

Barron Electric
Cooperative
November 2024
*Captured by the lens of
Willi Jo Hanson*

News FOR YOU...

Members Share in \$900,000 in Cashback Credits

The 2024 Cooperative Month events created countless memories, attracting over 1,500 attendees. Members and former members shared in nearly \$900,000 in cashback credits.



Bill Haddick was one of many members who received a cashback credit check.



Newest board member John Blaskowski, pictured on the left, enjoyed interacting with members and the community.



The Spooner Varsity volleyball team learned more about cooperatives and went up in the bucket truck with Coach & Lineworker Ben Brede.



Blue skies and sunshine allowed for spectacular views and a glimpse of life on the line for attendees who were brave enough to take a bucket truck ride.

Delivering the Natural Sweetness of Our Trees to Your Table



Helms Sugar Shack, located on Barron Electric lines, creates handcrafted pure maple syrup. From pancake and ice cream toppings to cookies and muffins, the maple syrup options are endless. Owners Mahlon and Amber Helms remarked, "Our daughter enjoys the taste of maple syrup in her coffee."

Sweet Products

Helms Sugar Shack offers a variety of products. U.S. Grade A-Amber is a popular seller. This has a nice rich maple taste that pairs well with most everything. The U.S. Grade A-Dark has a robust taste and is typically produced towards the end of the production season. They also sell maple cream, maple sugar crumbles, and maple candy, which all are made from pure maple syrup with no added ingredients. The maple cream is perfect with crackers and toast, while maple sugar crumbles are great for deserts or can be used as a substitute for sugar. Along with local sales, Helms Sugar Shack products are sold in Minnesota, Kansas, and Texas.

The Beginning

Mahlon's interest in maple syrup started at a young age as a backyard hobby and has continued on to become a successful business. In 2009, Mahlon and Amber established the brand "Helms Sugar Shack" and became FDA inspected and licensed.

Open House Set for December 6 and 7

Helms Sugar Shack will host an open house with a variety of vendors December 6 - 7 from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Check their Facebook page for more details. Helms Sugar Shack is located at 1638 14 1/2 Street, Barron. To order products, call 715-418-0929. For more information, visit helmssugarshack.com.



Amber and Mahlon Helms, owners of Helms Sugar Shack, offer handcrafted pure maple syrup, which is packaged and distributed to grocery chains and small businesses in several states.



Happy Thanksgiving

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29. Have a safe and happy holiday.

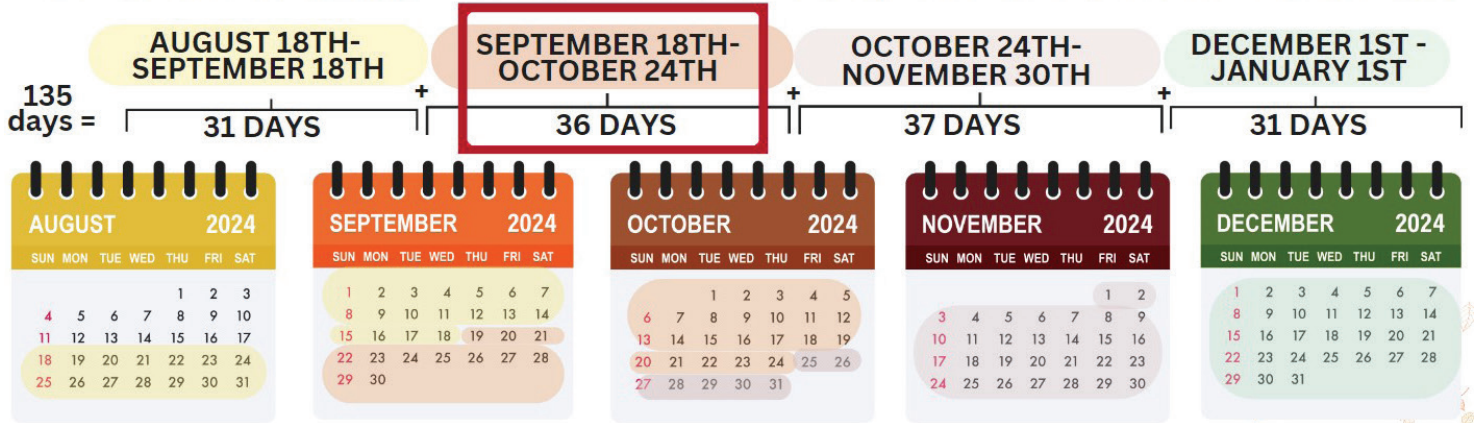
Do You Need Help Paying Your Electric Bill?

