

# News FOR YOU...

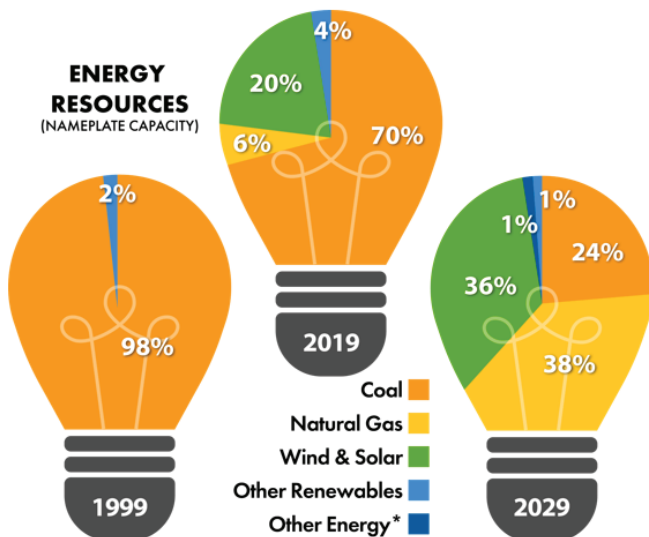
## 88th Annual Meeting Focuses on Reliability

Members and guests attending Barron Electric Cooperative's 88th Annual meeting learned more about Barron Electric's projects to increase reliability, as well as Dairyland Power Cooperative's mission to reduce their carbon footprint which includes advanced nuclear technology. Behind Every Meter is a Co-op Member was the theme of Barron Electric's annual meeting, which over 300 members and guests attended.

Jeremy Browning, Vice President of Generation at Dairyland Power Cooperative, discussed Dairyland's goal to reduce carbon emissions 50% by 2030. The Nemadji Trail Energy Center will help reduce that carbon footprint. Dairyland Power is also pursuing a non-carbon emitting 24/7 option through small modular reactors and advanced nuclear technology. Jeremy remarked, "Coal and gas are still needed during the transition." According to a report from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the reliability of conventional generation is significantly challenged by more frequent extreme weather, high-demand conditions,

and a changing resource mix, resulting in higher overall outage rates.

Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud said, "We are utilizing technology to enhance reliability, such as voltage/outage monitoring, transformer loading, and back-feed monitoring. The goal is to move towards proactive solutions to prevent service

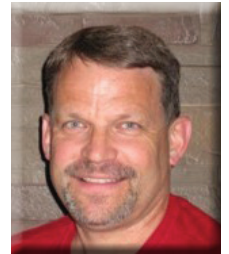


\*Renewable technology without Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

Dairyland Power estimates that coal will be reduced by 74% from 1999 to 2029.

## John Blaskowski Elected to Board of Directors

John Blaskowski was elected to Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 5.



He commented, "I closely follow the monthly newsletter and enjoy the deep concern the board shows toward its members. I wish to continue that dedication."

John is a retiree of Chibardun Telephone Cooperative. He is currently the Chairman for the Town of Rice Lake Planning Commission, Supervisor of the Rice Lake Township, and the Vice President of the Barron County Fair Board. He remarked, "With technology moving more toward "greenspace" living, the need for electricity continues to grow. One of the challenges for Barron Electric is to provide the backbone to support such demands while continuing to look for alternative measures to keep pricing affordable, by lobbying toward government relief programs, exploring new technologies, and educating members to help reduce the electrical grid load."

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# Improving Accessibility at the Barron VFW



Barron Electric donated \$750 to Barron VFW Post 8338 to help install a handicap ADA compliant access ramp. Pictured are Jordan Ellison, Barron Electric's Energy Use/Meter Technician, Dave Peterson, Commander of Barron VFW Post 8338, and Tim Kessler, Treasurer on Barron Electric's Board of Directors.

Barron Electric Cooperative's \$750 donation will help \*Barron VFW Post 8338 install a covered handicap ADA Compliant access ramp as well as a covered deck and outside seating area. Commander David Peterson remarked, "Once completed, the Barron VFW would be one of the few available rental halls in the City of Barron that has an ADA Compliant facility entryway which would allow us to better serve our community and our veteran members, particularly those with mobility issues."

Aaron Torud, Barron Electric Cooperative's General Manager, commented, "We are thankful for our veterans and pleased to assist Barron VFW Post 8338 in improving accessibility at their facility." Barron Electric donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members.

