

# News FOR YOU...

## It Pays to be a Barron Electric Member

Cooperative Month has been celebrated annually in October for more than half a century. This year's theme highlights how co-ops are creating diverse, equitable and inclusive workplaces and boards, and how cooperatives can better meet the needs of their communities.

This year, Barron Electric gave \$1.1 Million in cashback credits to over 16,000 members. Barron Electric members eligible for cashback credits, also known as capital credits, received a credit on their August 2020 bill statement. Over \$30 Million has been returned since 1965.

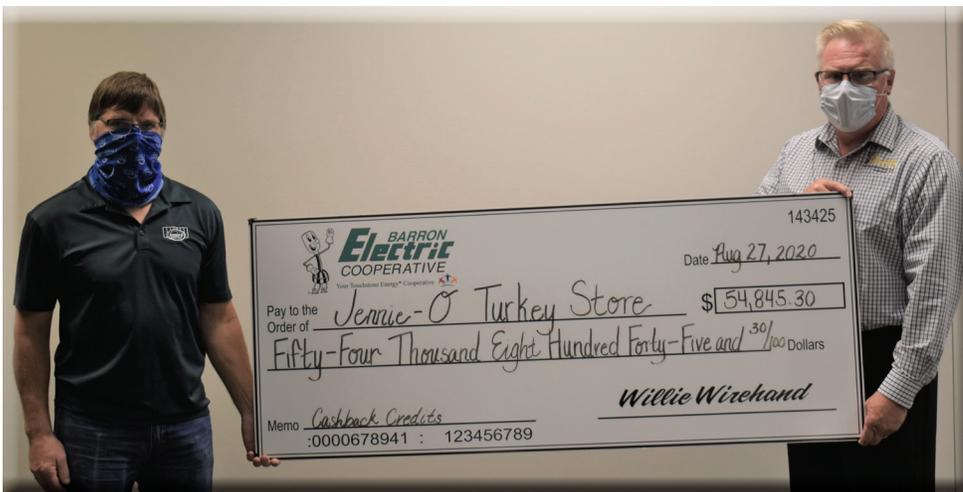
**Unclaimed Capital Credits**  
Barron Electric tries to locate people who have not claimed their capital credits. The list of names can be found at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) under the capital credits tab.

**Commitment to Community**  
Barron Electric is committed to the communities they serve by donating to various non-profit organizations such as FFA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Boys & Girls Club. The cooperative has awarded more than \$320,000 in scholarships to high school seniors since the program began in 1985.



**Low Rates**  
The cooperative has some of the lowest rates in the state when compared to other municipals, utilities, and cooperatives. There are several areas that have helped reduced costs including Right-of-Way Clearing, pole testing, maintenance projects, underground wire replacement, and utilizing technology.

**Commitment to the Environment**  
Barron Electric and Nuto Farms teamed up to develop a butterfly garden to help the declining Monarch butterfly population habitat. Additionally, the cooperative's solar project has produced nearly 800 megawatt hours since energized in 2014. The system has saved 1.2 million pounds of CO2 emissions and is equivalent to planting over 9,000 trees.



Barron Electric General Manager Dallas Sloan (right) presented a \$54,000 check to Scott Sand of Jennie-O Turkey Store for their share of cashback credits.

*For the safety of our members and employees, we have cancelled the cooperative month events.*

## Meet Your New Board Director: Bill Effertz

Bill Effertz was recently elected to Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 8, which includes the townships of Crystal Lake, Almena, Clayton, Turtle Lake, Arland, Clear Lake, Vance Creek, Prairie Farm, New Haven, and Sheridan. Bill said, "I want to help keep our electricity affordable and reliable. Affordability and reliability are essential for individuals and businesses." Bill has worked for the Crystal Lake Township for 42 years and serves on the Barron County Board of Supervisors. He has also served on church boards and community boards.



