



# NEWSLINE



June 2022

## Itasca-Mantrap's 81st Annual Meeting on June 9, 2022

The 81st Annual Meeting will be held at the Park Rapids High School Thursday, June 9. Registration and dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. and the business meeting will follow at 6:45 p.m. Numerous door prizes will be awarded, and you must be present to win.

Itasca-Mantrap is owned and controlled by its members. Participate in your Cooperative by attending the meeting to learn important information about the past year, current information, and what lies ahead.

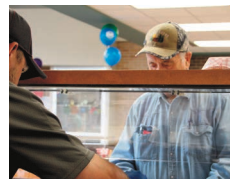
### LOCATION:

Park Rapids High School  
401 Huntsinger Ave, Park Rapids, MN 56470

### WIN PRIZES!

Door prize drawings will follow the business meeting. Present the card from the back cover of the Annual Meeting Booklet to be eligible for one of the two \$100 cash prizes.

**REMINDER:**  
**Mail in your voting ballots!**  
More voting information on page 4.



### WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UP TO **\$2,000** REBATE WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	<b>\$1,000</b>
≥ 9.0 HSPF	<b>\$2,000</b>
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 9.0 HSPF	<b>\$450</b>



Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. Get up to a \$2,000 rebate when you install one.

*Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts are subject to change without notice. Installed centrally ducted ASHPs must be separately metered & controlled and must be installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.*



## CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

The utility industry has coined the phrase "beneficial electrification" to refer to innovations in energy technologies that create

opportunities to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels such as propane, natural gas, and fuel oil, reducing overall emissions and energy costs. And this new phrase is causing quite a stir. You may even say a transformation.

Advancements in technology and battery power, coupled with quieter equipment and decreasing costs, are winning over consumers.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances such as electric stoves, induction stove tops, electric furnaces, and electric hot water heaters to increase efficiency and savings. The added benefit is peace of mind since the homeowner does not have to worry about carbon monoxide when using electricity.

More and more, tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric motors

utilizing rechargeable batteries that hold a charge longer than ever before. I know my DIYer husband would be lost without his battery-powered drill, saw, sander and other tools. In addition to these standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of tools and equipment including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. (But please do not tell my husband).

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert, and president of the Beneficial Electrification League (yes there is such a thing) notes that "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited – electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles. Today the number of electric products available is exploding. There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes – even airplanes and boats." Dennis goes on to say, "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market." I am looking forward to the day when electric boat motors are reasonably priced. The benefit is not having to mix the gas and oil or figure out how to choke the engine when starting it and

just be on the water and enjoy nature without any engine sounds or fuel fumes.

In addition, the use of electric appliances or equipment is increasingly better for the environment. By virtue of being plugged into the grid, the impact to the environment improves over time. If you have been reading my column, you are aware that our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), has enacted a plan to get us to 72 percent carbon-free by 2023. On May 2, they completed the first step in this journey by finalizing the sale of Coal Creek Station, one of their last coal burning plants. GRE and Itasca-Mantrap, by association, are doing our part!

Beneficial electrification accomplishes quite the hat trick – improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment. (Sounds like I should go out and buy more stuff – electric stuff to be specific - and no I am not being paid for this advertisement. I am just trying to inform.)

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!!



Operation Round Up grants were distributed to participants at Itasca-Mantrap on May 12, 2022.



## Operation Round Up Awards \$45,000

Thanks to the generosity of Itasca-Mantrap Members, the Itasca-Mantrap Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently awarded \$45,000 in Operation Round Up grants for 56 civic projects in the Itasca-Mantrap and surrounding area. Applications were received indicating a need of more than \$98,000. Because of limited funding, all requests could not be granted.

Operation Round Up, a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, is designed to provide financial assistance to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap. Since the program's inception in 2006, Operation Round Up and Itasca-Mantrap members have awarded more than \$1.1 million to local organizations.



The Operation Round Up Trust Board meets twice a year to select grant recipients from the applications received. The next application deadline is Thursday, September 15, 2022.

Akeley/Nevis Community Food Shelf	\$ 951	Nevis Women's Club	500
Armory Arts & Events Center	500	Northern Light Opera Co.	1,000
ASD Resource Room (ASD=Autism Spectrum Disorders)	350	Northwoods Art Council	500
Calvary Lutheran Church Hard Hat Ministry	1,500	Northwoods Wildlife Rescue	750
Central Minnesota Council, Boy Scouts	1,000	Osage Bait & Tackle Senior Nutrition Meals	2,000
Century Elementary EBD program	638	Park Rapids Area Gymnastics	1,000
EHCED	2,500	Park Rapids Area Library	500
Family Safety Network	700	Park Rapids Area Schools	
Hackensack Area Fire Rescue Dept.	1,000	Boys and Girls Golf Booster Club	750
Heartland Arts Inc.	500	Classroom Flexible Seating	250
Heartland Homes, Options in Community Living Inc.	1,000	Get 2nd Graders Moving	200
Helping Hands through Century PTA	750	Panther Pride & Behavioral Support	500
Heritage Community	1,000	Senior Slam	900
Hubbard County Historical Society	425	Social Emotional Learning	183
Kinship of the Park Rapids Area	1,500	Youth Baseball	500
Lakes Area Dive Team, Inc.	1,000	Park Rapids Clay Dusters	600
Living at Home of the Park Rapids Area	1,000	Park Rapids Farmers' Market	500
LSS of Minnesota/LSS Meals & Meals on Wheels/ Hubbard County	1,500	Park Rapids FFA Chapter	575
LSS of Minnesota/LSS Meals & Meals on Wheels/ Menahga	1,500	Park Rapids Fire Dept.	2,000
Nevis Lions Club	500	Park Rapids Senior Center	750
Nevis Public Schools		Park Rapids Water Ski Team	750
Hands on Math	1,500	Pine Point Elders White Earth Council of Elders	250
High School Volleyball Program	500	Pine Point School	
Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)	300	2nd grade - iPads in Culture	1,000
Post Prom 2022	900	2nd grade- Technology in Reading and Phonics	1,000
Reading and Literacy Intervention	1,000	3rd grade- Teaming Up With Technology	1,128
School Wellness	300	True Friends	1,000
Social Emotional Learning K-4	500	WE R Furr	500
Special Education Classroom (9th & 10th grade)	300		
Special Olympics	300		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>

