

# News FOR YOU...

May 2018

Barron Electric Cooperative

## Electric Vehicles: Popular Topic at Annual Meeting



General Manager Dallas Sloan presents Sandy (pictured) and Eugene Schoenfuss, of Chetek, with the grand prize of a free year of energy.

Over 600 members and guests, attending Barron Electric's 82nd Annual Meeting, listened to Jeff Springer of Dairyland Power Cooperative and Matthew Blackler of ZEF Energy as they gave an update on electric car technology. General Motors will have an electric SUV by 2019 and bring 20 new all-electric vehicles to the market by 2023. Ford is bringing a high performance electric SUV with a 300-mile range to the market in 2020. Jeff Springer remarked, "Dairyland Power plans to work with cooperatives and others to bring a fast charging station to the Dairyland service area." Matthew Blackler covered the basics of electric car charging stations. A Level 1 charger will take 21 hours to fully charge, while a Level 2 charger will charge a vehicle in 4 hours. A DC fast charger will take 30 minutes.

General Manager Dallas Sloan discussed the 2017 storms that impacted Barron Electric's service territory. He discussed legislation including Assembly Bill 583 authored by Romaine Quinn and Senate Bill 501 co-authored by Senator Bewley, which will eliminate the double taxation on services provided during storm relief. He also told members that wholesale rates have increased 10%, and Barron Electric has not increased rates since 2011. Power Systems Engineering will be analyzing the rates. Board President Selmer Nelson told members, "The cooperative is strong and healthy. We had a record year for kilowatt-hours and revenue." He also discussed future plans which include slowing the equity growth, enhancing

cybersecurity, exploring an electric vehicle which members can test drive, and continuing reliable service." Incumbents Arlyn Helm, Larry Kuhl, and Randy Cook were all reelected to Barron Electric's Board of Directors representing Districts 1, 5, and 7 respectively. Eugene Schoenfuss of Chetek won the grand prize of a free year of energy, excluding fixed charges. Israel VanTrees and Allyana Chido both won an electric scooter at the Kids' Program.

At an organization meeting following the annual meeting, Randy Cook was elected President of the Board, Lynn Peterson-Vice President, Arlyn Helm-Treasurer, and Scott Warwick-Secretary. Mike Baker was elected to serve on Dairyland Power's Board of Directors.



Linemen TJ Romsos and Kyle Rose talked with members about their experience helping Clay Electric restore power after Hurricane Irma in Florida.



Randy Cook was elected President of the Board, succeeding Selmer Nelson.

# Electric Cooperative Officials Heard on Capitol Hill



**E**lectric cooperative officials visited Washington D.C. to meet with legislators regarding key topics affecting electric cooperatives and their members.

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, discussed the Farm Bill, which aims to protect farmers' income and livelihood. He stressed the importance of rural broadband indicating that 80% of households do not have reliable high-speed internet. He remarked, "E-connectivity is vital for the rural area."

Senator Klobuchar discussed the need to build and maintain our infrastructure including

rail, bridges, and roads. She also discussed reliable internet service. She talked about the need for large capacity water heaters, stressing, "One size does not fit all."

The main topics discussed with legislators included the Farm Bill, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), broadband, and pension plans.

## **Farm Bill**

Electric cooperatives encouraged a Farm Bill that would enhance key Rural Development Programs including Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loan Program and Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG). Barron Electric

has loaned over \$2.4 million to area businesses which has created more than 100 local jobs.

## **Broadband**

A reliable, modern grid depends on a strong communications infrastructure. It is imperative that the RUS provide financing for integrating Smart Grid technologies. The need for funds dedicated to developing broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas was recommended.

## **LIHEAP**

LIHEAP provides critical home heating and cooling help to millions of American families. Electric cooperatives serve 93% of the persistent poverty counties in the country. Cooperatives encouraged funding for this program.

## **Pension Plan**

Over 880 rural electric cooperatives participate in the defined-benefit "Multiple-employer" pension plan sponsored by NRECA. In 2014, Congress passed a law recognizing that electric cooperatives pose virtually no risk of default to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), and yet we continue to pay insurance premiums as if we were a risk. Together, electric cooperatives overpay \$30 million in premiums, while Wisconsin cooperatives overpay more than \$700,000. Legislators were asked to support HR5282, which will save cooperative members' money.



*Jennifer Beaudette, Director of Member Services, talked with Congressman Sean Duffy about key topics affecting electric cooperatives and our members.*

# Rate Study Underway

Barron Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved the hiring of Power Systems Engineering (PSE) to conduct a Cost of Service study regarding rates. General Manager Dallas Sloan commented, "It is important that we look at all rate classes to ensure rates charged are fair and equitable." PSE will evaluate the fixed charge as well. Wholesale power represents 70% of Barron Electric's costs; a 1% increase equals about \$250,000. In 2018, the cooperative's rates have increased approximately 1.5%. Since 2011, wholesale rates have increased as much as 10%. We have implemented many cost-saving strategies to keep rates in check and affordable. A recent study conducted by Dairyland Power showed Barron Electric had the second lowest rates of 30 different utilities in a 3-state region. While we do not yet know what the Cost of Service Study will show, the board of directors will be evaluating various options and cost-control measures to keep any changes as minimal as possible.

