



News FOR YOU...

May 2014

“Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve.”

Barron Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Our Purpose: Our Members

Theme Highlights Barron Electric’s 78th Annual Meeting

Over 850 members and guests attended Barron Electric Cooperative’s 78th Annual Meeting. “Our Purpose: Our Members” was the theme of this year’s meeting held on March 29. Senator Jauch addressed the members, “Thanks to Barron Electric Cooperative for their leadership and providing services at an affordable cost.” Barron Electric’s Board President Selmer Nelson presented Senator Jauch with a “Friend of the Cooperative” Award for his support of electric cooperatives during his years as senator. Representative Stephen Smith said, “Member participation is crucial to the success of the cooperative.” Selmer presented Beverly Buckner with an award of appreciation for her 13 years of service on Barron Electric’s Board.

Brian Rude, Vice President of External and Member Relations at Dairyland Power Cooperative, commented, “Electric cooperatives are energized by working on legislation to keep rates affordable.” He discussed the Department of Energy’s rule banning large water heaters, and how Dairyland led national efforts to obtain an exception for those used in load management. Brian said, “Since 2000, Dairyland Power has gone from 1% renewables to 12.2% renewables and has worked with members to guide development of more than 65 consumer-owned renewables.” He continued, “Dairyland is currently working on one of the largest solar projects in Wisconsin.”

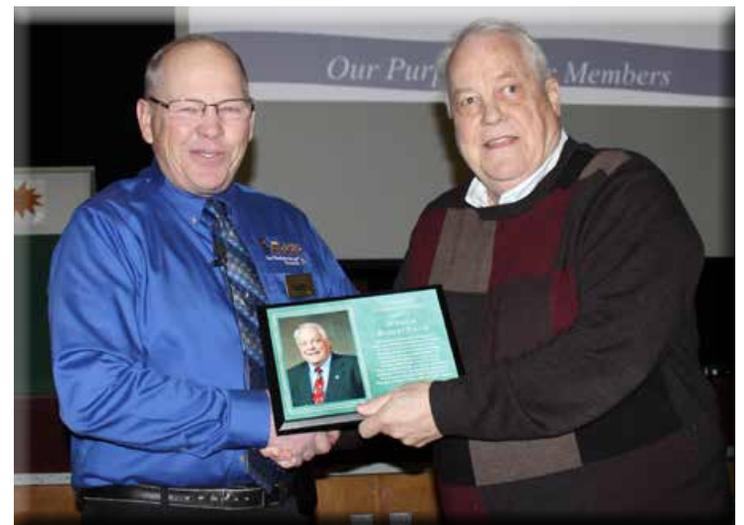
Dairyland will spend \$351 million over 10 years on existing plants to meet environmental policies. Emissions from particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide have been dramatically reduced. He encouraged members to visit www.action.coop to send comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



Randy Cook was elected to Barron Electric’s Board of Directors, representing District 7.



Board President Selmer Nelson is pictured with Doug and Pat Brewer. They were the grand prize winners of one free year of energy, awarded at Barron Electric’s Annual Meeting.



Board President Selmer Nelson presents Senator Jauch with a Friend of the Cooperative award.

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Tri-State Lumber & Land Expands Their Business

Barron Electric Cooperative was awarded a \$657,000 rural development loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help Tri-State Lumber & Land of Trego fund the expansion of their forest products business. The expansion project focuses on producing pallet parts from small diameter low-grade timber, which will maximize

production of all harvested timber. The project is expected to create as many as 10 new full-time jobs in the next three years. Tri-State Lumber & Land, located on Barron Electric lines, is a locally-owned sawmill that was founded in 1996. They produce high-grade lumber, paneling, flooring, corner trim, and moldings for wholesale and retail markets. Owner Tom Hansen

remarked, "We greatly appreciate Barron Electric's assistance with the loan."

"Barron Electric is excited to receive this USDA funding; this will help to improve the quality of life in our service territory," said Dallas Sloan, Barron Electric's General Manager. Barron Electric will provide the funds to Tri-State Lumber & Land as a zero-percent-interest loan. He added, "Over the past 10 years, Barron Electric has loaned over \$2 million to 13 area businesses and created more than 100 local jobs."



Pictured clockwise: A new commercial building will be used to make pallet parts with low-grade timber.

Barron Electric linecrews upgraded the service for Tri-State.

Tri-State Lumber & Land Owners Cathy and Tom Hansen and Mike and Robin Hageny received a \$657,000 rural development loan from the USDA. Aaron Weber of Sterling Bank and Melissa Klump of Barron Electric helped with the loan process.

Interested in Legislative Updates?

Please complete the following form and return to Barron Electric to keep up-to-date on legislation impacting electric cooperatives. Members can also complete the legislative form at barronelectric.com in the community area. Members will receive legislative updates via e-mail.

Name _____

Email _____

Barron Electric Account # _____

Barron Electric's Annual Meeting... *Continued from Cover*

regarding new rules that would impact electric rates. He added, "The cost of replacing existing power plants would be high and impact rates."

