

# News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative  
February 2021

Photo by Torsten Bartsch

## Electric Cooperatives Join Together to Develop EV Charging Stations

**B**arron Electric joined 28 electric cooperatives to create a regional electric vehicle (EV) charging network across Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota named CHARGE EV, LLC. The network includes over 30 Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations. The group of cooperatives is planning for future growth in EVs, and hopes to alleviate “range anxiety,” which is the concern some people have about traveling in an EV without a place to charge their vehicle.

“We are excited to be part of this opportunity to provide EV owners with peace of mind when driving from Iowa to northern Wisconsin, or from Minnesota to Illinois, knowing there are cooperative powered chargers available. We hope that will give people confidence to consider purchasing an EV and also encourage growth in the EV market,” said Barron Electric’s General Manager

Dallas Sloan. Sloan added, “We also recognize that 80% of charging is done at home. We offer a free charging station to those purchasing an EV.” See article below for more details.

The CHARGE EV infrastructure is just the start, as the group plans for additional investments in the EV market including member education on installing home chargers and encouraging members to test drive EVs.

Check out [charge.coop](http://charge.coop) for a map of existing Charge EV charging stations. EV users can also download a charging app, such as PlugShare.com to find nearby charging stations.



## Free Charging Station from Barron Electric

Barron Electric offers a free Level 2 electric vehicle charger to members who purchase an EV. The charger works with all EVs, including Tesla vehicles, using Tesla’s charging adapter. We encourage charging at night when demand for electricity is low. Some conditions do apply. For more details, visit our website at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).

**CHARGE**  
POWERED BY CO-OPS





## Barron Electric Will Award \$28,000 in Scholarships

We are excited to offer two \$1,000 Cooperative Achievement Scholarship opportunities to each high school in our service territory including: Barron, Birchwood, Cameron, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Clayton, Clear Lake, Cumberland, Hayward, New Auburn, Prairie Farm, Rice Lake, Shell Lake, Spooner and Turtle Lake.

Applicants must have parents or guardians that are current Barron Electric Cooperative members. Please check with the school counselor's office to obtain an application and the eligibility requirements. Barron Electric's General Manager Dallas Sloan said, "We are proud to offer scholarships to high school seniors to help them pursue their goals. Barron Electric has awarded more than \$320,000 since 1985."

## Employee Spotlight



*Nate Gustum talks with students about electrical safety.*

Nate Gustum is a leadman technician and is responsible for the cooperative's AMR/AMI system. He worked at Dairyland Power Cooperative prior to starting at Barron Electric. He graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College in Electrical Power Distribution. He is currently pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering. Nate remarked, "One of the best things about working at the cooperative is how well everyone comes together during an emergency situation or wide-spread outages."

Nate and his wife, Heidi, live in Hillsdale and have three daughters. They enjoy traveling, and Heidi and Nate like to work on home remodeling and landscaping projects together. Nate said, "I help my dad with the farm from time to time. I also enjoy outdoor activities such as biking, swimming, snowshoeing, and hunting."

# #POWERON

## Upgrading Equipment



*photo submitted by Marie Cupp*

Linemen completed hot work during Oil Circuit Recloser(OCRs) maintenance. They changed out old porcelain cut-outs to the polymer type. Polymer is 90% lighter than porcelain and also has a longer life. Reclosers play an important role in the electric grid, as they shut off electric power if trouble occurs.



# Improving Communities and the World



*Congratulations to Tina Causey for her service to the Hayward community.*

Congratulations to Tina Causey, our latest Megawatt Community Service Award winner. Tina has been a member of the Hayward Lions Club since 2013. She served as secretary for five years and was the membership chair. She also served as chairperson for the annual Pancake Breakfast. The Hayward Lions Club hosts the Pre-Birkie, one of their largest fundraisers. Tina has helped with preregistration, as well as food stations along the route. Last year, the Hayward Lions Club donated over \$30,000 to the community. Lions Clubs around the world are recognized for their service to the blind, visually impaired, and hearing impaired and help to improve communities and the world.

Tina was also a liaison between the Hayward Lions Club and Boy Scouts. She was secretary for the Boy Scouts for a few years. Tina has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit housing organization. She later became manager of this organization.

Throughout her life, Tina has operated heavy equipment. She started a new business called Springbrook Levelers, where she grades driveways.

## Win a \$50 Electric Bill Credit

Barron Electric is led by members like you who understand and listen to the community. Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award. Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit. Application forms can be found at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.



## Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm Achieves Commercial Operation

Dairyland Power Cooperative has a power purchase agreement with Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC, for 51.6 MW of renewable energy. Dairyland's portion of Tatanka Ridge's output will deliver enough renewable energy to power approximately 16,000 homes. The facility's 56 wind turbines are located in Deuel County, S.D. The facility is owned by Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC, which is jointly owned by Avangrid Renewables (15%) and WEC Energy Group (NYSE: WEC) (85%).

"Dairyland is pleased to work with Avangrid Renewables and WEC Energy Group on an efficient and sustainable facility that supports our transition to a

lower carbon future," said Brent Ridge, Dairyland President and CEO. "Diversification of resources is a key element of Dairyland's Sustainable Generation Plan, making Tatanka Ridge a valuable addition to our cooperative's renewable energy portfolio."

Tatanka Ridge encompasses approximately 18,000 acres of primarily corn and soybean farms and cattle ranches, leased from over 100

landowners. Between land lease payments and taxes, the wind farm will provide \$1.7 million of local economic benefits annually over the life of the project.

*Source: Dairyland Power Cooperative*



# Photo Contest

Winner receives a \$50 Credit



E-mail your winter photos for our photo contest. The winning photo will be used on the cover of the

*News for You*, and the winner will receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill. Criteria for the photos include:

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

## News FOR YOU...

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If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail  
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Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.



## \*Condensed Board Minutes

November 25, 2020



Arlyn Helm 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.



- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #98266 thru #98340 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$191,965 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$7,215. Director Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$1,541,733; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$438,416 disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$1,632,164; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$194,431 and power bill paid 11/25/2020 in the amount of \$1,662,737.
- A membership list of 89 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of October in the amount of \$317,014.69 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$32,316.24; change jobs - \$23,787.62; miscellaneous - \$260,910.83 and 9 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- General Manager Sloan and Staff members Beaudette, Steines and Straw presented written and oral reports of their activities for the month.
- Outages through the month of October stand at 83,081 consumer hours off, which is 80.72% below 2019 hours of 430,906. Overtime year-to-date is 3,090 hours, which is 46.24% below 2019 hours of 5,748.25.

\* View full board minutes on SmartHub.

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Visit our website at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) for payment options, outage information, rebates on energy efficient equipment, news, and more. Access your account through SmartHub to view your usage, payment history, or contact the office.