



**Barron Electric Cooperative's
85th Annual Meeting
August 19, 2021**

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Board of Directors

Inserts: Ballots and Voting Card

Cooperative Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership

Democratic Member Control

Members' Economic Participation

Autonomy and Independence

Education, Training and Information

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Concern for Community

85th Annual Meeting • August 19, 2021 Barron High School Gymnasium

- 3:30 p.m. Registration
Food Drive for We Share Food Pantry, Rice Lake
- 5:00 p.m. Business Meeting Called to Order - Randy Cook, President
- Adoption of Rules of Order
 - Official Notice and Minutes - Scott Warwick, Secretary
 - Financial Report - Mandy Straw, Director of Finance
 - President's Report - Randy Cook
 - Election of Directors - Districts 1, 5 and 7
 - Manager's Report - Aaron Torud
 - Unfinished Business
 - New Business
 - Adjournment

Rules of Order for Official Business Meeting

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised and under the following special Rules of Order.
2. Members wishing to speak are to give their names and the districts in which they are members.
3. During nomination and election proceedings for directors, candidates will be allowed to speak for two minutes. One member supporting his/her candidacy will also be allowed to speak for two minutes.
4. Resolutions must have been submitted to the Resolutions Committee for consideration, as required by previous notice, and mailed to all members for action at the annual meeting. This does not preclude members from making simple motions from the floor.
5. Only members may be allowed to speak for two minutes on each issue and for one time only, except that an additional two minutes may be granted by unanimous consent.
6. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the annual meeting. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the cooperative supports or opposes any candidate for director or resolution.
7. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

Reprinting or use of any information in this report is strictly forbidden without permission of Barron Electric Cooperative.

Minutes of the 84th Annual Meeting

The 84th Annual Meeting of Barron Electric Cooperative was held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at the Stardust Drive-In Theater, Chetek, Wisconsin. Registration of members began at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Randy Cook, at 6:00 p.m. President Cook recognized the veterans and thanked them for their service. A prayer was said by President Cook before the start of the business portion of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting were to be recorded by the cooperative's Executive Secretary, Jennifer Horstman.

Member Michael Baker moved to adopt the Rules of Order for the Official Business Meeting, as printed on Page 2 of the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and carried by a two-thirds show of voting cards.

Jennifer Horstman, Executive Secretary of the Cooperative, read the official notice of the 84th Annual Meeting as it appeared in the cooperative's August 2020 issue of News for You that was mailed to each member during the last week of July 2020.

The minutes of the 83rd Annual Meeting were approved on April 24, 2019 at the regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The approved minutes were printed on pages 3 and 10 of the Annual Report. President Cook addressed the membership for approval of assigning the Board of Directors to approve the 84th Annual Meeting minutes at their next regular scheduled board meeting. There were no objections.

President Cook conducted the election of directors for Districts 8, 2 & 4 beginning at 6:05 p.m. Jill Washkuhn was announced as the head teller. President Cook



The StarDust Drive-In Theater was chosen as the location of the 84th Annual Meeting to help keep members and guests safe due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

explained the qualifications to become a director as described in the Bylaws of Barron Electric Cooperative.

District 8 had two candidates nominated by petition, Bill Effertz and Tara Young. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Each candidate spoke on their behalf for election as director in District 8. Joe Prell spoke on behalf of Bill Effertz.

District 2 had one candidate nominated by petition, Timothy Kessler. Timothy Kessler spoke on his behalf for election as director in District 2. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Timothy Kessler was elected director for District 2 by a majority of voting cards.

District 4 had one candidate nominated by petition, Scott

Warwick. Scott Warwick spoke on his behalf for election as director in District 4. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Scott Warwick was elected director for District 4 by a majority of voting cards.

President Cook called on Director Nelson to assume the Chair and conduct the meeting for the Bylaw portion of the Annual Meeting.

