

# News FOR YOU...

## Over \$1,400,000 Returned to Members in PCA Credits

Barron Electric Cooperative returned over \$400,000 to members in the form of a Power Cost Adjustment(PCA), which appeared on the November bill statement. The average member received a \$20 credit. In December, the cooperative will return over a \$1,000,000 to members through a PCA. The average member will receive a \$50 credit on their December electric bill. Aaron Torud, General Manager of Barron Electric, said, "The Board of Directors approved passing on the PCA from Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, as well as \$500,000 to help reduce margins at the cooperative. We hope this will help brighten the holidays for our members."



## Donating Over 4,500 Pounds of Potatoes to Food Pantries

Barron Electric Cooperative and employees teamed up with Member Nuto Farms of Rice Lake to donate over 4,500 pounds of potatoes to 13 food pantries in Barron, Birchwood, Cameron, Chetek, Cumberland, Hayward, Rice Lake, Prairie Farm, Shell Lake, Spooner, and Turtle Lake. Dave Swanson of We Share Food Pantry, said, "Our customers will appreciate this donation."



Renee and Dave Swanson of We Share Food Pantry were happy to receive 350 pounds of Kitchen Kleen potatoes from Barron Electric representatives Dave Peterson, Stephanie Kunesch, and Jill Humphrey.



# \*Condensed Board Minutes September 29, 2021



Randy Cook is President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 7, which includes the following townships: Stanley, Sumner,

Strickland, Stubbs, Rusk, and Big Bend.

- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report, with comments by General Manager Torud. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #99324 thru #99430 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$575,783 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$14,462. Director Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,305,874; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$2,368,718; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,760,903; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$199,528 and power bill paid 09/29/2021 in the amount of \$2,212,652.
- A membership list of 107 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of August in the amount of \$309,926.67 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$20,520.92; change jobs - \$11,845.42; miscellaneous - \$277,560.33 and 1 retirement. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 26,224 consumer hours off, which is 64.58% below 2020 hours of 74,041. Overtime year-to-date is 2,533.75 hours, which is 8.30% below 2020 hours of 2,763.00.

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



## Homemade Treats for the Holidays

Taylor Karpenske said, "I always wanted a job that I knew I would love!" She established Taylor Made Treats, located at 1623 25th Avenue, Rice Lake, as a way to work from home and care for her young family. Taylor credits her family members for her baking expertise. She sells pies, scones, custom cakes, cupcakes, decorative sugar cookies, bread, mini breads, bundt cakes, cookies, and bars.

Taylor commented, "I love the expression on people's faces when they pick up their custom orders." She said that her mom also helps with the business. They are in the process of becoming a fully-licensed bakery. She said, "Some of the challenges have been trying to purchase all of the supplies on budget, as well as managing my time between my business and children."

Find Taylor Made Treats on Facebook or call 715-651-8689, and enjoy some delicious homemade treats. Gluten-free options are also available.





# Improving Reliability with Right-of-Way Clearing

The Right-of-Way Clearing Program helps reduce contact between trees and power lines. Trees and vegetation growing into the right-of-way can cause power outages, cause lights to blink, and become a fire and safety hazard. Contractors are hired to clear trees and brush in sixty-one townships on a rotational schedule of every five years for Barron County and every six years in Washburn County. Zielies Tree Service and Apex will both be clearing the townships listed below starting in December. If you have any questions, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or e-mail us at [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).



## 2022 Right-of-Way Clearing Schedule



### Barron County

Almena  
Clinton  
Barron

### Burnett County

Dewey

### Washburn County

Bashaw  
Beaver Brook  
Sarona  
Spooner

## Employee Spotlight



Isaac Cole worked at Dairyland Power Cooperative prior to starting at Barron Electric in 2012. As a lineman, he plays a key role in maintaining the electric system and restoring power when outages occur. He said, "My favorite part of my job is the trouble and outage calls." Isaac enjoys spending time with his children, as well as hunting. He graduated from Barron High School. He has a degree in Electrical Power Distribution from Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire.



*Our office will be closed on Friday,  
December 24 and Friday, December 31.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from all of us at  
Barron Electric Cooperative.*



# Keep Safety in Mind this Holiday Season

Make sure your holiday decorating is done with safety in mind by following these helpful tips:

- Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label. Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Always be sure to unplug the lights when replacing a bulb. Don't string together more light strands than recommended by the manufacturer. Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

- Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. Take extra care not to throw strings of lights over tree branches that are near power lines and service connections.
- Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord, or remove the third prong.
- Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Do not run them

through doorways, hide them under carpets, or staple, nail, or tack them to the wall.

- Make sure extension cords are in good condition and are UL-approved and rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them. Overloaded circuits are a major cause of fire. Flickering or dimming lights, sparks from appliances or outlets, and wall plates, plugs, or cords that are warm to the touch are warning signs that demand immediate action.

Have a safe holiday season!

*Source: Safe Electricity*



## Monthly Photo Contest

*Winner receives a \$50 Credit*



E-mail your winter photo to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto: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.
- Must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by December 9, 2021. 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.

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