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) assists eligible households with their heating and electric bills. This program is funded by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Public Benefits (PB) program. If you need help paying your electric bill, please contact the following agencies:

Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Washburn, and Polk Counties: Call Westcap at 715-598-4750
 Rusk County 715-532-2299
 Sawyer County 715-634-4806

DUE TO BILL CYCLE SHIFT, THIS MONTH'S STATEMENT INCLUDES 36 DAYS

THE MONTHLY BILLING CYCLE WILL SHIFT FROM THE 18TH-18TH TO THE 1ST-1ST.



Barron Electric has adjusted its billing cycle to the 1st-1st to better align with our wholesale power bill from Dairyland Power Cooperative as indicated in the graphic above. Bills are expected to reach members by the 14th of each month through the mail; however, if you would like to receive your bill earlier, members who have an account on SmartHub can view their bill by the 8th of the month. Payments are due on the 28th of each month. For members enrolled in Auto Pay, billing deductions will take place between the 25th and 28th of the month.

If you have any questions or need additional time paying your bill during this transition, please contact the billing department at billing@barronelectric.com or 800-322-1008.

Barron Electric Employees Help Restore Power and Hope in South Carolina after Hurricane Helene

Barron Electric Cooperative Lineworkers JT Gunderson and Jeff Secraw, along with Mechanic Dave Peterson, joined forty-five crew members from 15 Wisconsin electric cooperatives assisting Aiken Electric Cooperative in South Carolina with storm recovery after Hurricane Helene left catastrophic damage. Aaron Torud, Barron Electric Cooperative General Manager, remarked, "Being on the receiving end of obtaining outside help to restore power to our members during extreme weather events makes us grateful and appreciative of those who came to assist us. Paying that forward is a crucial part of who we are and the principles we live by at the cooperative. We wish the best for those affected by the tragic weather events of the hurricane and hope our assistance will help expedite the process of restoring power and safety to those affected."

"In parts of South Carolina, where our Wisconsin crews worked, it wasn't just a restoration, but a complete rebuild," said Rob Richard, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) interim president and CEO. "Full substations, and the roads that lead to them, were completely washed away. Even the underground lines are gone."



J.T. Gunderson, Barron Electric Lineman, helped rebuild a three-phase line.

Apply Now for Scholarships

Barron Electric is excited to offer three different scholarship opportunities to member students. The application deadline is **Friday, January 10, 2025**. Winners will be randomly selected in March, notified, and announced at Barron Electric's Annual Meeting on April 15, 2025 at the Barron Area Community Center. Scan the QR code to get started.



Rebates Ending Soon

Barron Electric's rebates will end December 16, 2024. Visit barronelectric.com/2024-energy-rebates to complete the online form.



GPS Project Continues

Global Mapping Solutions (GMS) is working on Barron Electric's system to gather global positioning system (GPS) and field inventory Barron Electric's entire system through 2025. GMS will be on members' property to inventory and take pictures of equipment, i.e. meters and transformers. Their vehicles will display signs with Barron Electric's logo, and GMS crews will carry identification



GMS is working to gather global positioning system and field inventory of Barron Electric's entire system, including substations.



badges noting they are contracted by Barron Electric, shown.

*Condensed Board Minutes

August 28, 2024

Patricia Mandel represents District 6 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors which includes the townships of Clinton, Barron, Maple Grove, and Prairie Lake.



- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #103330 through #103422 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$455,263 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$29,801. Total receipts in the office \$1,988,631; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,713,436; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,169,274; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$226,588 and the power bill was paid on 08/28/2024 in the amount of \$2,578,193.
- A membership list of 60 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of July in the amount of \$154,719.18 was presented for approval and included new services \$45,978.20; change jobs \$8,232.28; Other Work Order Projects \$100,508.70 and 16 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 43,230.56 consumer hours off, which is 3.48% below 2023 hours of 44,787.79. Overtime year-to-date is 2,373.50 hours, which is 13.89% above 2023 hours of 2,084.00.



* View full board minutes on SmartHub at barronelectric.com.

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

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