Director Nelson stated since the Bylaw amendments are scattered throughout the Bylaws, and they involve more than one article or section, Roberts Rule of Order indicates that they should be considered seriatim, that is by parts. Director Nelson reviewed each Bylaw amendment with the membership.

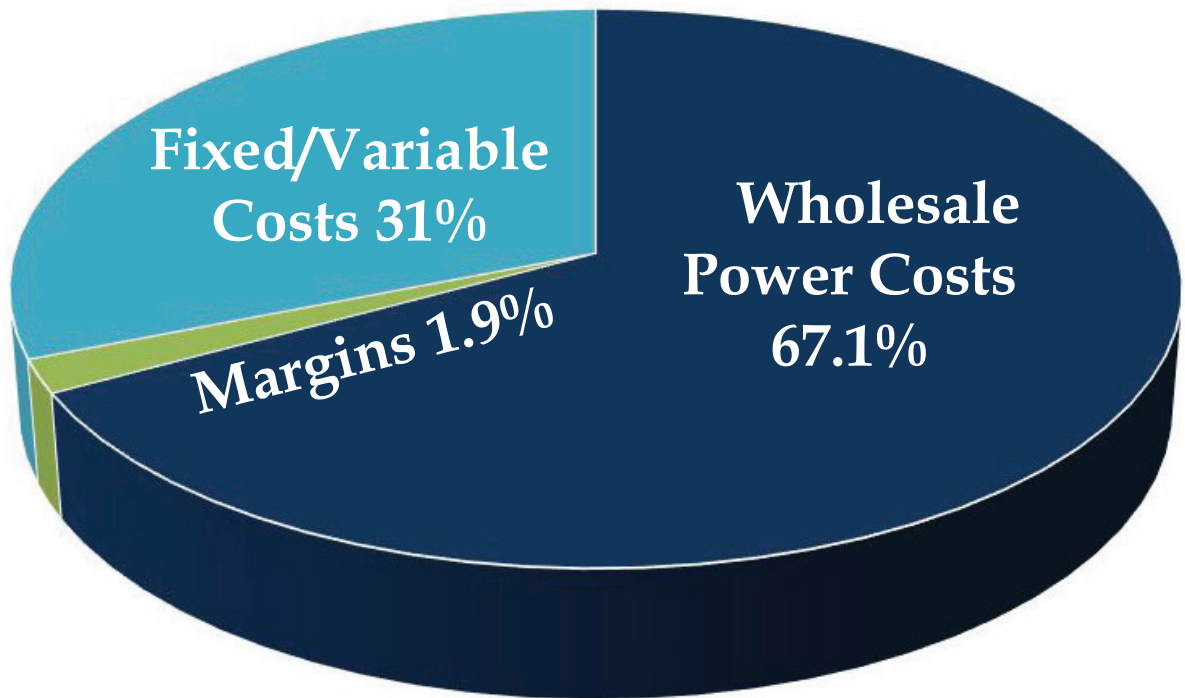
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Statement of Operations



