

News FOR YOU...



Members Hear How Participation Powers Progress at Barron Electric Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting

Members attending Barron Electric Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 25 heard how participation powers progress. Over 400 members and guests attended the meeting and enjoyed a breakfast served by the Barron VFW.

Clean Energy

Ron Franz, Director of Resource and Energy Planning at Dairyland Power Cooperative, discussed beneficial electrification, which is a move towards using powered items including battery-operated tools, heat pump furnaces, and electric vehicles to create a cleaner and more affordable future.

He discussed the importance of the integrity of the electric grid during extreme weather. He indicated that nine states experienced rolling blackouts in December 2022 and the Midwest helped to keep the lights on.

Ron discussed the Nemadji Trail Energy Center, which is a cooperative effort among Minnesota Power, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The hope is to start construction as early as this year. Together, they are building a state-of-the-art natural gas plant in Superior, Wisconsin, to ensure the delivery of safe, reliable

and affordable energy for their customers and members.

NuScale Power and Dairyland Power are exploring NuScale's small modular nuclear reactor technology to help deliver safe, affordable, and carbon-free energy.

Financial Report

Mandy Straw, director of finance, reported that operation revenue was up slightly from last year to \$39.5 million. The increase in the cost of power by \$2.58

million was the result of power cost adjustments reflecting an increase in the cost of energy inputs needed to generate electricity. Mandy indicated that the total cost of electric service was \$39.1 million. After expenses, other non-operating margins and other cooperative investments, Barron Electric allocated \$1.74 million in net earnings to its members. Straw added that net utility assets



Barron Electric to Sponsor Students to Youth Conference & D.C.



Barron Electric will sponsor high school students to the Youth Leadership Congress set for July 11-13 at UW-Stout. Students will learn how to maximize their leadership skills, learn more about cooperatives, and have the opportunity to run for the WECA Youth Board. The youth board helps coordinate the next youth conference. Members attend the NRECA Youth Tour. Students can also enter the WECA Essay contest which awards three scholarships of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250.

Please contact Barron Electric at 800-322-1008 or e-mail memberservices@barronelectric.com for more details. The deadline for applying is **June 7, 2023**.

Win a Trip to Washington D.C.

Teens from rural America have been travelling to Washington D.C. as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour for over 50 years. They have had the opportunity to tour museums, historic monuments, and meet elected officials. Barron Electric students attending the WECA Youth Leadership Congress will have the opportunity to write an essay and win a trip to the 2023 D.C. Youth Tour.

New Electric Rates Reflected on This Month's Electric Bill

Barron Electric's new rates will be reflected on this month's electric bill, which includes usage from March 18 - April 18. The new rates are shown in the table below. The board of directors approved a 2.7% rate increase to help cover the rising costs to deliver safe, reliable power. Barron Electric works hard to keep rates stable and affordable. The cooperative's last rate increase was in 2018.

Residential Rates	Previous Rates	New Rates Effective May 1, 2023
Fixed Charge	\$34.50 per month	\$34.50 per month no change
Summer Energy Charge (June-September)	\$0.1057 per kWh	\$0.10970 per kWh
Other Energy (October-May)	\$0.09570 per kWh	\$0.09970 per kWh
Heat Storage Energy Charge	\$0.550 per kWh	\$0.550 per kWh no change
Dual Fuel Energy Charge	\$0.0740 per kWh	\$0.0740 per kWh no change
Off-Peak Meter Charge	\$5.75 per month	\$5.75 per month no change

FOR 3RD GRADERS!
ELECTRICAL SAFETY
POSTER CONTEST
SUBMIT TO BARRON ELECTRIC
BY MAY 31, 2023
PO BOX 40 BARRON WI, 54812
 SEE RULES & REGISTRATION FORM AT
WWW.WECA.COOP

WIN GREAT PRIZES!
\$25 GIFT CARD AWARDED
TO 1ST PLACE WINNER
WINNER ADVANCES TO WECA FOR A CHANCE AT A
CHROMEBOOK, \$100 OR \$75 GIFT CARD

BARRON Electric COOPERATIVE
WECA

87th Annual Meeting *(continued from cover)*

increased to \$62.2 million and total assets were \$86.5 million at the end of 2022.

Manager's Report

General Manager Aaron Torud discussed the December 15 storm where heavy snow on trees left more than 9,000 members without power. He remarked, "It was an all-hands-on-deck storm with 70 additional personnel from other electric cooperatives, municipals, and contractors assisting Barron Electric."

Torud recognized the employees for their commitment to community thanking them for 190 hours of volunteer service and total donations of \$8,700 to non-profit organizations, which included a match from the cooperative. He also said the cooperative gave \$40,000 in additional donations to community organizations from its Federated Youth Foundation account, consisting of unclaimed capital credits. Organizations receiving funding included: Barron County 4-H Leaders, Boy Scouts Blue Hills, Boys and Girls Club, local FFA chapters, Girl Scout of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Northern Star Boy Scouts, NRECA International, Rice Lake Free Clinic, Rural Housing, high school scholarships, Washburn County 4-H, Hospice-Lakeview, Regional Hospice, and the youth tour.

Board President's Report

Board President Randy Cook emphasized safety, reliability, and affordability. The cooperative



has been replacing underground wire, updating the infrastructure, and clearing the rights-of-way to increase reliability. Meeting with legislators to ensure they are working for the best interest of electric cooperatives has been instrumental in keeping rates affordable. Investing in technology and offering energy-efficient programs and rebates has also helped members save money. Members heard that Barron Electric's American Customer Satisfaction Index Score of 80 is higher than the average for investor-owned utilities, municipals, and other electric cooperatives.

Director Elections

Incumbents Tim Kessler, Scott Warwick, and Bill Effertz were

re-elected to Districts 2, 4, and 8, respectively. At an organizational meeting following the annual meeting, the following board members were elected: Randy Cook, board president, Mike Baker, vice president, Tim Kessler, treasurer, and Scott Warwick, secretary. Mike Baker was selected as Barron's representative on the Dairyland Power Cooperative board.

Prize Winners

Members who won a \$100 cash prize included: Cherie Anderson, Amy Bair, Barbara Bouma, Cecilia Brierton, Busses Barron Acres, Germaine Konop, Darlene Martinson, Donald McLellan, Mary Pletzer, Donald Schleiss, Randy Wickman, and Lawrence Wilhelmy.



Thinking of Solar?

Are you thinking of installing solar at your home or business? We encourage you to call our office to discuss our solar program to review any requirements prior to the solar system being interconnected to our electric grid.

Take the time to research solar and solar contractors thoroughly before investing in a system. Ensure the contractor is NABCEP certified, licensed, insured, and has experience and references. Contact our office at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com and visit our website at barronelectric.com for more information.

*Condensed Board Minutes

February 22, 2023



- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #101423 through #101498 of CCF Bank in the amount of \$479,591 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$13,254. Total receipts in the office - \$1,644,617; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$70,490; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$1,287,509; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$209,745 and power bill to be paid on 02/22/2023 in the amount of \$2,494,141.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of January in the amount of \$92,368.29 was presented for approval and included new services - \$798.15; change jobs - \$0; Other Work Order Projects - \$91,570.14 and 1 retirement. Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 2,545.63 consumer hours off, which is 16.31% below 2022 hours of 3,041.70. Overtime year-to-date is 106.50 hours, which is 7.30% above 2022 hours of 99.25.

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

News FOR YOU...

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