

Clearing the Path to Reliability

Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why BARC Electric Cooperative strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

RELIABILITY

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see BARC crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close

to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventative maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact.

SAFETY

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor, such as a tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

AFFORDABILITY

As a co-op, BARC always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 ft. or smaller) should be planted at least 25 ft. from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 ft.) should be planted at least 50 ft. from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. from the transformer door and 4 ft. from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let us know by contacting 1-800-846-2272.

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 264
Millboro, VA 24460-0264
1-800-846-2272

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
barcelectric.com
barconnects.net

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Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

Local Page Editor
Amanda Cunningham

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



**Trimming improves safety for all.
Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.**

BARC
Connects

Think you're safe?

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WE SHINE
BRIGHTER



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Billy Reid at 1-800-846-2272
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BARC Communities



Concern for Community

BARC was on hand at the Rockbridge County Career Fest in March. Chris Botulinski helps a student with the challenges of rubber gloves by installing an insulator.



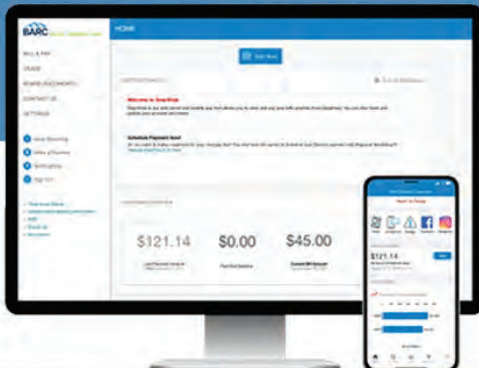
The Rockbridge Conservation held the Annual Rockbridge Community Cleanup the last two weeks of March. BARC was proud to take part in volunteering to keep our community beautiful by picking up trash along Big Spring Drive off Route 60 in Lexington.

SEVERAL PAYMENT OPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR BARC MEMBERS



- New locations –
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barcelectric.com/smarthub for more information

Notice of Meetings to Select Nominees for Board of Directors, District 7, 6 and 2

Pursuant to Section 4 of the bylaws of BARC Electric Cooperative, the Board of Directors have called District Meetings to select nominees for the board of directors for districts 7, 6 and 2. The meeting times and locations are as follows:

District 7 – May 20, 2024, 5 p.m.,
Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church
6302 Hot Springs Rd., Hot Springs, VA 24445
Incumbent: John Quantz

District 6 – May 20, 2024, 4 p.m.,
Hot Springs Fire Dept.
2670 Main St. Hot Springs, VA 24445
Incumbent: Tommy Ford

District 2 – May 21, 2024, 6 p.m.,
Falling Springs Presbyterian Church
410 Falling Spring Road, Glasgow, VA 24555
Incumbent: Jason Black

To determine the district in which you reside, please refer to the mailing label on the front cover of this magazine. In the numbers above your name is a two-digit number starting with “BA.” This is your district.

Example:

BA 01
Mr. John Doe
Route 3, Box 100
Anywhere, USA 20156

This member resides in District 1. If your number is not legible or you are unsure of your district, please call us at 1-800-846-2272.

The election of directors will take place at the Annual Member Meeting on July 17, 2024. For your convenience, we are reprinting the qualifications for directors (section 4.3) and the nominating process (section 4.4). Again, if you have any questions regarding the process or location, please contact the office at 1-800-846-2272.

SECTION 4.3 – Director Qualifications. Any Director or Director candidate must comply with this Section.

A. Director Qualifications. A Director or Director candidate must:

1. Be a natural person;
2. Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts; and
3. Be a Member in good standing residing in the Director District from which the Director is elected or chosen or be a duly authorized officer, director or employee of a non-natural person Member located in the

Director District from which the Director is being elected.

B. Director Qualifications.

1. While a Director, and during the one year immediately prior to becoming a Director, a Director or Director candidate must not be, nor have been:

a. A Close Relative of any existing Director, other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year;

b. A Close Relative of an existing, non-Director Cooperative officer, employee, agent or representative;

c. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with, any other Director; other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year; or

d. Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity other than an entity in which the Cooperative possessed an ownership interest (other than an entity in which the Cooperative possesses an ownership interest):

i. Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative;

ii. Selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or to substantial number of Members; or

iii. Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.

2. No current or former employee of the Cooperative shall be eligible to serve on the Cooperative’s Board of Directors.

SECTION 4.4 – Nominations. Not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which Directors are to be elected, the Board shall call a separate meeting of the Members of each district in which the term of the Director serving such district is to expire (“District Meeting”), at a suitable place in each district for the purpose of selecting one person as a Director candidate to represent the Members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each Member located in such district as provided in Section 3.3 of Article III and shall indicate the district to which such Member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a Director are to be made at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were

listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board or the entire membership.

The District Meeting shall be called to order by the Director representing the District or by another designated representative of the Board, or in his absence, by any Member residing within the District. The Members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a Director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Fifteen Members residing in the district present in person at such duly called District Meeting shall constitute a quorum. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for Director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any Member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming, but in no case less than five minutes. Candidates must be Members residing in the district and must possess the Director Qualifications specified in Section 4.3; A, B and C of Article IV of these Bylaws. In the event a quorum is not present for any one of the District Meetings provided for herein, the Director currently serving the district shall be declared the official nominee for the district.

Voting shall be by ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any District Meeting. Each Member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. The minutes of such District Meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each person nominated at the District Meeting and the number of votes received by each, and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the secretary and the chairman of the District Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five days after such District Meeting. In the event a quorum is not present at a District Meeting, there shall be no minutes taken. Instead, the Director currently serving the district shall prepare a statement to the effect that a meeting took place and a quorum was not present. Said statement shall be promptly provided to the Secretary.