Tim Kessler
District 2
Treasurer

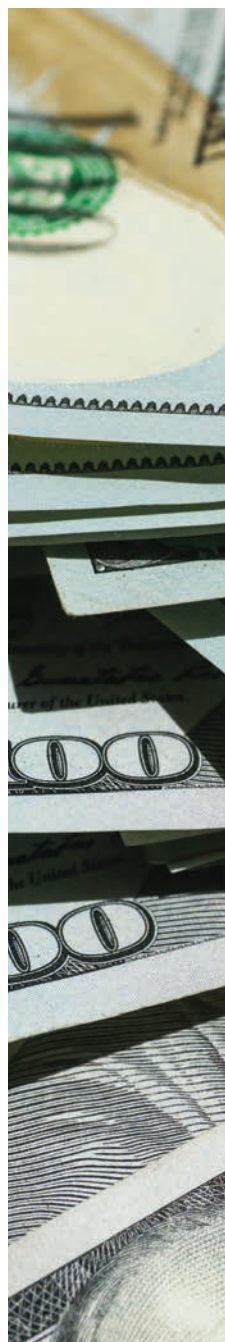
	Dec. 31, 2019	Dec. 31, 2020
OPERATING REVENUE & PATRONAGE CAPITAL \$	\$ 39,252,229	\$ 37,202,435
OPERATING EXPENSE:		
Cost of Purchased Power	26,679,944	24,946,837
Distribution Expense - Operation	1,239,169	1,280,103
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	2,254,282	2,337,094
Consumer Accounts Expense	581,827	681,434
Customer Service and Informational Expense	571,741	543,265
Administrative and General Expense	1,747,381	1,727,059
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	3,176,597	3,175,322
Tax Expense	401,056	399,155
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,388,290	1,390,631
Other Deductions - NET	2,323	0
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE	38,042,611	36,480,898
OPERATING MARGINS (Revenue Less Expense)	1,209,618	721,537
NON OPERATING MARGINS - NET	40,169	40,738
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION CAPITAL CREDITS	936,469	961,376
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	249,974	255,600
PATRONAGE CAPITAL OR MARGINS	\$ 2,436,231	\$1,979,251



Above is an illustration of the allocation of all funds Barron Electric collects.

The cooperative is required to have an annual audit; CliftonLarsonAllen conducted the annual audit as of December 31, 2020. This is part of the board's trusteeship function where we assure our members that the assets of the cooperative are being protected.

Balance Sheet



	Dec. 31, 2019	Dec. 31, 2020
ASSETS		
UTILITY PLANT		
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$ 93,165,598	\$ 97,397,347
Construction Work in Progress	0	0
	\$ 93,165,598	\$ 97,397,347
LESS:		
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	37,831,372	39,776,084
Net Utility Plant	55,334,226	57,621,263
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in Associated Organizations	18,606,202	18,787,349
Other Investments	313,682	254,620
TOTAL	18,919,884	19,041,969
CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS		
Cash - General Funds	242,556	210,289
Temporary Investments	785	531
Accounts Receivable - Net Sales of Energy	3,038,574	2,650,404
Accounts Receivable - Net Other	998,699	365,036
Materials and Supplies - Electric and Other	286,678	401,071
Prepayments	172,864	165,535
Other Current and Accrued Assets	113,464	23,351
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS	4,853,619	3,816,217
DEFERRED DEBITS	721,849	643,790
TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	\$ 79,829,578	\$81,123,239
LIABILITIES		
MARGINS AND EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	37,162,220	37,791,401
Other Margins and Equities	1,770,741	1,838,719
TOTAL MARGINS AND EQUITIES	38,932,961	39,630,120
LONG-TERM DEBT	30,924,193	33,004,368
CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES		
Notes Payable	2,179,500	776,000
Accounts Payable	2,673,005	2,610,083
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	1,198,503	1,390,353
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,175,642	1,192,710
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	7,226,650	5,969,146
DEFERRED CREDITS	2,745,774	2,519,605
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	\$ 79,829,578	\$ 81,123,239

Our Power Supplier

Barron Electric buys all of its power from Dairyland Power Cooperative, an electric generation and transmission cooperative. In 2020, Dairyland's Board of Directors approved a goal of 50% reduction in carbon dioxide intensity rate (over 2005 levels) by 2030. In January 2021, the Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm began operation. Dairyland has a power purchase agreement to receive renewable wind energy from a 52-megawatt portion of the wind farm. Dairyland also has a Purchase Power Agreement with Ranger Solar for a future addition of 149 MW from the Badger State Solar Facility.



Dairyland Power has a power purchase agreement with Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC for 52 MW of renewable energy.

