

The Barron Chamber Connection



A Publication of the Barron Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 156, Barron, WI 54812 www.barronchamber.com

October 2011



Barron Electric Cooperative

Barron Electric Cooperative Celebrating 75 Years

Making Your Life Easier Then and Now

Barron Electric Cooperative has been providing electricity to the rural areas for 75 years. On November 22, 1937, 86 miles of line were energized, bringing electricity to 125 members. Barron Electric became the first Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative to gain 5,000 members in 1949. Joyce Myers worked at the cooperative from 1947-1984 retiring as office manager. She commented, "It was a wonderful experience for me, as I know it was for many other employees, to work in a cooperative that has made life so much easier for so many people." Board President Selmer Nelson remarked, "It has been 75 years since the first early electric cooperative pioneers traveled our town and country roads spreading the good news that it would be possible to bring central station electric power to the rural areas of Barron and Washburn Counties. It was a dream in the minds of those early pioneers; and could they have ever imagined what would become of that dream?"

Barron Electric's first office was located in the Jerome Hatchery on East LaSalle Avenue. They moved to the old Normann's Bank Building. A new building was completed in 1954 at 1456 East LaSalle Avenue in Barron at a cost of \$160,000. Their current headquarters located at 1434 State Highway 25 North was completed in 2006.

Today, Barron Electric has 43 employees who provide electricity to nearly 18,000 members in eight counties and has more than 3,000 miles of line. Barron Electric stands by the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative principles of integrity, innovation, accountability, and commitment to community.

Barron Electric Cooperative will host the next Barron Chamber Connect After 5 on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at Rolling Oaks Restaurant in Barron at 5:00 p.m.

Quarterly Newsletter

- Barron Electric Coop to host Barron Chamber Connect After 5
- Business and Industry Day
- Barron Fall Fest a Success
- Anderson Dairy Systems
- Barron Chamber Committees
- Holiday Season Events

***Interested in Hosting a
Barron Chamber
Connect After Five?
Contact the Chamber at
715-537-5631***

Willis Jerome wrote in the cooperative's 25th Anniversary book, "It would have been most difficult, if not utterly impossible, for rural America to have supplied our food and fiber needs during the war years had our nation's farms not been geared to such gigantic production with the help of rural electric service."

Business & Industry Day Highlights

Wednesday, August 3rd marked Barron's 23rd Annual Business & Industry Appreciation Day. The day was set aside to recognize the contributions that each of us bring to our community and as an opportunity to socialize with one another.

Mother Nature cooperated fully as over 50 golf enthusiasts were greeted with afternoon temps in the 80's and glorious sunshine. Although no one cashed in on the hole-in-one sponsorship opportunity, the golfing trios enjoyed a great round of golf and camaraderie. Following the golf outing, over 60 business men and women gathered at Rolling Oaks for a social hour and a delicious meal of chicken and barbecued meatballs. The evening concluded with the door prize drawings MC'd by our WJMC friend and neighbor--Arnie Wheeler. Arnie did a wonderful job of bringing humor to the presentation and making people laugh. A good time was had by all!

The Business & Industry Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the day's events and a special thanks to those businesses that donated door prize items. Thank you for your role in helping to make Barron's Business & Industry Day a success!



Business & Industry Day

Barron Fall Fest a Success



September 17th was Barron's Fall Fest. The morning started off at the BACC with the Lyndon Ellefson Half Marathon and 5K. A pancake breakfast was followed by the Chamber's 5, 10, 20 or 40 mile Bike Ride. As in years past the highlight was Kid's Fest attended by 240 kids. It started with a Kiddie Parade and continued with games, pumpkin decorating, and scarecrow decorating. The Skate Park competition drew quite a crowd with 26 contestants and over 100 spectators. The evening wrapped up with wine tasting at Rolling Oaks Restaurant and a band at Skippy's. A City Wide Garage Sale during the weekend kept the town busy with people searching for a great deal!

Congratulations to the following winners of the Scarecrow contest:

1st place-Barron Supply 2nd- Jennie-O Turkey Store 3rd- Tied- Monroe Manor & Barron Care & Rehab
Best Town Spirit- Woodland Elementary, Most detailed- Mayo Clinic Nursing Home
Most Appropriate Theme- McDonald's

Anderson Dairy Systems Joins the Chamber



Jan Jorgenson (center) from the Barron Chamber of Commerce presented Anderson Dairy Systems, Inc with a membership to the chamber along with a framed \$2.00 bill, their first clear profit. Amy Hanson (third from left) and her husband Tim Hanson (far left) purchased Anderson Dairy Systems, Inc. in July 2008 and were leasing the former location in Rice Lake. On June 13th they opened at their new location 1 mile west of Barron at the corner of Hwy 8 & County "T". Working alongside the Hansons in their new location are (back row, from left) Terry Lusson, Erland Anderson, Brian Lansin, and Kevin Reinke. "We are pleased to have the same staff with over 60 years combined experience and look forward to many years to come at our new location," said Amy Hanson.

Barron Chamber Committees

The Barron Chamber of Commerce is comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Past President, and 8-13 members elected by the membership. The Board is then organized by committees with each committee assuming responsibility for that function.

If you are interested in volunteering on a particular committee, please contact the committee chair or co-chair.

