

# News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative  
September 2019  
Photo by Kathy Bush

## Biggest Storm in Cooperative History Costs \$1.5 Million

On July 19, Barron Electric Cooperative's service territory was impacted by a severe windstorm and two confirmed tornadoes (EF-0 and EF-1) which left widespread damage, costing the cooperative \$1.5 Million. Barron Electric members experienced long-term power outages with the majority of members having power restored within eight days. Wisconsin Governor Evers declared a State of Emergency and remarked, "I know many people, especially in northern and central Wisconsin, have been impacted by the strong storms and power outages."

Over 9,500 Barron Electric members were without power. Widespread outages affected the southern half of Barron Electric's territory. Eight substations were affected, four completely lost power and four lost partial power. Approximately 1,800 members are served by each substation.

Over 65 crew members including linemen from Barron Electric, Bayfield, Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire, Jump River, Pierce Pepin and St. Croix Electric Cooperatives, plus Barron Municipal, Cumberland Municipal, and Rice Lake Municipal restored power. Zielies Tree Service

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# Following Monarch Butterflies to Mexico



Member Cindy Sesolak tags a Monarch Butterfly and will travel to Mexico next year to help track their migration.



Animal pollinators are required for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and one third of food crops. Habitat loss, disease, and the excessive use of pesticides have been instrumental in the decline of native pollinators and bee populations. The Monarch Butterfly population has greatly declined in the past 20 years.



Pictured is a Monarch Butterfly emerging from a Chrysalis.

Barron Electric Member Cindy Sesolak has always liked butterflies and is helping make a difference for this pollinator. She is involved in the Monarch Watch Tagging Program, which started in 1992 to help understand the monarch's fall migration through mark and recapture. Tagging helps determine the origins of monarchs that make it to Mexico, and their original location, size, and date makes a difference in their survival. Monarch Watch distributes more than a quarter of a million tags to volunteers who tag monarchs as they migrate through their area. She commented, "Last year, I raised 52 monarchs and tagged 12. You only tag the mid-August hatch as those are the ones that fly to Mexico." She plans to travel to Mexico next year to track the journey of the Monarch Butterflies. Learn more about Monarch Butterflies at [monarchwatch.com](http://monarchwatch.com).

Sources: Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and MonarchWatch.org

## Give Blood



### Blood Drive

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Mosaic Telecom  
401 South 1st Street  
Cameron WI

#### Walk-ins Welcome

To schedule an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800-733-2767.



## Important Information for Members Dependent on Medical Equipment

Barron Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable service, and members have power 99.87% of the time. Since we can not provide power 100% of the time due to weather and other conditions, we encourage members who are dependent on medical equipment to have an alternate source of electric power and communication on hand, such as a back-up generator, extra batteries, flashlights, nonelectric telephones and cell phones, to provide for life support and comfort in the event of an extended outage. Barron Electric maintains a list of those requiring electrical power to operate specialized life-sustaining medical equipment. It is important that all members provide us with current telephone numbers. Please contact our office at 800-322-1008 or [billing@barronelectric.com](mailto:billing@barronelectric.com) with current information, or if your condition or contact information changes.

# \$1.5 Million Storm

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helped clear trees ahead of the line crews. PUSH, Inc. helped reset broken poles. Barron Electric's damage included 100+ broken poles, 170 individual transformer outages and 226 lines repaired. Crews worked 15-hour days and 10 straight days, in working conditions that included heat, humidity, rain, and wind.

Cooperative Response Center, CRC, is Barron Electric's call center. They received 13 calls per minute at the beginning of the storm from Barron Electric members. From July 19-July 29, CRC answered 15,000 calls.

Barron Electric greatly appreciates our members' patience during this time.



2019

## Cooperative Month

Nearly \$600,000 in Capital Credit Checks

Lunch \* Information

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Barron Electric's Spooner Office  
1550 Paulson Drive, Spooner

Thursday, October 3, 2019

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mosaic Telecom  
401 South 1st Street, Cameron  
Blood Drive 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Food Donations Needed

Bring food items to the Cooperative Month events, which will be donated to local food pantries. Your name will go into a prize drawing.



## Director Notes



Mike Baker represents District 3, which includes the following townships: Crystal, Stone Lake, Sand Lake, Beaverbrook,

Madge, Birchwood, Sarona, and Cedar Lake.

### Condensed Board Minutes

June 26, 2019

- 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: #96230 thru #96350 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$213,345 and capital credit estate checks of \$27,984. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,191,045; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$892,363; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,374,496; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$196,941 and power bill paid 06/26/19 in the amount of \$1,991,968.
- A membership list of 53 was presented and approved without objection by the board.

## Monthly Photo Contest *Fall Landscapes*

E-mail your fall landscape photos for our photo contest. Winning photos will be used on the cover of the *News for You*, and winners 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 September 5, 2019. 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.



## GO ELECTRIC

*We're changing  
the way  
America  
fuels  
transportation.*



## EV Event September 20, 2019

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at Barron Electric Cooperative

1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron

*Check out a variety of electric vehicles  
and enjoy a free lunch.*

## *News* FOR YOU...

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Monday - Friday

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newsletter, please e-mail  
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