President's Report



Randy Cook

As we proudly celebrate Barron Electric Cooperative's 85th year as a member-owned business, I first must tip my hat to you our members and to the employees

of Barron Electric Cooperative for the positive manner in which we handled the year of COVID. Years past are often marked by being remembered as the year of the drought, or the year of the tornado or some historic event; and this past year is no different as we all worked to keep our cooperative operating safely. As a Board, we are grateful to you our members and employees for being understanding of the changes Barron Electric Cooperative made to our way of conducting business as a result of COVID-19. Through it all, customer service and the safety of everyone remained Barron Electric Cooperative's focus as we worked to meet the needs of each member and business on our lines.

Barron Electric Cooperative's mission statement is not only our guiding principle it is also the measuring stick of our success or failure. Our mission statement reads, "*Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that safely provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of the life in the area we serve.*" Having said that, let us look at some highlights over the past year since we last met.

Cashback Credits

This past year, Barron Electric returned \$1.1 million dollars in capital credits to over 16,000 members who have been on our lines for 20 or more years. Because of COVID-19, we were unable to hold cooperative month events, so instead of receiving the customary capital credit check, members

received a credit on their August 2020 billing statement. The Board has decided to again this year (2021) apply capital credits to your August energy bill. The Barron Electric Cooperative Board also approved returning more than \$1.4 million dollars, a combination of excess margins received from Dairyland Power Cooperative, Barron Electric's wholesale power supplier, and from margins generated by Barron Electric Cooperative to our members. The credit was placed on the December 2020 bill statement and done to help members offset financial challenges caused by COVID-19.

I want to thank Dallas Sloan for his nearly 37 years of dedicated service to Barron Electric Cooperative and his unwavering dedication to ensuring that Barron Electric had the highest safety standards among all electric cooperatives. His concern for employees, members and electric cooperatives in general was notable to everyone who worked with him. Best wishes to Dallas in his

retirement, may he and his wife Diane be blessed in this chapter of their lives. With Dallas's retirement, the Board of Directors hired an Interim Manager in Peter Olson, who had retired from



Randy Cook, Board President, congratulated Dallas Sloan for his 36 years of dedicated service to Barron Electric.

Manager's Report

I would like to express my gratitude and excitement for the opportunity to serve the members of Barron Electric Cooperative as their new general manager. My name is Aaron Torud and I have worked in the electric industry at Riverland Energy Cooperative in Arcadia, Wisconsin for over 25 years. Throughout my years at the cooperative, I have worked in a variety of roles as an Operations Clerk, Load Management/Metering Technician, and Manager of Member Services/Billing/Key Accounts for the last 12 years. My education consists

of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation Management with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, as well as a Masters of Business Administration from Viterbo University.

As I continue to learn about Barron Electric Cooperative's historical and current programs, I plan to use my experience to continue positioning the cooperative for success in providing affordable and reliable electricity. The electric industry has seen many changes in the last five years with the technology

progression of renewable energy, electric vehicles, batteries, software, generation, and metering.

These rapid changes will bring challenges and opportunities for the cooperative. As a team, Barron Electric Cooperative will continue to search for ways to better serve the membership for a successful future.



Aaron Torud

Commitment to Community



A \$500 donation to the Rice Lake Curling Club was used for the youth curling program.



Barron Electric Cooperative donated \$1,000 to Canton Park to help purchase equipment and improve handicap parking.

Minutes of the 84th Annual Meeting

(continued from page 3)

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Barron Electric Cooperative Board of Directors to review the Bylaws and make suggested changes in the best interest of the cooperative, and its members, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors recommends the following amendments to the membership Bylaws:

- Article I, Section 8. "Membership Fees"

~~The membership fee shall be set by the board of directors in any amount, including zero, but not to exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00), the payment of which shall make the member eligible for service.~~

The Board of Directors may from time to time establish a reasonable membership fee, the payment of which shall be one of the conditions of membership to the Cooperative.

- Article III, Section 1, "Annual Meeting"

The annual meeting of the members shall be held not less than

two months, nor more than ten months from the close of the calendar year. ~~beginning with the year 1980.~~

- Article III, Section 3, "Notice of Members' Meetings"

Written, electronic, or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting, and in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than seven (7) days nor more than ~~thirty (30)~~ forty (40) days before the date of the meeting, either personally, electronically, by mail, by or at the direction of the secretary, or by the persons calling the meeting, to each member.