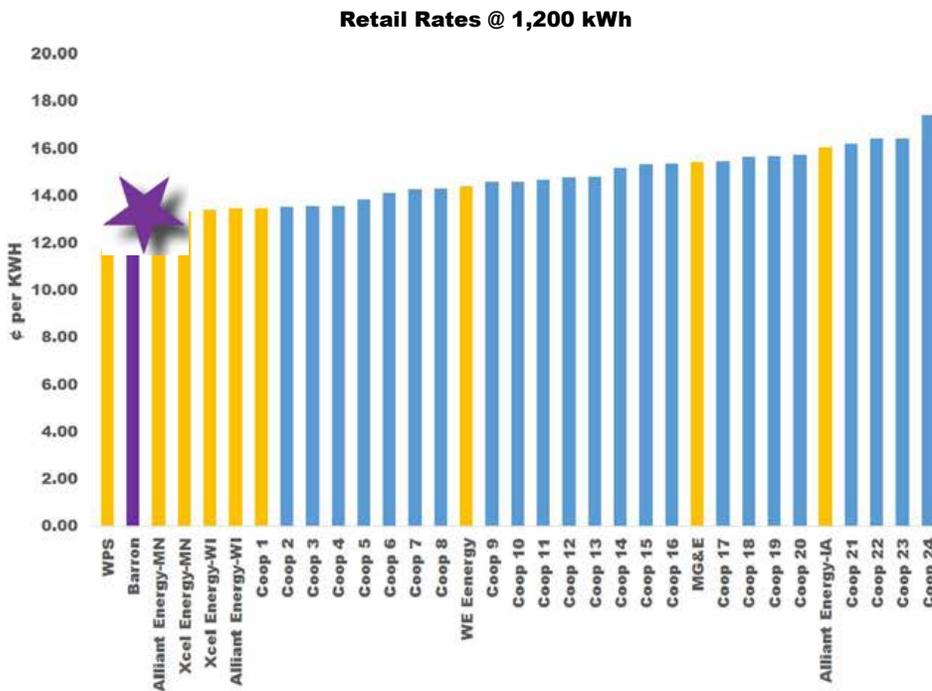
*"Barron Electric has not increased rates since 2011," remarked General Manager Dallas Sloan*



## Monthly Photo Contest Spring Landscapes

Members are invited to participate in the 2018 photo contest. We are currently looking for spring landscape photos. Winning photos will be used on the cover of the *News for You*. If your photo is chosen, you will win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria for the photos include:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape).
- Photo 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 May 10, 2018. Include your Barron Electric account number, address and phone number.



The graph indicates retail rates at 1,200 kilowatt hours among investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives. Barron Electric is the second lowest in the state.

# May is Electrical Safety Month

Keep safe this spring and summer by following these safety rules:

- Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords.
- Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid damp conditions, including wet grass, when using electricity.
- Keep safety in mind when selecting cooling equipment for your home. Have a qualified, licensed electrician install and service any electrical equipment in your home.

## Sign up for Auto Pay and Win a \$50 Credit

Auto Pay is a convenient way to pay your electric bill, saving you time and money. Members who sign up for Auto Pay will have their name entered into a drawing for a \$50 electric bill credit. Congratulations to Richard Ranallo, who won the \$50 Credit for the First Quarter Drawing. Sign up for Auto Pay through SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) or by contacting the billing department at 800-322-1008.

# Director Notes



Mike Baker represents District 3, which includes the following townships: Crystal, Stone Lake, Sand Lake, Beaverbrook, Madge, Birchwood, Saronna, and Cedar Lake.

## Condensed Board Minutes February 23, 2018

- 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: #93193 thru #93311 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$143,672 and capital credit estate checks of \$17,441. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$1,582,458; total receipts by wire and ACH- \$208,913; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - 1,276,453; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$179,703 and power bill paid 02/28/18 in the amount of \$2,428,374. A membership list of 36 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$87,761.12 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$0; change jobs - \$0; miscellaneous - \$87,761.12 and 6 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 488 consumer hours off, which is 84.1% below 2017 hours of 3,073. Overtime year-to-date is 124.75 hours, which is 18.8% above 2017 hours of 105.

## News FOR YOU...

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Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.



## Cook's Corner

### Salted Nut Roll Bars Lotus Nevin



- 16 oz. jar salted peanuts
- 12 oz. peanut butter chips
- 1 stick butter
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 2-3 cups mini-marshmallows

Spread half of the peanuts in a buttered 9x13 pan. Melt together in microwave bowl: peanut butter chips, butter, and condensed milk. Cool. Fold in marshmallows and mix well. Spread over peanuts and sprinkle rest of peanuts on top and pat down. Refrigerate.

Win a cookbook if your recipe is chosen for Cook's Corner.

Send in your favorite recipes to:

Member Services  
Barron Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 40  
Barron WI 54812

## Pole Testing Improves Reliability



American Energy Services will test poles over the next few months in the following townships:

Barron..... Barron County  
 Prairie Lake ..... Barron County  
 Evergreen..... Washburn County  
 Dewey ..... Burnett County  
 Rusk..... Burnett County

Their trucks will have a magnetic sign that displays Barron Electric's name. A 4-wheeler may also be used to move efficiently throughout the system. If you have questions, please contact the Operation's Department at 800-322-1008 or e-mail operations@barronelectric.com.



Our office will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe holiday weekend.