to the board.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #105346 through

#105451 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$116,411 with no capital credit estate checks. Total receipts in the office \$2,554,997; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,698,304; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,680,771; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$217,051 and the power bill was paid on 02/25/2026 in the amount of \$2,571,283.

- A membership list of 25 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of January in the amount of \$80,478.68 was presented for approval and included new services \$0; change jobs \$0, Other Work Order Projects \$80,478.68 and 7 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 3,298.63 consumer hours off, which is 341.58% above 2025 hours of 747.
- Overtime year-to-date is 182.00 hours, which is 78.87% above 2025 hours of 101.75.

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

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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



Barron Electric is an equal opportunity provider.

Can Rural Electric Cooperatives Keep Up With Increasing Energy Demand?

The U.S. expects to add a record 86 gigawatts of power to the electric grid in 2026. As energy demand continues to grow in America, amid the rise of data centers and more need for resources, can our rural electric cooperatives keep up with the pace of demand? Jim Matheson, CEO of NRECA - the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association serving 56% of U.S. landmass, remarked, "The answer is yes. While electricity demand is rising fast, and the pressure on our electric system is only increasing, electric cooperatives are meeting the moment by investing in infrastructure, strengthening reliability and continuing to serve their communities with a focus on affordability."



May 2026 News for You