Annual Meeting Committee

Plans, organizes and conducts the Annual Meeting.

Chair / Co-Chair Dave Wiehe, Jen Beaudette

Spring Fling Committee

Plans, organizes and sets up the Spring Fling which is similar to a Home and Garden Show.

Chair / Co-Chair: Joann Olson, Larry Nevin

Business & Industry Committee

Plans, organizes and sets up Business & Industry Day which celebrates all businesses.

Chair / Co-Chair: Laurie Wooldridge, Val Gieseke

Festival Events Committee

Plans, organizes and sets up a fall festival

Chair / Co-Chair: Jen Beaudette

Ambassador / Membership Committee

Administers the Young Ambassador program and recognizes new members.

Chair / Co-Chair: Jan Jorgenson, Leo Severson

Retail / Promotion Committee

Designs & Implements retail promotions to enhance Chamber businesses.

Chair / Co-Chair: Wendy Boese, Val Gieseke

Upcoming Holiday Events

Our Chamber Board

Officers:

President - Dave Wiehe,
Wiehe's Hardware Hank

Vice President – Jennifer
Beaudette, Barron Electric

Board Members:

Wendy Boese
Mosaic Telecom

Val Gieseke
Barron News-Shield

Jan Jorgenson
Sterling Bank

Larry Nevin
Barron Supply

Joann Olson
WESTconsin Credit Union

Leo Severson
WESTconsin Credit Union

Duane Talbert
Econofoods

Laurie Wooldridge
Jennie-O-Turkey Store

Secretary/Treasurer
Peggy Rogers

The Barron Chamber will be sponsoring the **Halloween trick-or-treat** event on Saturday, October 29th. Participating Chamber members will be passing out treats to children from 10:00 am to noon. Please contact Val at the New Shield at 537-3117 by **Friday, October 14th** if you wish to participate. Val will give you an orange pumpkin to display in your window on that Saturday to indicate participation. Each business will be responsible for supplying their own treats.

Our **Thanksgiving Promotion** will again be a turkey give-a-way. Please call Val at the News Shield at 537-3117 by **October 21st** if you would like to participate. Registration will be held from October 31 - November 13th with each business selecting their winners on Monday November 15th. Please call Val at the News Shield to let her know who won the turkey(s) from your business before contacting the winner(s). The winners can pick up their turkey at Econo Foods between Nov 15 & 19. The cost of one turkey is \$40.00; the cost of two turkeys is \$55.00 (which include advertising costs).

The **Holiday Promotion** for 2011 will be new with a drawing for Chamber dollars. Each business that chooses to participate will have a registration form printed in the News – Shield specific to their business. These forms must be returned to the store to qualify. All entry forms will be taken to City Hall at the end of the week for the drawings. Top prize for the event will be \$200.00 in Chamber dollars while second place will receive \$100.00 in Chamber dollars. Four other lucky winners will receive \$25.00 in Chamber dollars. Details for all events will be sent in a separate announcement later in the year.

Santa's Workshop will again be held at the BACC on December 12th beginning at 3:30 pm. This event last year was an overwhelming success. Many children turned out to purchase Christmas presents for the grown-ups in their lives. This is a great opportunity for your business to get exposure in the community. Further information will be forthcoming as the event nears.

Chamber Members

Ag Risk Managers
Allied Waste Systems
Anderson Dairy
Barron Area Community Center
Bank Mutual
Barron Chiropractic Health Center
Barron County Safe & Stable Families Coalition
Barron Electric Cooperative
Barron Family Restaurant
Barron Farmers Union
Barron Motel & RV Campground
Barron Mutual Insurance Co.
Barron News-Shield
Barron Plumbing & Heating
Barron Supply
Barron Veterinary Clinic
Brown's Karate Academy
Carquest Auto Parts
Chronotype
Country Lane Pantry
Creative Kids Discovery Center
Dirks Heating & Cooling
DONAN Amish Furniture Gallery
Duane's Custom Body Repair

Econofoods
Electrolysis Center
Erickson Agency
First National Bank
G.B. Sales
Greener's Budget Lumber
Hair Café & Spa
Hand & Heart Creations
Holiday
James Pharmacy
Jennie-O-Turkey Store
Johnson, Agen, Kupferschmidt & Associates
Kate's Bar
Korner Stop
Kwik Trip
Lawrence Leasing
Liden & Dobberfuhr, S.C.
Luther Midelfort Northland
Monroe Manor
Mosaic Telecom
Noesen's Photography
Nordby Construction
Rausch-Steel Funeral Home
Rolling Oaks Restaurant & Lounge

Skippy's Bar
Springer Eye care
Sterling Bank
Subway
Susie's Café
Swant Graber Ford
Swant Graber Motors
T.M. Title Services, Inc.
Terry Miller Photography
Thompson Nelson Agency
Uptown Pizza
Vanguard Agency
Verizon
Warren G's Liquor Store
Wiehe's Hardware Hank
WESTconsin Credit Union

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 29th
Halloween trick-or-treat

Thanksgiving Promotion
Oct. 31 – Nov. 13

Barron Chamber Connect
After 5 - Wednesday,
November 16th hosted by
Barron Electric Coop

Holiday Promotion -
December 3

Santa Workshop-Dec 12