- Article III, Section 6, "Order of Business"

The order of business at the annual meeting of the members, and so far as possible at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

(a) ~~Call of the roll.~~ Business Meeting Called to Order by President.

(b) Adoption of Rules of Order

- Article IV, Section 3, "Qualifications"

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 ~~in the area served 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;

(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.

- Article IV, Section 4, "Nominations and Electors"

Directors shall be elected so as to provide for one director from each such division on the board of directors. ~~provided that any director elected prior to the effective date of this action for a fixed term may continue to serve until the expiration of such fixed term without reference to the districting provisions contained herein.~~

- Article V, Section 4, "Notice"

Notice of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting of the board of directors shall be given at least three (3) days previous thereto, by written notice, delivered electronically, personally or mailed, to each director at their last known address.

- Article VI, Section 2, "Election and Term of Office"

The officers shall be nominated and elected by ballot, annually by and from the board of directors at the meeting of the board of directors held ~~immediately~~ after the annual meeting of the members.

- Article XI, Section 8, "Subscription to Wisconsin REC News"

SECTION 8. SUBSCRIPTION TO WISCONSIN ~~REC NEWS~~ ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION'S NEWS PUBLICATION



Lois Haynie was the grand prize winner of a free year of energy.

Minutes of the 84th Annual Meeting

(continued from page 8)

The Cooperative, through action of its board of directors may in the name and behalf of each member of the Cooperative, subscribe for the **REC-News Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's news publication.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Barron Electric Cooperative Board of Directors hereby recommends these amendments to the Cooperative Bylaws to the membership for approval on March 28, 2020 at the 84th Annual Meeting.

Director Nelson asked for questions regarding the bylaw amendments. Hearing none, all those in favor of the proposed bylaw amendments were asked to show their voting cards. Any opposed were to show their voting cards. The amendments to the bylaws carried by majority of voting cards.

Director Nelson moved to authorize the Secretary to correct article and section designations, punctuation and cross-references, and to make such other technical

and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the organization in connection with these amendments to the Bylaws. The motion carried.

With voting of the Bylaw amendments complete, President Cook resumed his position as Chair of the meeting.

The tellers report of District 8 Director election is as follows:

Number of votes cast was 232.

Votes necessary for election was 116. Mr. Effertz received 129 votes. Mrs. Young received 84 votes. Ineligible votes recorded were 19.

A majority of votes was reached for one candidate as specified under Barron Electric Cooperative bylaws. Mr. Effertz was elected director of District 8.

Lois Haynie was drawn as the grand prize winner for one year of free electricity. Her lucky ticket was drawn by cooperative employee Jason Humphrey, Network Administrator.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Bill Effertz was elected to District 8.



Deidra Meyer registered a member at the 84th annual meeting scanning the barcode on the member's bill with a smartphone.

Candidate Profiles



District 1 David Olson

David Olson has been a Barron Electric member for 24 years. He remarked, “Cooperatives are beneficial for rural communities. I would like to be part of sustaining this well into the future. My current job with the City of Spooner gives me the experience with budgets and working with the public.” Dave has served on the Town of Rusk Board for over twenty years. He added, “One of the biggest challenges facing Barron Electric is keeping costs down and still providing the level of service the members have experienced for many years.”



District 5 Larry Kuhl

Larry Kuhl has been a Barron Electric member for 30 years. Being self-employed helps Larry give a wide range of perspective to those serving on the Barron Electric Board. He remarked, “Serving on the board is a great way to give back to the community. The connections and the relationships formed with those in our communities help the board better understand their needs.” Larry said that the biggest challenge facing Barron Electric is politics.



