

# News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative  
March 2025  
*Captured by the lens of  
Jeri Johnson*

## Save the Date for Barron Electric's 89th Annual Meeting and Cookout

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 will start at **4:30 p.m.** Dinner includes a brat or hamburger, cole slaw, beans, chips, and a cookie.

### Business Meeting

The business meeting will follow at **5:30 p.m.** The guest speaker is Matt Brandrup, President and CEO of the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO). Barron Electric is a member of RESCO, which is a member-owned, not-for-profit wholesale distributor of high voltage electrical products. Matt will discuss supply chain challenges and how RESCO's partnership has helped Barron Electric and their members. Learn more about your cooperative, receive industry updates, and elect directors for Districts 3, 6, and 9. See page 3 for candidate information.



### Designated Voters

Contact the Member Service Department at 800-322-1008 or [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) to request a form to designate a representative from your organization to vote at the annual meeting.

### Shuttle Service Available

For those members living in the northern part of Barron Electric's service territory, a shuttle service will be available. The shuttle will leave at 3:30 p.m. from Barron Electric's Spooner office located at 1550 Paulson Drive. Please contact the Member Services Department by **April 1** at 800-322-1008 or [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) to sign up.

### Food Pantry Collection

Bring an item for the Cumberland Food Pantry. They are in need of cereal, bars of soap, and juice in plastic bottles. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



## Official Notice

### Barron Electric Cooperative's 89th Annual Meeting

Pursuant to the provision of the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of Barron Electric Cooperative will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at Barron Electric Cooperative in Barron with registration beginning at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m. to take action upon the following matters:

- To elect three directors to serve a three-year term in Districts 3, 6, and 9
- Presentation of reports
- To address all other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments, thereof

Dated this 26th day of  
February 2025

Patricia Mandel, Secretary

# Keep My Electric Bill Affordable: Support ROFR

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) has approved the largest portfolio of transmission projects in U.S. history. This \$21.8 billion plan spans 5,000 miles and includes 488 transmission projects, with six long-term reliability projects to be located entirely or partially in Wisconsin. These critical projects are currently overseen by a lengthy and expensive federal process that will cause delays and unnecessarily add millions to electric bills statewide, including our members. Thankfully, Right of First Refusal

(ROFR) laws give incumbent utilities, including Wisconsin's electric cooperatives, priority to build major transmission projects, safeguarding affordability and reliability.

### Why ROFR Matters?

- Avoids a costly federal process
- Maintains competitive bidding
- Keeps energy affordable for cooperative members
- Improves grid reliability

### ROFR Will Keep Rates Lower

Please take a few minutes to send a message to your state senator and state representative to tell them that ROFR matters to you.

You can find your legislators at <https://gis-ltsb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/district-maps/> or call 800-362-9472. Messages asking for their support of the ROFR legislation can be sent to the following addresses:

**Senator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wisconsin State Senate**

**PO Box 7882**

**Madison WI 53707-7882**

**Representative** \_\_\_\_\_

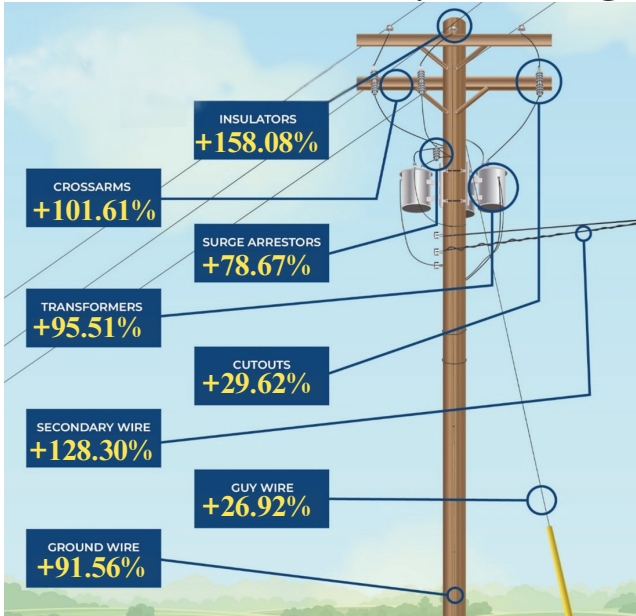
**Wisconsin State Assembly**

**PO Box 8952**

**Madison WI 53708-8952**

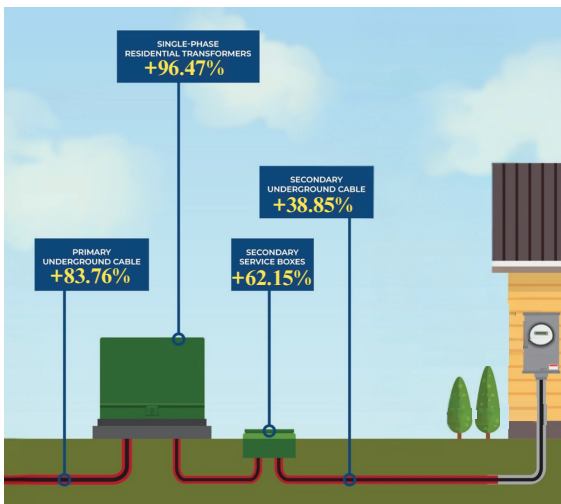
## New Rates Affected by Rising Prices

*Pictured are the percentage of increases in equipment since 2020.*



Barron Electric Cooperative's new rate schedule will be reflected on the May 1 electric bill. The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see an 8.52% annual increase or approximately \$15 per month.