## Meet the Board of Director Candidates

The following individuals filed the necessary paperwork and were certified as the duly nominated candidates for election at Itasca-Mantrap's 81st Annual Meeting on June 9.

**District 4** – Al Czeczok, incumbent, and Mark Andersen.

**District 5** – Nancy Utke, incumbent, elected by acclamation (see note below)

Voting information and ballots are included in the annual meeting notice mailed to each Member mid-May.

Note: Pursuant to Bylaw Article III, Section 3, "In the event there is only one candidate duly nominated for election to a Director position for a district, the single candidate nominated shall be deemed elected by acclamation as an unopposed candidate, ballots need not be provided by mail or electronically and no member voting shall be required for such uncontested Director position."

### DISTRICT 4 (Three-year Term)



**AL CZECZOK** (Incumbent)



**MARK ANDERSEN**

### DISTRICT 5 (Three-year Term)



**NANCY UTKE** (Incumbent)

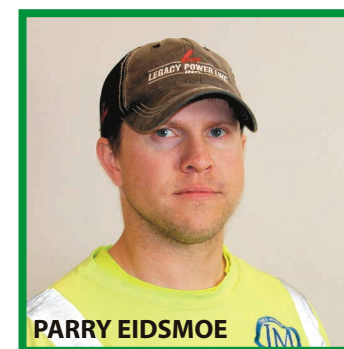
## Team Member News

Congratulations are in order for a few of our Team Members!

Casey Davis and Parry Eidsmoe were recognized for their dedicated years of service to Itasca-Mantrap. Casey has served Itasca-Mantrap members for 20 years and Parry has served our members for 15 years.

Also, congratulations are offered to Joe Sworski, Itasca Mantrap's vegetation management technician, on his completion of the Utility Specialist certification through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Joe is an ISA certified arborist and also holds the Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) certification.

Please congratulate these Team Members on their accomplishments!



### Laundry Tip:

Wash full loads to conserve energy.



## Limited Liability for Property Damage

Itasca-Mantrap makes every effort to provide reliable and dependable electricity. The cooperative installs equipment such as circuit reclosers, lightning arrestors and voltage regulators that are designed to help make the supply of electricity as dependable as possible. Itasca-Mantrap also has a vegetation management program that includes regularly scheduled right-of-way maintenance to support the line equipment.

However, in spite of taking these extra precautions to ensure a dependable supply of electricity is provided at a proper voltage, the co-op, or any utility, cannot provide perfect electric service at all times. It's beyond the control of Itasca-Mantrap to completely eliminate interruptions in electric service.

There are many factors beyond the control of the cooperative that can interfere with your electric supply. These factors include tree limbs that come in contact with electric lines; lightning finding its way to ground by way of the cooperative's utility system; animals and birds coming in contact with cooperative equipment, especially transformers; vehicles

crashing into utility poles; or a severe ice or snow storm. These factors are beyond the control of the cooperative and the cooperative cannot be held responsible for damages caused by such factors. Should you suffer damage to personal property due to the factors beyond the cooperatives' control, the cooperative is not legally liable for this damage. Itasca-Mantrap does carry liability insurance in the event that damage is sustained due to negligence on the cooperative's part.

If a power outage occurs, Itasca-Mantrap dispatches a crew to repair the damage and restore the electric service as soon as possible. Although power outages are inconvenient to co-op members, power outages do not typically damage appliances and other electrical items because electric power is only discontinued for a period of time. Electricity does not surge when the power is restored to the lines, and typically power surges are what damage electrical items.

There are steps that members can take to control losses due to electrical outages or power surges. Most home owner's insurance does not cover damage to personal property due to

a cause that occurs off the insured's property. You may want to see if such losses are covered, and if not, you may be able to add this coverage at an additional cost.

If you have an operation that would suffer extensive damage during a long power outage, you should consider a standby power system. Most standby systems could pay for themselves during just one extended power outage if your operation depends on electricity.

More and more members are installing electrical equipment that is extremely sensitive to just a minor variation in power supply. Home computers are the best example. You may consider adding special protective equipment that will ensure a constant and regulated power supply. This equipment can range from an inexpensive line filter that will eliminate most problems caused by electronic noise and static interference, to a more expensive device that provides an uninterruptible power supply.

Please contact Itasca-Mantrap for more information.





## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Follow us to stay updated on the latest!



## Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present. The Board took the following action.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda.
- February financials, subject to audit.
- Ron Ahmann for Operation Round Up director for District 4.

### Reports heard:

- Engineering Report by Mitch H., Star Energy
- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Changes to Administrative Policies
- Strategic Planning session

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

# HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY!

**Office will be closed  
MONDAY, JULY 4<sup>th</sup>**

## ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Phone: 218-732-3377 or 888-713-3377  
Fax: 218-732-5890  
E-mail: [itasca@itasca-mantrap.com](mailto:itasca@itasca-mantrap.com)  
[www.itasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com)



## GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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