



# NEWSLINE



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July 2023

## 2023 Annual Meeting Success!

Itasca-Mantrap held its 82nd Annual Membership meeting on June 13 at Itasca-Mantrap. A total of 350 Members and friends enjoyed lunch before the meeting.

The business meeting included reports from Itasca-Mantrap President-CEO Christine Fox, Board Chair Brian Behrens and a detailed presentation from our '22 Youth Tour Delegate, Jacob Lof.



Three board members – Brian Behrens, District 1; Pat Roehl, District 2; and Terry Cook, District 3 – were re-elected by acclamation.



An array of prizes were given away including five bill credits worth \$200 each.





## CEO Update - Guest article by Joe Miller, Director of Communications- MREA

This month the CEO Update features a guest article written by Joe Miller, Director of Communications

at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA).

### 2023 legislation will impact everyone who uses electricity

The 2023 legislative session, which began in January and concluded on May 22, was one of the most consequential in history for Minnesota's 1.7 million cooperative members. Record investments, key policy changes, and a landmark 100% carbon-free by 2040 mandate all made this legislative session one with big long-term impacts on everyone using electricity in the state.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) represents Minnesota's 44 distribution cooperatives and six generation & transmissions cooperatives who collectively serve over 1.7 million Minnesotans. They are the voice for non-profit electric cooperatives member-owners at the Capitol and have been deeply engaged with lawmakers, so Minnesota cooperative-member owners have their voice heard.

They worked tirelessly to shape the session's outcomes. Here is an

overview of a few items affecting electric cooperatives members.

### 100% Carbon-Free by 2040

The first and most impactful bill for electric cooperatives and their member-owners was the historic 100% carbon-free by 2040 bill, which was signed into law in early February. The legislation, passed in record time, is widely regarded as the most significant energy policy ever passed in Minnesota and mandates all electricity sold in the state to come from carbon-free sources by the year 2040. The law will increase the challenge of keeping the electric grid reliable under all conditions; significant advancements in technology will be needed to achieve the mandate.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives are leaders in navigating the clean energy transition while keeping electricity reliable and affordable. However, this new law does present significant challenges. As a result, MREA worked with lawmakers to add some common-sense amendments to help protect affordability and reliability. Nonetheless, a lot of investment, innovation, and ingenuity will be necessary to avoid cost increases and potential service disruptions, while meeting the mandate.

### State Competitiveness Fund

Investments in Minnesota's electric grid are more crucial than ever, and

historic funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) necessitates Minnesota to think big to attract federal dollars. As a result, lawmakers put \$190 million into a newly created State Competitiveness Fund which will be used to attract hundreds of millions of dollars for investments in Minnesota's energy infrastructure. Cooperatives across the state will be using these funds, including an additional \$5.3 million specifically for consumer-owned utilities, for projects to improve affordability and reliability and aid in the energy transition.

### Electrification Rebates and Grants

The State of Minnesota wants to help you buy an electric vehicle. This includes a rebate up to \$2,500 for a new electric vehicle with a sale price below \$55,000 or up to \$600 for a used vehicle under \$25,000. The rebate is open to individuals, businesses, nonprofits and governments; those who have already received an EV rebate or tax credit from Minnesota are not eligible.

Those who would like to purchase a highly efficient heat pump to heat and cool their home could receive rebates of up to \$4,000. The legislature also made grant money available for solar on schools, electric bikes, electric school buses, pre-weatherization work and more.

## MREA Pole Top Rescue Training

Safety is a top priority at Itasca-Mantrap. On June 6, our linemen practiced and refreshed their skills on pole top and bucket rescue using a dummy victim.

