



News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
March 2026
Photo by Janis Volker

90th Annual Meeting and Cookout set for Thursday, April 9



Jeremy Browning with Dairyland Power will be the guest speaker.

All members are invited to Barron Electric Cooperative's 90th Annual Meeting on April 9 at Barron Electric, 1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron. Registration and dinner will start at 4:00 p.m. The Barron VFW will cater the dinner, featuring a brat or hamburger, cole slaw, beans, chips, and a cupcake. The business meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m. Our guest speaker is Jeremy Browning, Vice President of Generation at Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier. Learn more about your cooperative and elect directors for Districts 2, 4, and 8; view candidate profiles on page 3. Twelve members will win a \$100 electric bill credit.

Designated Voters

Contact Member Services at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com to request a form to designate a representative from your organization to vote at the annual meeting.

Shuttle Service Available

For members living in the northern part of Barron Electric's service territory, a shuttle service will be available and will leave at 3:30 p.m. from Barron Electric's Spooner office located at 1550 Paulson Drive, Spooner. Please contact the Member Services Department by **April 1** at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com to sign up.

Concern for Community

Help the Cameron Food Pantry stock their shelves. Those donating will be entered into a prize drawing.

On a Quest for Cooperative History

Do you have a historical piece relating to Barron Electric that you would be willing to donate? We would like to showcase them at our annual meeting. 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, Attention: Member Services

Official Notice of Barron Electric's 90th Annual Meeting

Pursuant to the provision of the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of Barron Electric Cooperative will be held Thursday, April 9, 2026 at Barron Electric Cooperative in Barron with registration beginning at 4:00 p.m. The business meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m. to take action upon the following matters:

- To elect three directors to serve a three-year term in Districts 2, 4, and 8
- Presentation of reports
- To address all other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments, thereof.

Dated this 25th day of February 2026

Patricia Mandel, Secretary



Bring your March electric bill statement to the meeting.



New Rate Schedule Effective April 1

Barron Electric's Board of Directors approved a new rate schedule, which will be effective April 1, 2026. The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see a 3.36% increase or approximately \$6 per month.

Why are rates increasing?

- Barron Electric's Board of Directors has a fiscal responsibility to the membership and has set financial goals that include increasing equity, returning cashback credits in a timely manner, and continuing to invest in the electric distribution system to ensure the cooperative continues to provide safe, reliable energy to our members.
- Wholesale power costs will increase 3.1% in 2026. Wholesale power costs make up 60% of Barron Electric's total expenses.
- Higher prices for equipment, supplies, interest, technology, software, engineering, and line upgrades have affected rates. On average, most of the equipment purchased has increased over 80% since 2020.

What is Barron Electric Doing for Their Members?

- In the town of Crystal, two miles of three-phase overhead lines will be converted to underground to help increase reliability.
- In the town of Spooner, single-phase overhead will be converted to underground to also improve reliability.
- Another reliability project will take place in the town of Beaver Brook where a new three-phase underground line will be installed.
- This year, over 270 miles of right-of-way will be cleared to help reduce contact between trees and power lines. This proactive work helps decrease outages, while improving safety and efficiency.

What Can Members Do?

Members can lower their monthly bill by reducing energy usage. Here are some ideas:

- Change furnace filters monthly to improve efficiency.
- Utilize a programmable

thermostat to adjust temperatures while away.

- Wash clothes in cold water and only run full loads.



- Consider a Home Performance Assessment (HPA), pictured above. A trained and certified contractor can recommend the best upgrades for your home and budget. Members can receive up to \$200 towards the cost of

a HPA. Members who make recommended improvements can receive up to \$500. More information is available at barronelectric.com/2026-energy-rebates.

- Members who need help paying their electric bill can visit barronelectric.com/energy-assistance
- SmartHub allows you to see your daily and hourly electric usage and compare it with outdoor temperatures. Members can also sign up for Auto Pay and go paperless, or contact our office with any questions. Members can create a SmartHub account at barronelectric.com at "manage your account."
- Save energy and money with rebates on Energy Star appliances, heating and cooling, lighting, and electric water heaters. Check out barronelectric.com/rebates-2026 or scan the QR code for more information.



