

Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that safely provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve.

Photo by Anton Stodola

News FOR YOU...

March 2018

Barron Electric Cooperative

Win a Free Year of Energy* at the 82nd Annual Meeting

Members attending the 82nd Annual Meeting will have a chance to win a *free year of energy and 99 appliances. Larry Snowbank, last year's grand prize winner, remarked, "The free year of energy worked great for us; it really helped us out." Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 24. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Barron High School with the business meeting following at 10 a.m. Enjoy music by Chris Kroeze. Guest speakers, Jeff Springer of Dairyland Power Cooperative and Matthew Blackler of ZEF Energy, will give an update on electric car technology. There will be games, activities, and facepainting for kids ages 3-12. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Cumberland Food Pantry. They are in need of peanut butter, tuna, and cereal. All attendees will receive a lunch and an attendance gift.

**Includes one year of energy, up to \$100 per month, excluding fixed charges*



Larry and Cindy Snowbank won a free year of energy awarded at Barron Electric's annual meeting last year.

Official Notice of Barron Electric's 82nd 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 Saturday, March 24 at the Barron High School, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The business meeting will follow at 10:00 a.m. to take action upon the following matters:

- To receive reports of officers and directors
- To elect three directors to serve a three-year term in Districts 1, 5, and 7
- To address all other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments, thereof.

*Dated this 23rd day of
February 2018
Scott Warwick,
Secretary*

Special Olympics Lead to the Megawatt Community Service Award



Aaron and Sara Hubin enjoy helping with the Spooner Special Olympics.

Congratulations to Aaron and Sara Hubin, our latest Megawatt Community Service Award winners. They have been volunteering for the Spooner Special Olympics for nearly ten years. Aaron trains the athletes in shot put and running long jump. Sara helps with training and timing of the runs, as well as warming up before practices. They help with the regional and state tournaments. Sara remarked, "Aaron and I have had such a great time getting to know the athletes. They cheer one another on, congratulate each other, never exclude anyone and all are very caring. It has been a joy and privilege watching these athletes do sporting events that they love."

Win a \$50 Electric Bill Credit

The Megawatt Community Service Award supports Barron Electric Cooperative's mission to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve and promotes our 7th Cooperative Principle, "Concern for Community." Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit. Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award. Application forms can be found at barronelectric.com in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.

Need a Ride to the Annual Meeting?

A shuttle service will be available to the annual meeting for those members who live in the northern part of Barron Electric's service territory. The shuttle will leave at 8 a.m. from Barron Electric's Spooner office located at 1550 Paulson Drive. If you are interested in this service, please contact Member Services at 800-322-1008 or e-mail memberservices@barronelectric.com by Wednesday, March 14.

Designated Voter Forms for Annual Meeting Available Upon Request

The bylaws of Barron Electric Cooperative in Article III, Section 5 state: "Any member which is a cooperative, corporation, governmental body, church or voluntary association, may, acting through its governing body, designate, **in writing**, its representative to act for it at membership meetings. Such written designation shall be filed with the (cooperative) secretary before such representative votes at any such meeting, except that the chairman of any such corporation, association, board or body politic may cast its vote at such meeting if no such written designation for any other representative is so filed. Such representative may also vote as an individual if he/she is a member. A guardian or other legal representative may vote for a member."

Please contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com to request a form to designate a representative from your organization to vote at the Barron Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 24 at the Barron High School Gymnasium.

Organizations Committed to our Community and Environment

Barron Electric Cooperative's Commitment to Community Program has helped improve the quality of life in the rural area. Benjamin's House, Boys and Girls Club of Barron County, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, and the Rice Lake Free Clinic, all recipients of Federated Youth Foundation donations, will be featured at Barron Electric's annual meeting on Saturday, March 24.



Benjamin's House

Benjamin's House is the homeless shelter serving Barron County. This program shelter serves clients for up to 90 days. They work with the resources already available in our communities to help residents find employment, housing, and medical assistance, and to remove any other barriers that led to homelessness. Executive Director Lori Bowman said, "We are 100% funded by donations and fundraising. We are proud to have the support of the many community businesses and individuals who help us make a difference for so many every day."

