

# News FOR YOU...

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

June 2018

Photo by Allison Rucinski

Barron Electric Cooperative

## Board of Directors Approved New Rate Schedule

**B**arron Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved a new rate schedule, effective May 1, 2018. Dairyland Power Cooperative, Barron Electric's wholesale power supplier, implemented a summer rate in 2012. Barron Electric's wholesale power costs are 11% higher in the summer months. Members will now see a summer energy charge of \$0.1057 per kilowatt hour for

June, July, August, and September. The summer rate more accurately reflects the wholesale power costs. The October - May charge will remain at the current rate of \$0.0957 per kilowatt hour. The fixed charge was increased to \$34.50 per month. The fixed charge is designed to cover each member's share of the cost of maintenance for wires, transformers, meters, right-of-way clearing and other expenses on the

distribution system. The average member will see approximately a 4% increase annually on their electric bill.

### Ways to Save Energy

- Switch to LED bulbs, which use 75% less energy than standard bulbs and last longer. View our lighting rebate program at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).

(See Rates: page 4)

## Saving Rural Electric Cooperative Members' Money

**G**overnor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill (AB) 583 into law, which will enhance safety in Wisconsin. AB583 strengthens safety initiatives while protecting our members as not-for-profit entities. The law ensures materials and labor provided by electric and telecommunications cooperatives during a Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) event are exempt from sales and use tax. Dairyland coordinates the ROPE program, in which Wisconsin electric cooperatives provide each other mutual aid during severe weather events to shorten storm recovery times. Dallas Sloan, Barron Electric's General Manager, testified on behalf of Assembly Bill 583, indicating that the cooperative paid nearly \$7,000 in sales and use tax for outside crews who assisted with power restoration after the May 16 tornado.



*General Manager Dallas Sloan thanked Governor Walker for signing a reform proposal that eliminates the double taxation on Wisconsin's sales and use tax on services and materials furnished in mutual assistance between electric cooperatives, as well as telecommunications cooperatives.*

# Dairyland Power Increases Their Solar Production



**D**airyland Power Cooperative, Barron Electric's wholesale power supplier, has finalized agreements for three additional utility-scale solar generation projects, bringing the total number under contract to 18. This will increase the total solar generation to 25 MW in the Dairyland cooperative system. Once the three new facilities are online, the 18 sites will together produce enough renewable energy to power nearly 4,000 homes.



## Robert Bitney Wins the Megawatt Community Service Award

**C**ongratulations to Robert Bitney for his outstanding community service. He is currently President of the Chetek Lion's Club, which has over 70 members. Robert started the Great Beginnings Pumpkin Program, which provides pumpkins to elementary school students in the Chetek school district. The Lion's Club also provides vision screening

for over 1,000 students, which helps identify possible vision problems. The club also helped with the relief efforts after the May 16 tornado.

Additionally, he helps with merit badge seminars for Dallas Boy Scout Troop 102. Robert is working towards becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster to help lead successful boy scout troops. He also teaches hunter safety courses for the DNR.

### Win a \$50 Electric Bill Credit

Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award. Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit. Application forms can be found at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.



*Kathy Robertson, Energy Management Specialist, presented member Robert Bitney with the Megawatt Community Service Award.*



*Students received a pumpkin to carve as part of the Chetek Lion's Club Great Beginnings Pumpkin Program.*

# Congratulations Scholarship Winners

Barron Electric awarded twelve \$1,000 scholarships to the seniors pictured below. Since the scholarship program began, the cooperative has awarded nearly \$300,000 to 346 students. Funds for this program are derived from unclaimed capital credits.



*Emily Boese  
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser  
High School*



*Colin Davis  
Cameron High School*



*Bailee Hanson  
Shell Lake High School*



*Olivia Meyer  
Rice Lake High School*



*Ahna Mikunda  
Barron High School*



*Christopher Moskal  
Clayton High School*



*Max Narges  
Cumberland High School*



*Dylan North  
New Auburn High School*



*Anna Olson  
Hayward High School*



*Heidi Schaaf  
Prairie Farm High  
School*



*Carson Schneider  
Turtle Lake High School*



*Mariah Skogstad  
Spooner High School*

# Director Notes



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.

## Condensed Board Minutes March 28, 2018

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #93312 thru #93457 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$334,084 and capital credit estate checks of \$25,633. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,091,229; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$2,033,774; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,645,361; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$183,942 and power bill paid 03/31/18 in the amount of \$2,211,380.

## News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.  
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newsletter, please e-mail  
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Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.



# Develop Leadership Skills at Youth Congress and Win a Trip to D.C.

Barron Electric will sponsor students to the annual Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Congress. The Congress will be held July 25-27 at the UW-River Falls campus. Students have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses. They will hear from highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens.

## Win a Trip to the Washington D.C. Youth Tour

Two students, who attend the Youth Congress, will have the opportunity to win a trip to the Washington D.C. Youth Tour in 2019 by completing an essay. Contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008 for an application form.



Darien Tracyk, far right, was sponsored by Barron Electric to last year's conference. He was elected to the 2017-18 Youth Board that helped plan this year's Youth Leadership Congress. (Photo submitted)

## New Rate Schedule

(Continued from page 1)

- Sign up for the Central Air Load Management Program and receive a \$10 credit on the June, July, and August electric bills. Contact the Member Services Department for more details.
- Visit barronelectric.com and check out our Energy Sense Programs and save money and energy.
- Save time and money with Auto Pay. You will have a chance to win a \$50 credit. Sign up through SmartHub at barronelectric.com.

If you have questions regarding the new rates, please contact our Billing Department at 800-322-1008 or billing@barronelectric.com.