*Concern for Community*

## Build Leadership Skills at the Youth Conference

Barron Electric will be sponsoring high school students to the Youth Leadership Conference set for July 16-18 at UW-Stout, where students will learn how to maximize their leadership skills. Students who participate have the opportunity to attend the 2025 NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Please contact Barron Electric at 800-322-1008 or e-mail [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) for more details. The deadline for applying is **June 7, 2024**.

## \*Condensed Board Minutes

February 28, 2024



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.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102768 through #102841 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$152,991 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$25,726 Total receipts in the office \$2,410,184; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,904,395; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,586,444; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$214,934 and the power bill was paid on 02/28/2024 in the amount of \$2,370,388.
- A membership list of 37 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of January in the amount of \$175,897.31 was presented for approval and included new services \$0, change jobs \$0, Other Work Order Projects \$175,897.31 and 2 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 855.65 consumer hours off, which is 66.39% below 2023 hours of 2,545.63. Overtime year-to-date is 72.50 hours, which is 31.92% below 2023 hours of 106.50.

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

# Helping out in an Emergency

When the call comes in asking for assistance in restoring power to members, linemen are ready to help. Members of Dairyland Power Cooperative participate in a mutual assistance program known as ROPE, Restoration of Power in an Emergency. When ROPE is activated, the cooperative in need covers all expenses. On April 3, Oconto Electric Cooperative, located north of Green Bay, Wisconsin, called in ROPE for assistance after a winter storm brought down trees and power poles, which left more than 9,000 Oconto Electric members without power. Barron Electric sent four linemen: Jason Kircher, JT Gunderson, Nate Gustum, and Tim Engel, to help restore power. Barron Electric Leadman/Technician Nate Gustum said, "We helped run new lines across U.S. Highway 141 to restore power to several members. Deputies and Emergency Management helped provide traffic control for line crews." Crews worked 16-hour days from April 3-7, until power was restored.

Barron Electric has utilized ROPE three times since 2017: 2017 Chetek tornado, 2019 Derecho, and the December 2022 winter storm. ROPE is an example of the 6th Cooperative Principle, Cooperation Among Cooperatives.



*Linemen Nate Gustum, Jason Kircher, JT Gunderson, and Tim Engel assisted Oconto Electric Cooperative with restoration efforts after more than 9,000 of their members were without power. Photos courtesy of Oconto Electric Cooperative*

## GPS Project & Pole Testing

Global Mapping Solutions (GMS) has started working on Barron Electric's system. GMS will be on members' property



to inventory and take pictures of equipment, i.e. meters and transformers. Their vehicles will display signs with Barron Electric's logo, and GMS crews will carry identification badges noting they are contracted by Barron Electric.

### Pole Testing

American Energy Services is testing poles in Bear Lake, Dallas, Prairie Farm, Stanfold, and Vance Creek in Barron County, as well

as New Haven and Sheridan Townships in Dunn County, and Birchwood Townships in Washburn County. 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](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).

# Annual Meeting

*Continued from Cover*

interruptions and outages.” Barron Electric has built two substations to help with the increased load in our service territory. Randy Cook, Barron Electric’s Board President, told members that the cooperative has the third lowest rates when compared to local utilities. He remarked, “The financial and overall operation of Barron Electric is very strong.” The Board of Directors provides guidance on the strategic plan and the budget process, while also ensuring the cooperative provides a safe environment for both employees and members.

Director elections were held for Districts 1, 5, and 7. Incumbent Dave Olson, running unopposed, was reelected to District 1. In District 5, John Blaskowski and Incumbent Larry Kuhl both submitted their nomination forms. John Blaskowski was elected to District 5 with 86 votes, while Larry Kuhl received 70 votes. The cooperative thanks Larry for his 12-years of service on the board of

directors. In District 7, Incumbent Randy Cook, running unopposed, was reelected to Barron Electric’s Board of Directors.

Giles Excavating of Chetek was the featured member business. We would like to thank our members for donating over 240 pounds

of grocery items and cash to the Prairie Farm Food Pantry to help support those in need. The Barron VFW prepared and served breakfast to over 300 members and guests. Twelve Barron Electric members won a \$100 cash prize. All attendees received a pound of cheese.



*More than 300 members and guests attended Barron Electric’s 88th annual meeting.*



*Members enjoyed a breakfast which was prepared and served by the Barron VFW.*

## 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  
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*Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.*



## Winning Photo Receives a \$50 Credit

E-mail your summer photo to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by May 8, 2024. 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.