The Effects of Winter Storm Fern

Winter Storm Fern's widespread cold temperatures, along with unplanned power plant outages, higher fuel prices, and low wind production, strained the grid reliability in January in the central and eastern U.S. MISO is the electric grid operator for the central United States. Dairyland Power Cooperative, Barron Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, is a member of MISO. Due to these situations, MISO was steps away from declaring rolling blackout conditions. Transmission congestion between regional grid operators limited available electricity. Wind and solar generation met less than 18% of the electricity needs in the MISO footprint. These factors caused higher than normal market prices.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, strives to avoid Power Cost Adjustments (PCA). However, certain extreme weather events and other major disruptions in power supply can be challenging to forecast; and as a result, a PCA can occur. PCAs in general are caused by market conditions. Due to these situations, Barron Electric members may see a wholesale power cost adjustment charge on their electric statements.



Introducing Candidates for Barron Electric's Board of Directors



Barron Electric members attending the 90th Annual Meeting will vote for members to represent Districts 2, 4, and 8 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors. In District 2, Incumbent Tim Kessler has submitted his nomination papers. In District 4, Incumbent Scott Warwick has submitted his nomination papers, and in District 8, Incumbent Bill Effertz has submitted his nomination papers.

District 2

Tim Kessler and his wife, Julie, have been members of Barron Electric for over 30 years. They operate a cow/calf and cash grains farm west of Spooner.



Tim commented, "I would like to continue to serve as the District 2 director to continue safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the members of Barron Electric." Tim has served as a director on Barron Electric's Board for the past nine years and served as the treasurer for seven years. He has served on the Washburn County Board of Supervisors for eight years and the past two years as the Chairman of the Board. He is a former Town Chairman for the Town of Evergreen and served as a supervisor prior to that. He also served for 28 years in the Army and Wisconsin National Guard on the command staff. He expressed, "I feel the biggest challenges for Barron Electric are generation and transmission to supply the grid with its ever increasing demand and green energies, including solar, wind and battery storage."

District 4

Scott Warwick has served on Barron Electric's Board of Directors for 21 years. He remarked, "I want to continue to contribute to the future of our electric cooperative utilizing my knowledge base and experience." Scott has an extensive educational background. His prior work experience includes managing a successful business, where he has supervised and worked with others to problem solve and plan for future actions. He stressed, "The last few years have seen rising prices of materials, supply shortages, and increasing energy requirements leading to increased energy costs. The biggest challenge now is maintaining reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible."



District 8

Bill Effertz remarked, "I would like to serve our members for another term using the knowledge that I received from training in the electrical industry." Bill has been a director for District 8 for nearly six years and on the Barron County Board of Supervisors for six years. He has organized community events and served on non-profit boards in the past. He also served as a deacon in his church as well as the church board. Bill believes the biggest challenges facing Barron Electric are keeping rates low while improving the infrastructure for better reliability and less outages. Another challenge will be navigating the trend for data centers and bitcoin operations including the large amounts of electricity they consume.



			Brooklyn	Gull Lake	Stinnett	Hayward
Scott	Casey	Trego	Spring Brook	Bass Lake	Bass Lake	
Rusk	Evergreen	Spooner	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
Clear Lake	Vance Creek	Prairie Farm	Dallas	Sioux Creek	Dovre	Sampson
New Haven	Sheridan		Sand Creek			Big Bend

All members attending the 90th Annual Meeting will vote for directors to represent Districts 2, 4, and 8.



*Condensed Board Minutes December 30, 2025

Mike Baker, Vice President of Barron Electric’s Board of Directors and Dairyland Power Cooperative Board Director, represents District 3, which includes the following townships: Crystal, Stone Lake, Sand Lake, Beaverbrook, Madge, Birchwood, Saronia, and Cedar Lake.



Share Your Spring Photos

Send in your beautiful spring 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 March 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.

- The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, November 26, 2025, were approved as written with a correction to the October Inventory of Work Orders total from \$475,203.87 to \$475,203.87.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #105137 through #105268 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$171,484 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$15,078. Total receipts in the office \$2,987,615; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,320,754; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,767,129; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$244,929 and the power bill was paid on 12/31/2025 in the amount of \$2,083,015.
- Director of Member Services Beaudette reviewed the 2026 contract rates with the board. Director Olson moved, Director Effertz seconded, to approve the 2026 contract rates as presented. Motion carried.
- A membership list of 80 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of November in the amount of \$182,652.23 was presented for approval and included new services \$44,720.96; change jobs \$28,955.61 Other Work Order Projects \$108,975.66 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 98,243.11 consumer hours off, which is 9.08% above 2024 hours of 90,068.95. Overtime year-to-date is 3,446.50 hours, which is 13.94% below 2024 hours of 4,004.75.

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

News FOR YOU...

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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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