Boys and Girls Club of Barron County

"Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us the most, to reach their dreams and full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens," commented Deanna Aubart, Executive Director. There

are over 1,100 club members in Rice Lake, Barron, and Cumberland. The Boys & Girls Club is a safe place designed solely for youth programs and activities. The Club is open every day, after school, when kids have free time and need positive, productive outlets.

Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary

"Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary is a non-profit nature preserve and learning center, open to all, dedicated to fostering understanding, appreciation, and protection of the environment," remarked Nikki Janisin, Executive Director of Hunt Hill. Hunt Hill is located between Rice Lake and Spooner, near Long Lake. The sanctuary is open to the public and offers 13 miles of trails, exploring 600 acres of diverse Wisconsin habitats and a variety of nature programs for all ages.

Rice Lake Area Free Clinic

The Rice Lake Area Free Clinic (RLAFC) has provided free medical care to over 900 unique patients in the last seven years. Mike Farrell, Director of the RLAFC, said, "There were over 100 new patients in 2017, which is a 10% increase and an indication that there is tremendous need for healthcare services." The volunteer clinic staff donated more than 3,000 volunteer hours in 2017.

Federated Youth Foundation

Funds for Barron Electric donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members.



Enjoy canoeing at Hunt Hill.



Director Randy Cook presents a \$500 donation to Deanna Aubart of the Boys and Girls Club of Barron County.



Director Larry Kuhl presents a \$1,000 check to Mike Farrell of the Rice Lake Area Free Clinic.

Director Notes



Lynn Peterson is Vice President of the Board representing District 6 which includes the townships of Clinton, Barron, Maple Grove, and Prairie Lake.

Condensed Board Minutes December 20, 2017

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #92880 thru #92992 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$164,311 and capital credit estate checks of \$7,470. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$820,841; total receipts by wire and ACH- \$870,754; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - 682,380; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$87,508 and power bill paid 12/30/17 in the amount of \$2,292,178. A membership list of 60 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$229,424.50 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$57,691.20; change jobs - \$25,614.56; miscellaneous - \$146,118.74 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

News FOR YOU...

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Barron Electric is an equal
opportunity provider.



Assembly Bill 583 will Help Electric Cooperatives

Barron Electric Cooperative's General Manager, Dallas Sloan, provided testimony on Assembly Bill 583, introduced by State Representative Romaine Quinn and cosponsored by Senator Janet Bewley, to create a sales and use tax exemption for services furnished by one electric cooperative to another during a widespread outage. This bill recently passed on a voice vote, and will go to the Senate this month.

Dallas explained, "In 2017, Barron Electric experienced a difficult year of storms. Our total outage hours increased 132% over the previous four-year average. During the May 16 tornado, nearly 9,000 members were without power, which is just under 50% of our membership. Given the magnitude of this outage, Barron Electric employed the help of seven other utilities and two contractors through Wisconsin's ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program to help restore power. Barron Electric paid outside crews over \$120,000 for labor and equipment, plus nearly \$7,000 in sales and use tax. These outside crews worked side by side with our crews, yet we are not required to pay sales and use tax on our crews." Dallas commented, "We appreciate Representative Quinn introducing this bill and Senator Bewley's support, as well as their support of electric cooperatives. The cooperative is looking out for the best interests of our members. Public safety and power restoration are the top priorities." Representative Quinn's work on this bill will ultimately help save all rural electric cooperative members money.



Representative Quinn and Senator Bewley were awarded the Enlightened Legislator of the Year Award by Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives. (photo submitted)



Barron Electric's General Manager Dallas Sloan provided testimony on Assembly Bill 583, introduced by State Representative Romaine Quinn. This would create a sales and use tax exemption for electric cooperatives during emergencies. (Photo submitted by Dana Kelroy, Editor of the WECN magazine)

Happy Easter

Our office will be closed on Friday,
March 30 in observance of Good Friday.