## Fall into Savings with Energy Sense Rebates

Barron Electric members purchasing Energy Star® rated appliances are eligible for the following rebates:

Energy Star® Clothes Washer .....	\$25
Energy Star® Electric Clothes Dryer .....	\$25
Heat Pump Clothes Dryer .....	\$50
Energy Star® Dehumidifier .....	\$25
Energy Star® Dishwasher.....	\$25
Energy Star® Freezer.....	\$25
Energy Star® Refrigerator (>= to 10 cubic feet).....	\$25
Inductive Range (must be a minimum of 10 cubic feet)..	\$25
Refrigerator or Freezer Recycling .....	\$25

More information and rebates can be found at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) in the rebates area. Programs expire December 18, 2020.



## Fun Facts

Nearly 250 vehicles in the Barron Electric service territory are electric or plug-in hybrid. Wisconsin electric cooperatives are home to over 1,600 electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles.



# Right-of-Way Clearing Helps Improve Reliability

The Right-of-Way Clearing Program helps reduce contact between trees and power lines. Trees and vegetation growing into the right-of-way can cause power outages, cause lights to blink, and become a fire and safety hazard. Contractors are hired to clear trees and brush in sixty-one townships on a rotational schedule of every five years for Barron County and every six years in Washburn County. Zielies Tree Service will be clearing the townships listed below starting in December. If you have any questions, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or e-mail us at [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).



## 2021 Right-of-Way Clearing Schedule

### Barron County

Bear Lake  
Crystal Lake  
Maple Plain  
Stanford



### Washburn County

Birchwood  
Long Lake  
Springbrook

### Sawyer County

Bass Lake  
Hayward  
Sand Lake

### Rusk County

Big Bend  
Rusk  
Strickland  
Stubbs

# Meg Lepak Leads 100 Women Who Care Barron County

Congratulations to Meg Lepak, our latest Megawatt Community Service Award winner. She helped form 100 Women Who Care Barron County. Meg remarked, "This organization is a group of like-minded women serving as a platform to empower local charities." At the quarterly meetings, members each donate \$100 which goes directly to a selected charity. During the meeting, three local non-profit charities that have applied are chosen at random to give a 10-minute presentation about their organization. Members then vote for who they would like to see receive the evening's donation.

Meg added, "I am so happy to be part of 100 Women Who Care Barron County. Together, we can make a huge difference. We currently have 25 organizations that have applied for funds." The organization has helped raise over \$19,000 for Barron County charities in less than a year. She remarked, "This is an amazing amount while having to skip a meeting due to COVID restrictions." The three charities for the next meeting set for October 28th are Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Emergency Services of Barron County and Dreamship Play & Learning Center.

Anyone interested in joining 100 Women Who Care Barron County can send an e-mail to [meglepak@edinarealty.com](mailto:meglepak@edinarealty.com) or visit their Facebook page at: 100 Women Who Care Barron County.



*Meg is looking forward to another year with 100 Women Who Care Barron County.*

## Members Helping Members

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our members financially. Although there are many forms of assistance available, there are still bills to pay. Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill.

If you would like to help a member by paying \$50, \$100, \$200 or any amount desired towards their electric bill, please send a check with the member's name, address and phone number. If you have any questions, please contact our billing department at 800-322-1008 or [billing@barronelectric.com](mailto:billing@barronelectric.com) for more details.



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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.

## Photo Contest

E-mail your fall 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 October 10, 2020. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric Cooperative permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.

## Call Before You Dig



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

- An underground utility line is damaged once every six minutes nationwide because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. There are more than 20 million miles of underground utilities in the United States.
- Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries and costly repairs.
- Before you dig, notify your local 811. Your request needs to be made 2-3 days before you plan on digging.

## \*Condensed Board Minutes July 29, 2020

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97782 thru #97903 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$747,116 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$10,424. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,163,131; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$3,009,741; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,879,949; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$305,039 and power bill paid 07/29/2020 in the amount of \$2,093,088.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of June in the amount of \$330,053.42 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$14,248.65; change jobs - \$22,897.40; miscellaneous - \$292,907.37 and 2 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages through the month of June stand at 33,527 consumer hours off, which is 28.20% above 2019 hours of 26,152. Overtime year-to-date is 1,309.75 hours, which is 30.36% below 2019 hours of 1,880.75.

\* *View full board minutes on SmartHub.*

**CO-OPS VOTE**

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[WWW.VOTE.COOP](http://WWW.VOTE.COOP)

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