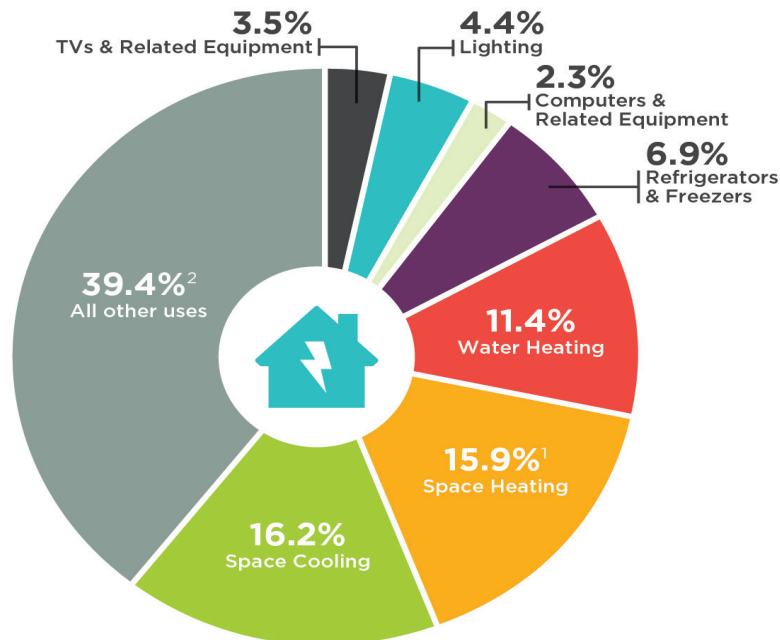
In a pole-top rescue, linemen use a hand line to rappel the victim to the ground.

During a bucket rescue, the crew focuses on bringing an unconscious victim down to the ground via the bucket.



## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2022

<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.

<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous electronics, clothes washers and dryers, cooking equipment, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

## Team Member News



### Welcome back to Owen Wagner!

Last summer, Owen Wagner joined the Itasca-Mantrap team as a temporary seasonal lineman. Owen returned to Itasca-Mantrap in June to continue working with the Itasca-Mantrap linemen to install new services and maintain Itasca-Mantrap's overhead and underground lines. Owen is a graduate of the Electrical Lineworker program at Minnesota State Community & Technical College in Wadena.



### Itasca-Mantrap welcomes Mindy Young as new Chief Financial Officer

Mindy Young joined the Itasca-Mantrap team in May as the new Chief Financial Officer. Mindy graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. She is a Certified Public Accountant and was most recently employed with Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association in Halstad, MN as their Director of Finance and Administration.

## Team Member Anniversaries

Itasca-Mantrap recognizes Team Member Years of Service

In April, Itasca-Mantrap celebrated milestone service awards for the following Team Members and Directors:

#### 5 years:

Mike Kasperek

Sue Zinniel

Joe Sworski

Director Pat Roehl

Director Terry Cook

#### 15 years:

Renee' Anderson

Kelly Pulju

#### 20 years:

Kevin George

#### 10 years:

Director Dan Breitbach

#### 30 years:

Jerry Byer

Congratulations to these Team Members on their milestone achievements!

## Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- March financials, subject to audit
- Certification of director candidates for 2023 election
- Revisions to Board Policy 2.30, Director Compensation
- Operation Round Up (ORU) director appointments
- 2022 Audit report

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Directors and CEO Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative
- Quarterly reports

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Great River Energy (GRE) Power Cost Adjustment detail for March 2023
- ORU disbursements – Spring 2023
- Revisions to the ORU application
- Annual Meeting plans






The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.







CELEBRATE  
INDEPENDENCE DAY!  
**REGISTER TO VOTE.**

CO-OPS  VOTE

As we celebrate our country's freedom, let's also exercise our right to vote. Registering to vote is a simple way to make our voices heard on issues impacting our community. Learn more and check your registration status at [vote.coop!](http://vote.coop!) #CoopsVote

 **DID YOU KNOW?**    

Unlike other types of electric utilities, electric co-ops provide the majority of their power to homes rather than businesses.

## STAR Energy Services Inspection

Itasca-Mantrap contracted with STAR Energy Services to inspect our system assets for 2023. Their crews will conduct pole and cabinet inspections throughout Clay and Lake Emma townships!




**LINE INSPECTION**



JULY IS  
**GRILLING MONTH**

Save Energy By  
Cooking Outdoors



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



Source: energy.gov



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### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dist. 1 – Brian Behrens, Chair  
Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director  
Dist. 3 – Terrence Cook, Treasurer  
Dist. 4 – Al Czczok, Asst Sec-Treas  
Dist. 5 – Nancy M. Utke, Director\*  
Dist. 6 – Tim Kivi, Secretary  
Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair  
President-CEO – Christine Fox  
\*GRE Director Representative

Itasca-Mantrap is an equal opportunity provider and employer.