The board has a fiscal responsibility to the membership and has set financial goals that include increasing equity, continuing to return cashback credits in a timely manner, and investing in the electric distribution system serving our membership. The increasing cost to provide safe, reliable power is being affected by higher prices for equipment, supplies, interest, technology, software, engineering, and line upgrades. In the past four years, the cost for primary underground cable and transformers have increased over 95%. On average, most of the equipment Barron Electric purchases has increased by over 85%.



Residential	New Rate effective 4-1-2025
Facilities Charge	\$1.5123 per day
Summer Charge/kWh June, July, and August	\$0.12335 per kWh
Winter Charge/kWh December, January, and February	\$0.11335 per kWh
Other Charge/kWh March, April, May, September, October, and November	\$0.10335 per kWh



# Meet the Candidates Running for Barron Electric's Board of Directors



Members will vote for directors to represent Districts 3, 6, and 9 at Barron Electric's 89th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 8. More information regarding each of the candidates will be available in the annual report, which will be distributed at the annual meeting.

In District 3, Incumbent Michael Baker and Member Michael Decker have submitted their nomination papers. In District 6, Member Don Drost and Incumbent Patricia Mandel have submitted their nomination papers. In District 9, Members Mark Bowers and Richard Broten have submitted their nomination papers.

Meet the members who are running for Barron Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors.

## District 3



**Michael Baker**  
Sarena

Michael Baker was the Washburn County Highway Superintendent for 20 years. He has served on Barron Electric's Board since 1999 and currently serves as Vice

President. He also serves on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board. Michael remarked, "Some of the biggest challenges facing Barron Electric are rates, reliability, and safety."



**Michael Decker**  
Shell Lake

Michael Decker has 25 years of experience as President and CEO of a nonprofit organization, and has facilitated over \$350 million in capital projects

including infrastructure, new construction, renovations, capital equipment and IT. He commented, "The biggest challenges facing Barron Electric include identifying the right technologies, ensuring the availability of skilled personnel, and securing competitive funding. To meet these challenges, the cooperative needs a great staff, an active board, and members who work together to set and execute priorities efficiently."

## District 6



**Don Drost**  
Cameron

Don Drost was the University of Wisconsin Extension Agriculture Agent in Barron County for 26 years. Don remarked, "The growth and demand

for electricity appears to be continuous. There are challenges in balancing its production with environmental concerns; maintaining an affordable stable supply for our members; and meeting changing and challenging governmental regulations."



**Patricia Mandel**  
Barron

Patricia Mandel has been a lender, supervisor, and financial analysis specialist for the past 40 years. She has served on Barron Electric's

Board of Directors since 2019 and currently serves as secretary. She commented, "Technology continues to develop at an accelerated pace, and I believe it is important for us to understand how that impacts the need for electricity. We will need to continue to develop ways to create efficiencies, and meet the needs as the growth in demand continues."

## District 9



**Mark Bowers**  
Chetek

Mark Bowers holds an MBA, focused on Logistics. His last role was at a Fortune 400 company. He was a Supply Chain Engineer, an

Operations Manager, and Global Sales Director. He remarked, "Barron Electric was formed to provide rural electrification. The challenge remains to provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable electrical energy. Going forward, it will entail a balance of fossil, hydro, wind, solar, and evolving technologies."



**Richard Broten**  
Chetek

Richard Broten had a 33-year career with Mosaic Technologies and is currently the President of the Mosaic Technologies Board. He commented,

"I feel a big challenge is to continue reasonable rates, and yet build and maintain a power grid and infrastructure to provide power demands into the future."



## Win a \$50 Credit with Winning Photo

E-mail your spring 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 March 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.

## Go Paperless

Save time, money and trees by going paperless. Sign up for paperless billing; it only takes a few minutes via SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) or on your mobile device. At SmartHub, you can:

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



## 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  
[cbaribeau@barronelectric.com](mailto:cbaribeau@barronelectric.com)

Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.

## \*Condensed Board Minutes

### December 23, 2024

*Randy Cook is President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 7 which includes the following townships: Stanley, Sumner, Strickland, Stubbs, Rusk, and Big Bend.*



- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #103826 through #103939 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$214,226 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$16,476. Total receipts in the office \$1,758,833; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,111,170; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$2,064,976; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$205,460 and the power bill was paid on 12/25/2024 in the amount of \$2,032,650.
- Director Effertz moved, Director Olson seconded, to write-off the uncollectible debt in the amount of \$19,109.35. Motion carried.
- A membership list of 50 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of November in the amount of \$217,828.15 was presented for approval and included new services \$82,343.98; change jobs \$40,010.28; Other Work Order Projects \$95,473.89 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 90,068.95 consumer hours off, which is 33.77% above 2023 hours of 67,329.38. Overtime year-to-date is 4,004.75 hours, which is 23.42% above 2023 hours of 3,244.75.

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

## GPS Project Resumes

Starting this month, Global Mapping Solutions(GMS), contracted by Barron Electric, will continue gathering data on our system, which may include working weekends and any daylight hours. They may be on your property by foot, ATV, or UTV, taking photos of Barron Electric equipment, posting signs, or locating cable.

GMS employees will have a badge, letter of contract with Barron Electric letterhead, and their equipment will include a contracted by Barron Electric Cooperative sign.

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