District 7 Randy Cook

Randy Cook remarked, “I enjoy serving cooperative members by addressing the challenges that stand in the way of providing the most reliable, safe, and affordable energy that meets members expectations and demands. Alternative energy, governmental regulations, power generation costs, and smart devices are just a few of the challenges facing cooperative boards across the state.” Before retiring, Randy was a Regional Manager with USDA/FSA and supervised office managers in 14 counties across northwestern Wisconsin. He said, “I have served in leadership positions on several boards and work well with everyone to solve problems that cooperative members face in their everyday life.”

Randy added, “Technology is constantly changing, alternative sources of energy are becoming increasingly affordable, electric cars are becoming common place, and more and more electrical devices can be controlled by a smart phone. As a board, we need to be proactive, insure that future services, demands and expectations are met, but not at a cost to those members who do not need or use them.”

President's Report *(continued from page 6)*

the cooperative in 2017. Prior to Peter's retirement, he was Supervisor of Accounting at Barron Electric Cooperative. After a robust five-month General Manager search process that included a nation-wide search, the Board of Directors moved to make a unanimous offer for the Barron Electric Cooperative General Manager position to Aaron Torud. Aaron comes to Barron Electric with 24 plus years of electric cooperative experience from Riverland Energy Cooperative where he was Manager of Member Services, Billing and Key Accounts. Aaron has a Master's Degree in Business Administration

and certifications from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Supervision and Management Essentials.

Increasing the Number of High School Scholarships

The Board of Directors moved to increase the number of scholarships awarded to graduating seniors in our service area, from one \$1,000 scholarship per school district to two \$1,000 scholarships per school district. The funds for the scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits.

2020 Kilowatt Hour Sales

There was a slight decrease in

residential kilowatt hour sales from 165,982,239 kilowatts sold in 2019 to 162,679,464 kilowatt hour sales sold in 2020. Seasonal sales saw an increase for the second year in a row, with an increase in kilowatt hour sales of nearly ten percent over last year. Seasonal kilowatt hour sales were 37,937,058 in 2020 compared to 34,541,258 kilowatt hours sold in 2019.

It has been a privilege to serve as your board president. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am happy to say we as a board believe the state of Barron Electric Cooperative is good and well.

Commitment to the Environment



Over 90 members participate in Community Rays, receiving a credit on their electric bill based on the energy production of the system.



Barron Electric teamed up with Nuto Farms to plant four butterfly gardens to attract Monarch butterflies.

Barron Electric Employees



Aaron Torud
General Manager



Jennifer Horstman
Executive
Secretary



Barron Electric was the host to several drive-through COVID Clinics.

Billing & Finance Department



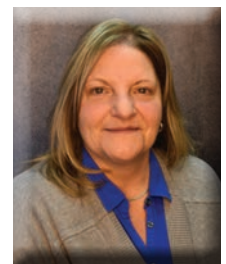
Employee Stephanie Kunesh registered members at the 84th Annual Meeting.



Dee Abbott
Member Account
Representative



Danae Becker
Member Account
Representative



Kim Eder
Capital Credit
Representative



Shay Frankenberg
Member Account
Representative



Stephanie Kunesh
Receptionist



Bobbie Mayfield
Senior Accountant



Deidra Meyer
CIS Specialist



Becky Scott
Accountant
Level 1



Mandy Straw
Director of
Finance

Member Services Department



Carrie Baribeau
Communication
Specialist



Jennifer Beaudette
Director of
Member Services



Nellie Cupp
Member Account
Representative



Melissa Gillett
Member
Technology
Coordinator



Jason Humphrey
Network
Administrator



Randel Wachsmuth
Energy Use Technician



Barron Electric donated to a variety of non-profit organizations including Nature's Edge Therapy.

