

# News FOR YOU...

## 89th Annual Meeting Includes Director Elections, Cookout, Prizes, New Time and New Location

All members are invited to Barron Electric Cooperative's 89th Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, April 8 at Barron Electric Cooperative, 1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron.** Registration and dinner will start at 4:30 p.m. with the business meeting following at **5:30 p.m.** Learn more about your cooperative, receive industry updates, and elect directors.

### Director Nominations

Our cooperative is led by members like you. Nominations of candidates to the post of Director may be made by petition signed by ten (10) members residing within the director district that the nominee would represent or from the floor during the Annual Meeting. Director Districts open for nomination of candidates and election are shown on the map and listed below:

#### DISTRICT 3

(Three-year term)

Incumbent Mike Baker has filed his candidacy papers for District 3. Towns of Beaver Brook, Birchwood, Crystal, Madge, Saronia and Stone Lake in Washburn County; Town of Cedar Lake in Barron County; Town of Sand Lake in Sawyer County.

#### DISTRICT 6

(Three-year term)

Incumbent Patti Mandel has filed her candidacy papers for District 6. Towns of Barron, Clinton, Maple Grove & Prairie Lake in Barron County.

#### DISTRICT 9

(Three-year term)

Incumbent Richard Bol will not seek reelection. Towns of Chetek, Dallas, Dovre & Sioux Creek in Barron County; Town of Sampson in Chippewa County; Town of Sand Creek in Dunn County.

			Brooklyn	Gull Lake	Stinnett	Hayward		
Scott	Casey	Trego	Spring Brook	1	Bass Lake	Bass Lake		
Rusk	Evergreen	2	Spooner	Crystal	3	Stone Lake	Sand Lake	
Dewey	Bashaw	Beaver Brook	Madge	Birchwood				
Roosevelt	Barronett	Saronia	Long Lake	Birchwood				
Maple Plain	Lakeland	Bear Lake	4	5	Oak Grove	Cedar Lake		
Crystal Lake	Cumberland	Stanford	Rice Lake	Doyle				
Almena	Clinton	Barron	6	Stanley	Sumner	Strickland	7	Stubbs
Clayton	Turtle Lake	8	Arland	Maple Grove	Prairie Lake	Chetek	9	Rusk
Clear Lake	Vance Creek	Prairie Farm	Dallas	Sioux Creek	Dovre	Sampson		
New Haven	Sheridan		Sand Creek					

(Continued on back page)

## Board Director Richard Bol Not Seeking Reelection



Richard Bol will not seek reelection at this year's annual meeting on April 8. He has served on Barron Electric's Board of Directors since 2009, representing District 9. Richard believed in continued education and successfully completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program and Board Leadership Certificate Program. He has served on various committees including annual meeting, safety, and labor. His top priority was keeping the rates affordable for members. General Manager Aaron Torud remarked, "Richard brought a wide array of experience to Barron Electric's Board of Directors. We appreciate his commitment to the members and the cooperative."

# Save Energy This Winter

Save energy this winter with these simple tips:

- Dirty filters can reduce airflow, which makes your system work harder. Check your filter every month. Change filters when dirty.
- Choose energy efficient appliances. Check Barron Electric's website at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) for rebates on energy efficient appliances.
- Use your ceiling fan to keep warm. Make sure your ceiling fan rotates clockwise at a low speed during the winter months. This will create an updraft which forces warm air near the ceiling down into the occupied space. Turn off your fan when no one is in the room.



Scan the QR code to visit [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) for new rebate information.



# Qualifications for Board Director

Qualifications for Barron Electric Cooperative Directors, located in the bylaws, are listed below:

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Cooperative who:

- (a) is not a member and bona fide resident of the district and on premises served by the Cooperative at his or her primary residence, and that residence is within the director district which he or she has been nominated or elected to represent;
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy, or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
- (c) has been employed by the Cooperative within the last five (5) years;
- (d) while a director or during the five years preceding the most recent election, or appointment as a director, was convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving a breach of trust;
- (e) while a director or during the five years preceding election or appointment as a director has pursued any litigation against the Cooperative or any of its employees or directors, or who is in default on any obligation owed to the Cooperative at the time of election or appointment. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board.

# Go Paperless in 2025

Save time, money and trees by going paperless.

Paperless billing only takes a few minutes to sign up via SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) or on your mobile device. At SmartHub, you can:

- View or print your electric bill anytime
- Receive an automated e-mail notification when your monthly electric bill is ready
- Review your electric use, payment, and billing history.

If you have any questions, please contact the Billing Department at 800-322-1008 or [billing@barronelectric.com](mailto:billing@barronelectric.com).



# Win a \$50 Credit with Winning Photo

E-mail your winter photo to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by January 15, 2025. 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.