General Manager Dallas Sloan said, "Our goal is to improve the



Members voted in elections for Districts 2, 4, 7, and 8.

quality of life in the area we serve." He told members, "Over \$234,000 in scholarships has been awarded to more than 280 high school students." He talked about a variety of donations to non-profit organizations including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, 4H, and FFA. The funds for these donations are derived from a trust that consists of unclaimed capital credits. Dallas remarked, "This year, we will be retiring \$900,000 in capital credits to members and former members."

Board President Selmer Nelson told members, "Barron Electric is strong, and the financial condition is very good. Several years ago we set a goal of reaching 40% equity, and we have obtained that goal. By maintaining a strong financial condition, we are able to obtain

lower interest rates." He talked about the Cooperatives in the Schools Program, where he had the opportunity to talk to elementary students about the cooperative business model. He commented, "At last year's annual meeting, members voted for a bylaw change that allows the board to determine the dollar amount of estates paid out in any given year based on the financial condition of the cooperative." This amendment to the bylaws allows estate payments to be made to members within the same year requested.

Randy Cook was elected to succeed Beverly Buckner, representing District 7. Members re-elected three incumbent directors including Barbara Holman-District 2, Scott Warwick-District 4, and Selmer Nelson-District 8.

Member Doug Brewer of Chetek was the grand prize winner of a free year of energy. Electric griddles, popcorn poppers, and toasters were awarded to 99 members. Ted Persson of Chetek was the winner of an iPod Touch, which was the grand prize for the Kids' Program.

Cindy Williams Wins Megawatt Community Service Award

"Cindy Williams is a very caring and community-minded individual," commented Mary Vinopal. For many years, Cindy has been a member of the VFW Post 8512 Auxiliary. She has served as President, is presently the Auxiliary's chaplain, and is also their public relations individual. Cindy has worked many hours for the Auxiliary as they support the VFW Post with their annual Germanfest. She also works on the Auxiliary's annual Spring Fling, and pancake breakfasts.

Cindy presently serves as the President of the Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women. She is a member of the church choir and also takes communion to members of the church who are unable to attend services on Sunday. Cindy is there to bring food to family members that have lost loved ones or just being there for support.

Win \$50

Barron Electric is rewarding members and their families for community service by awarding a \$50 electric bill credit to the winners of the Megawatt Community Service Award on a monthly basis. Nominate a member by completing the application form, available at barronelectric.com in the community area, or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.



Randel Peters (right), Customer Service Representative at Barron Electric, presents Cindy Williams with the Megawatt Community Service Award.



Director Notes



Barb Holman serves as secretary on Barron Electric's Board of Directors. She represents District 2, which includes the following townships:

Evergreen, Spooner, Dewey, Bashaw, and Barronett.

Condensed Board Minutes February 26, 2014

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was printed as part of the board packet as follows: #86015 thru #86123 at First National Bank of Barron was in the amount of \$195,364; capital credit estate checks of \$8,567 and capital credit retirement checks of \$2,857. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$1,894,125; total receipts by wire, ACH, credit cards - \$301,544; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,005,745; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$155,175; power bill due 02/26/14 - \$2,297,073. A membership list was presented for review and approved.
- Several directors reported on the WECA Education and Lobby Days that they attended on February 5 & 6 in Madison. President Nelson reported on the co-ops in the school program he taught at the Spooner Elementary School on February 5, 2014. Director Warwick reported on the WECA board meeting he attended on February 21, 2014.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 302 consumer hours off, which is 96.3% below 2013 hours of 8,093. Overtime year-to-date is 94.75 hours, which is 19.4% below 2013 hours of 117.50.

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
Dallas Sloan-General Manager
Carrie Baribeau—Editor
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Office Hours
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

1434 State Highway 25 North
PO Box 40 • Barron, WI 54812
(715) 537-3171
Toll Free: 1-800-322-1008

For Outages Only:
866-258-8722

www.barronelectric.com

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If you have any comments regarding
the newsletter, please e-mail
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com



20% Discount on Electric Grills



Electric grills will be on sale through the month of May. Pick one up at our Barron office.

Get ready for the grilling season with an electric grill. They are easy to use and inexpensive to operate. There will be a 20% discount on electric grills and accessories during the month of May. Barron Electric offers three models including: table-top, smoker, and cart-style. For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008, visit barronelectric.com or e-mail memberservices@barronelectric.com.



Cook's Corner

PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE BARS

Diane Lapacek-Rowland

(Easy No Bake for Kids to Make)

- 1 Stick Butter
- 1 Cup Peanut Butter
- 1 ¾ Cups Crushed Graham Crackers
- 1 ¼ Cup Powdered Sugar
- 2 Cups Chocolate Chips (Or 6-8 Hershey's Chocolate Bars)

Melt butter and mix in peanut butter, cracker crumbs and sugar. Press in a 9" x 13" pan. Top with melted chocolate. Let cool and cut.

Can't just eat one!

Each recipe winner will receive a Farm Technology Days cookbook. Please e-mail your recipe to memberservices@barronelectric.com or send your recipes to:

Barron Electric Cooperative, PO Box 40, Barron WI 54812, Attn: Carrie



*Our office will be closed on Monday, May 26
in observance of Memorial Day.
Have a safe holiday weekend!*