



Barron Electric Cooperative
November 2025
Captured by the lens of
Christopher Earney

Celebrating Cooperative Month



Members enjoyed homemade ice cream.



Lineworkers visited with members about electric safety.



We Share Food Pantry and Washburn County Food Pantry appreciated the donations.



Spoooner Health offered free blood pressure checks.



Over 1,400 members celebrated cooperative month.



Over \$1.2 million in cashback credit checks were distributed to members.



Recipes for Savings

Making a big meal might lead to a higher energy bill. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, here are tips to make your meal more energy efficient:

1. **Preheat properly.** Preheat your oven to the temperature required. This may not be necessary for food that cooks for several hours.
2. **Use glass.** Glass and ceramic dishes retain heat better than metal, potentially reducing cooking time and temperature.
3. **Bake in batches.** Conserve energy by making multiple batches of cookies or more than one pie at a time.
4. **Make the right match.** Avoid energy waste by matching the size of the pot or pan to the size of the burner.
5. **Cover it up.** Keep lids on pots and pans to save energy by helping foods cook faster.
6. **Keep it clean.** Clean burners after every use. A clean burner heats more efficiently, using less energy.
7. **Go slow.** Use a slow cooker. They're generally more efficient than cooking on a stovetop.

Pumpkin Fluff

- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 - 3.4 oz. box instant vanilla pudding
- ¼ cup milk
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 8 ounces Cool Whip

Stir together pumpkin puree, pudding mix, milk, and pumpkin pie spice. Fold in Cool Whip. Serve immediately with cookies or apples or refrigerate for up to three days.

House Panel Passes FEMA Reform Bill

A key House panel passed a bipartisan bill that would streamline the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and dramatically speed up delivery of crucial disaster relief funds to electric cooperatives devastated by wildfires, hurricanes, ice storms and other natural disasters. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee voted to advance the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans Act, which would keep in place FEMA's essential Public Assistance program that provides funding to co-ops to restore power and rebuild their systems after major weather events. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association pushed for an important change that was added to the version of the bill recently passed. This provision would make cooperatives eligible to be reimbursed for the interest they must pay on loans to perform emergency work and rebuild their systems while they wait to receive disaster funds from FEMA.

"Electric cooperatives are among the first to respond when disaster strikes and work tirelessly to restore power in some of the hardest-hit and most remote communities," commented NRECA's CEO Jim Matheson.

How Can Members Help

Members can visit voicesforcooperativepower.com/femareform. At this site, you will find a prewritten letter that can be e-mailed to your legislator.



The 2019 Derecho left more than 9,000 members without power. Barron Electric received over \$1,000,000 from FEMA to help with storm expenses.

GMS Collecting Equipment Data

Global Mapping Solutions (GMS), contracted by Barron Electric, is actively gathering data on our system. This work may take place during weekends and any daylight hours. GMS representatives may be present on your property, traveling on foot, ATV, or UTV. They will be taking photographs of Barron Electric equipment, posting signs, or locating cables.

GMS employees will carry a badge, a letter of contract with Barron Electric's letterhead, and their equipment will include a sign indicating they are contracted by Barron Electric Cooperative.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or operations@barronelectric.com.

Helping Our Communities Thrive

Barron Electric Cooperative employees partnered with Dairyland Power Cooperative in the 3rd Annual Day of Service held during Cooperative Month, showcasing both Concern for Community and Cooperation among Cooperatives. The Birchwood Senior Center received a makeover as participants removed brush, painted, landscaped, and stained. General Manager Aaron Torud remarked, "This was a great opportunity to make a difference in our community while showing our dedication to the cooperative principles."

Barron Electric contributed \$1,000 to the Barron/Chetek Youth Hockey Association to assist in achieving their goal of replacing an outdated dehumidification system with a new, energy-efficient model that will prolong the life of the compressor system. Additionally, the hockey association is working on constructing an extra locker room, completing roof maintenance, and upgrading to energy-efficient doors.

Aaron Torud, General Manager of Barron Electric Cooperative, expressed, "The Barron/Chetek Youth Hockey Association provides a valuable service to our community. We take pride in supporting them as they strive to reach their objectives." The funds for Barron Electric's donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, which manages unclaimed cashback credits from former members. The foundation has specific guidelines regarding the use of these funds. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use cashback credits to lower rates.



Barron Electric and Dairyland Power employees teamed up to make a difference at Birchwood Senior Center. Together, they cleaned, removed brush, painted, landscaped, and stained.



Barron Electric Directors Mark Bowers and Patti Mandel presented a \$1,000 check to the Barron/Chetek Hockey Arena.

Every Student Deserves a Bright Future!

WE'VE GOT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

- 2026 GRADS
- STUDENTS GOING INTO THE ELECTRIC FIELD
- ADULTS



**APPLY
NOW**



E-mail Your Winter Photos

E-mail your winter photo to 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 be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by November 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 publications and on our website.

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.



*Condensed Board Minutes August 27, 2025



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.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #104579 through #104671 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$195,928 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$13,832. Total receipts in the office \$2,446,733; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,359,780; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,157,697; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$241,140 and the power bill was paid on 08/27/2025 in the amount of \$2,761,195.
- The board reviewed the Auditor Engagement Letter from CarlsonSV, LLP. Director Kessler moved, Director Olson seconded, to accept CarlsonSV, LLP as the auditors to perform the cooperative's 2025 audit. Motion carried.
- The board reviewed the DPC Cooperative Contributions Program which allows Dairyland Power Cooperative members to request a \$1,000 contribution in our cooperative's service area. President Cook requested that the DPC Cooperative Contributions Program is reviewed at the September board meeting for further discussion. There were no objections.
- A membership list of 46 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of July in the amount of \$449,580.99 was presented for approval and included new services \$20,625.94; change jobs \$14,030.43; Other Work Order Projects \$414,924.62 and 5 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 66,870.64 consumer hours off, which is 54.68% above 2024 hours of 43,230.56. Overtime year-to-date is 2,179.50 hours, which is 7.19% above 2024 hours of 2,033.25.

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

Congratulations

The following members won prizes at the cooperative month events:

Barron Electric Cooperative.....Gregg Schleiss
Citizens Connected.....Scott Zeches
Mosaic Technologies.....Deb Rasmussen
Synergy Cooperative.....Margie Wiseman
Washburn County Food Pantry....Priscilla Bussewitz
We Share Food Pantry.....Dedra Johnson
WESTconsin Credit Union.....Kim Chase