

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
December 2018
Photo by Cheryl Tomesh

Lynn Peterson to Retire from Barron Electric's Board of Directors

Lynn Peterson will be retiring from Barron Electric's Board of Directors after 34 years of service. Barron Electric is seeking qualified candidates to run for a 3-year term for Board Director representing District 6, which includes the following townships: Barron, Clinton, Maple Grove, and Prairie Lake.

Director Nominations

Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business, and people just like you serve on the board of directors. Barron Electric is governed by local people with the best interests of all members in mind.

In order to have the nominee's name on the printed ballot that is distributed to those members attending the annual meeting, it is necessary that the properly signed petition be received at the office of Barron Electric Cooperative, PO Box 40, Barron, WI 54812, no later than 12 p.m., **Monday, February 11, 2019**. If the nominee wishes to be on the biographical handout at the Annual Meeting, a photograph and biographical information needs to be submitted with the signed petition.

Cooperative bylaws do allow for nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Nominations of candidates to the post of Director

may be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 30, or by petition signed by ten (10) members residing within District 6. In order to be eligible for nomination by petition, each signature on the petition must be that of the individual in whose name the membership is held. Director nominees must reside within the district they are to represent. Members may call Barron Electric's office and request

a petition or write their own.

If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact Jennifer Horstman at 800-322-1008.



The Spirit of Giving



Barron Electric employees Dave Peterson and Kathy Robertson(right) give 250 pounds of potatoes to Sandy Post of the Cameron Food Pantry. Barron Electric and employees purchased over 3,000 pounds of potatoes from Nuto Farms which were donated to 13 local food pantries.



Make Safety a Tradition

Have a safe holiday season with these tips from Safe Electricity:

- If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire resistance protection. With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy with a trunk that is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.
 - Never place your tree near heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters or radiators, which can become fire hazards.
 - Any lights that are hung either inside or outside of the home should have a label indicating that they have been certified by an accredited independent testing laboratory.
- Also make sure the lights are rated for the location in which they will be used – whether indoors or outside. Before hanging your lights, check the strands for broken bulbs as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always replace damaged products.
 - Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use. Never run extension cords under carpets, through doorways, or where they could be damaged by furniture.
 - When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum 10 feet away from overhead power lines. When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage the product.
 - Outdoor lights and decorations should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter protection. GFCIs are inexpensive electrical devices that can be installed in a home's electrical system or built into a power cord to protect against electrical shock. A GFCI constantly monitors the flow of electricity through a circuit and will shut the circuit down if it senses a ground fault.
 - Be sure to turn off all lights before leaving the home or going to sleep. A timer can help you do this.

Sign up for Outage Texting

Barron Electric members have the opportunity to text in their outage and receive a message when the outage is restored. If your mobile number is included on your account information, you can sign up for outage texting by visiting our website at barronelectric.com and click on outage texting on the home page. If your mobile number is not listed on your account, please complete the form below or contact our billing department at 800-322-1008 to update your account information. Once your phone number is added, you can sign up for outage texting by visiting our website at barronelectric.com.



Name: _____

Barron Electric Account #: _____

Mobile #: _____

E-mail: _____

Source: Safe Electricity

*Barron Electric hopes
your season will be
merry, bright, and safe.*

Meeting with Legislators

Barron Electric employees and directors recently met with Senator Janet Bewley and Candidates for the 75th District, Incumbent Representative Romaine Quinn and Challenger Ali Holzman. Incumbents Janet Bewley and Romaine Quinn both won their elections.

Sue Dau, Systems Coordinator at Barron Electric, discussed Wisconsin State Statute 323.31. Officials at the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association will be rewriting language for this Statute to include cooperatives as eligible applicants for Wisconsin Disaster Funding. Barron Electric experienced two major storms in 2017 including the May tornado in Barron County and the June wind storm in Washburn County. The cooperative has requested funding to help with expenses

associated with these storms. They have been approved for these funds, but it has been over 15 months, and Barron Electric is still waiting for checks to be processed by the state to the counties, which then would be distributed to the cooperatives. Barron Electric supports WECA's efforts in modifying this statute. Legislators indicated that they are willing to evaluate this concern.

Other topics discussed included health care and rural broadband.



Senator Janet Bewley addresses cooperative concerns.



Sue Dau, Barron Electric, asked legislators to evaluate Wisconsin State Statute 323.31 to include cooperatives.



Representative Romaine Quinn talks with Jody Schlapper, receptionist at Barron Electric.



We are looking for winter landscape photos. for our photo contest. 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).
- 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 by December 10, 2018. Include your Barron Electric account number, address and phone number.

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. Sign up for Auto Pay through SmartHub at barronelectric.com or by contacting the billing department at 800-322-1008.



Director Notes



Scott Warwick serves as Secretary on Barron Electric's Board of Directors representing District 4, which includes the following townships: Roosevelt, Maple Plain, Lakeland, and Cumberland.

Condensed Board Minutes September 26, 2018

- The minutes of the August 29, 2018 regular board meeting were approved as presented
- 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: #94600 thru #94733 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$525,237 and capital credit estate checks of \$19,702. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,145,381; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,151,469; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - 3,496,207; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$201,426 and power bill paid 09/26/18 in the amount of \$2,590,302.
- A membership list of 88 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 34,904 consumer hours off, which is 82.7% below 2017 hours of 201,418. Overtime year-to-date is 2,429.25 hours, which is 34.2% below 2017 hours of 3,691.50.

News FOR YOU...

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



Cook's Corner

Slow Cooker Chili Jessica Rennich

I tweaked a slow cooker recipe to add taco seasoning instead of chili seasoning which has a slightly sweeter flavor. Everyone in our family loves this variation.

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 onion (diced)
- 2 (14-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- 1 (14-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 (4 oz.) can diced green chiles
- 1/3 cup ketchup (or chili sauce)
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 (15-ounce) can dark red kidney beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 (1.25 ounce) packet taco seasoning mix
- 3 stalks celery (chopped)
- 2 Tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (for topping)
- 1 (9.25 ounce) bag Frito's Corn Chips (topping)

Instructions:

1. Brown ground beef with chopped onion until no longer pink. Drain grease well.
2. Combine the following ingredients in the slow cooker - Diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, diced green chiles, ketchup, water, kidney beans, taco seasoning mix, chopped celery, Worcestershire sauce, and sugar. Stir together.
3. Add the browned hamburger/onion mixture in the slow cooker. Stir everything together.
4. Cook low for 6-8 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.
5. Top with shredded cheese and Frito's corn chips.



Merry Christmas from all of us at
Barron Electric Cooperative!
Our office will be closed on
December 25 and January 1.