Operations Department



Susan Dau
Systems
Coordinator



Scott DeVoe
Line
Superintendent
Spooner



Roger Erickson
Warehouseman



Jill Humphrey
Operations Department
Representative



Jeff Nelson
Line
Superintendent
Barron



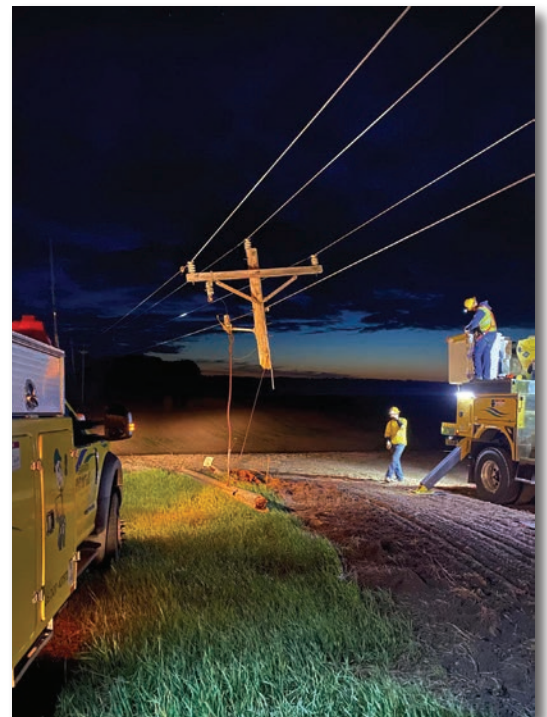
Dave Peterson
Mechanic



Nate Steines
Director of
Operations



Jody Thill
Member Account
Representative



Line crews replaced a broken pole.

Barron Line Crew



Isaac Cole
Lineman



Tim Engel
Lineman



Nate Gustum
Leadman/
Technician



Aaron Holten
Lineman



Mike Kroeze
Lineman



Tyler Nanstad
Lineman



Andy Neff
Lineman



Jordan Riebe
Lineman



TJ Romsos
Lineman



Logan Sanborn
Lineman

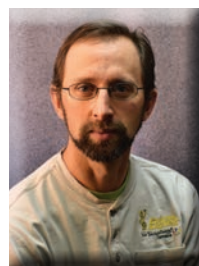


Jeff Secraw
Lineman

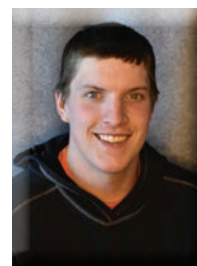
Spooner Line Crew



Bryan Bielmeier
Lineman



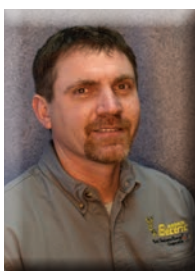
Ben Brede
Lineman



JT Gunderson
Lineman



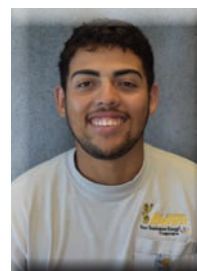
Jason Kircher
Lineman



Dan Ripplinger
Lineman



Jeff Sando
Lineman



Gio Torres
Lineman



Ben Valentin
Lineman

Line crews improved reliability in Casey Township.

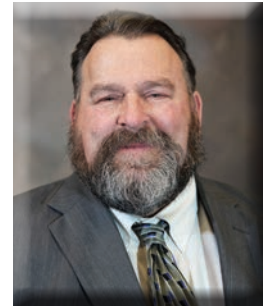
Service Territory and Board of Directors



Tim Kessler
District 2
Treasurer



Arlyn Helm
District 1



Mike Baker
District 3
Vice President
Dairyland Power Director



Scott Warwick
District 4
Secretary

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



Larry Kuhl
District 5



Bill Effertz
District 8



Patti Mandel
District 6



Richard Bol
District 9



Randy Cook
District 7
President

For more information:

Barron Electric
1434 State Highway 25 N.
P.O. Box 40
Barron, WI 54812

Phone Numbers

Barron: 715-537-3171
Toll-free: 800-322-1008

Weekday Hours

7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
barronelectric.com

For outages, call 866-258-8722



Serving the Rural Area for 85 Years