# Benefits of Right-of-Way Clearing



Zielie's Tree Service will clear trees and brush in 12 townships, listed below. Some of the benefits of the Right-of-Way Clearing program include:

- Reduces contact between trees and power lines, which can cause power outages, blinking lights, and become a fire and safety hazard
- Improves accessibility and increases visibility
- Maintains safety

If you have any questions, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).

## 2025 Right-of-Way Clearing Schedule

County	Townships
Barron County	Cumberland, Dovre, Turtle Lake, and Vance Creek
Chippewa County	Sampson
Dunn County	New Haven
Polk County	Clayton and Clear Lake
Washburn County	Casey, Crystal, Madge, and Stone Lake

## Billing Cycle Change

Barron Electric appreciates member's patience during the bill cycle change. The new cycle from the 1st-1st better aligns with our wholesale power bill from Dairyland Power Cooperative. If you have any questions, please contact the Billing Department at [billing@barronelectric.com](mailto:billing@barronelectric.com) or 800-322-1008.

Question	Answer
When is the new bill cycle?	1st - 1st
When are payments due?	28th of each month
When will funds be deducted for Auto Pay?	Deductions will occur between the 25th and 28th of the month
When will bills arrive?	By the 14th of each month
How can I view my bill earlier?	Members can view their bill earlier with a SmartHub account. Sign up at <a href="http://barronelectric.com">barronelectric.com</a> .

## Time of Use Rate Available\*

The Time of Use Rate is designed for members who are able to shift more of their electricity use to lower demand or off-peak periods. This rate more accurately passes along the real-time cost of electricity. Electrical energy is more expensive during periods of high demand and less expensive when demand is low. By choosing the Time of Use Rate and shifting electricity use to lower-demand time periods, you have the opportunity to save money on your electric bill. Some items to consider:

- Is anyone home during the on-peak hours?
  - Do you heat and air condition your home with electricity?
  - Do you or could you use a programmable thermostat?
  - Do you have a hot tub? Could you use a timer for these?
  - Do you use an electric water heater?
  - Do you use an electric dryer?
- If you are able to control when you use electricity and shift more of your usage to off-peak times, you may benefit from this rate.

\*Eligibility requirements may apply. SmartPay, Distributed Generation, and Community Rays accounts do not qualify for this rate. Please contact the Billing Department at 800-322-1008 or [billing@barronelectric.com](mailto:billing@barronelectric.com) for more information.

### Time of Use Rate Schedule

**On-peak -weekdays**  
7AM - 10AM & 2PM - 8PM

**Night-time Off-peak**  
10PM - 5AM daily

**Off-peak**  
Includes hours not defined above

# Important Annual Meeting Information *Continued from cover*

## How Can You Run for a Director Position?

1. Director nominees should obtain a petition from Barron Electric's office.
  - Requires signatures from ten(10) members, living within the director district that the nominee would represent
  - Nominees must meet director qualifications as printed in the Cooperative Bylaws. See page 2 for qualifications.
2. A photograph and candidate information submitted with the signed petition will be published in the candidate profile.
3. Petitions must be received by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Friday, February 14, 2025** in order to have nominee's name appear on the printed ballot.
4. Mail petitions to: **Barron Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jennifer Horstman, PO Box 40, Barron, WI 54812.**
5. Nominations of candidates to the post of Director may be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 8.

## Resolutions

All formal resolutions, which are to be presented to the annual meeting, will be reviewed by a Resolutions Committee prior to the Notice of the Annual Meeting being sent. This will not restrict the right of any member to make simple motions at the Annual Meeting. Copies of resolutions to be presented and considered at the Annual Meeting will be mailed in advance to the membership so that each member will have time to consider the same.

All resolutions must be in

writing, properly signed, dated, and with member's address and phone number. Hand-written resolutions will be considered only if legible as determined by the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions to be considered must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Friday, February 14, 2025** and should be addressed as follows:

**Barron Electric Cooperative  
Board President  
c/o Resolutions Committee  
Barron Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 40  
Barron, WI 54812**



## \*Condensed Board Minutes October 30, 2024



*David Olson 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.*

- Receptionist Faith Christensen and Energy Use/Metering Technician Jordan Ellison were introduced to the Board.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #103582 through #103699 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$466,122 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$24,868. Total receipts in the office \$4,027,476; total receipts by wire and ACH \$2,903,375; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$5,747,155; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$233,333 and the power bill was paid on 10/30/2024 in the amount of \$2,057,832.
- A membership list of 65 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of September in the amount of \$396,031.03 was presented for approval and included new services \$41,831.78; change jobs \$12,042.30; Other Work Order Projects \$342,156.95 and 3 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 85,500.41 consumer hours off, which is 51.09% above 2023 hours of 56,590.46. Overtime year-to-date is 3,224.25 hours, which is 16.73% above 2023 hours of 2,762.25.

*\* View full board minutes on  
SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).*

## News FOR YOU...

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opportunity provider.*