



NEWSLINE



February 2020

Director Nominations Open

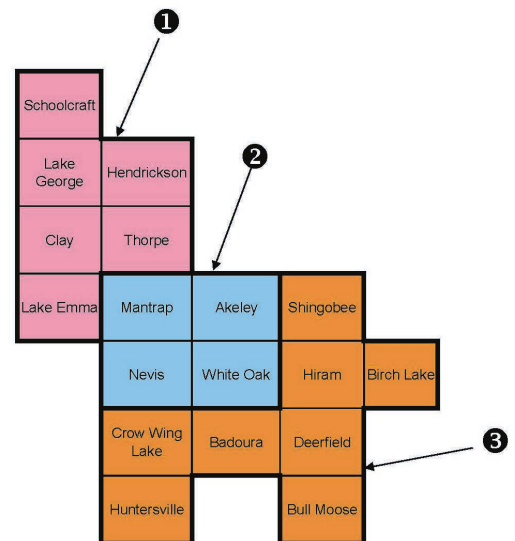
Directors will be elected at the Itasca-Mantrap Annual Membership Meeting on June 11. Nominations are open for director candidates who live in districts 1, 2 and 3. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all co-op Members. Nominees must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. For a full-text version of the bylaws, visit www.itsasca-mantrap.com or pick up a copy at our office.

Please call our office and request a director candidate packet if you are interested in becoming a candidate. The packet contains the nomination petition, forms and other information.

DISTRICT 1 – includes Clay, Hendrickson, Lake Emma, Lake George, Schoolcraft and Thorpe Townships in Hubbard County.

DISTRICT 2 – includes Akeley, Mantrap, Nevis and White Oak Townships in Hubbard County.

DISTRICT 3 – includes Birch Lake, Deerfield, Hiram, Shingobee Townships and the north 6 sections of Bull Moose Township in Cass County; Badoura Township and the east 30 Sections of Crow Wing Lake Township in Hubbard County; and the NE 15 sections of Huntersville Township in Wadena County.



Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 6.

Youth Tour: A Life-Changing Opportunity

Itasca-Mantrap is sponsoring one area high school student to attend this unforgettable all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 20-25, 2020. The contest is open to sophomores and juniors who live in the Itasca-Mantrap service area.

2019 Itasca-Mantrap Youth Tour Delegate Sierra Wroolie said this about her experience on the Youth Tour, "The Washington, D.C. Youth Tour was amazing! I met people who will be lifelong friends and had awesome experiences along the tour. I loved

every minute of the experience and would give anything to go back. Thank you Itasca-Mantrap!"

To be eligible for a chance to win, students must complete an application. Finalists will then be interviewed before a selection is made. Applications are available on our website, at our office, or from your high school counselor. Call the Itasca-Mantrap office for more information.

Applications must be received by March 16.



**2019 Youth Tour Delegate
Sierra Wroolie**



CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

As I was headed to the bank the other day, I heard an interview on the radio in which the interviewee was a college instructor

who was concerned about society's use of smart devices. She had challenged herself and her class to live a week without such devices. I did not hear the end of the interview, but it did get me thinking about how much we live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out information and advertising. We are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. Whatever happened to a two-way conversation? Is there anyone out there who is listening?

At Itasca-Mantrap, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you text us, respond to a survey

or social media post, send an email or stop by and chat, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Itasca-Mantrap exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. But, additionally, we have a mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope that you consider us more than your energy provider. We are a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people in it.

We create opportunities for you to attend co-op gatherings and events in order to hear from you. These include our annual meeting and our annual open house. We also conduct a survey to gather feedback so that we can plan for new initiatives, technical upgrades and improvements to existing co-op programs and services. We

have taken feedback from this survey and incorporated it into our strategy and our marketing plan. As a result of your answers to our survey, we can all look forward to some additional events (including an EV ride and drive), enhanced outage notifications (including text messaging) and much more.

Itasca-Mantrap works to continually learn from our members about your priorities. After all, we were built by the community for the community. We can improve, adapt and effectively plan if we have continual two-way communication. We depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. You can reach me directly at cfox@itasca-mantrap.com or contact any one of our member services representatives at 218-732-3377 or 888-713-3377. We are listening.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

2020 Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Rebates

Itasca-Mantrap has many Commercial & Industrial rebates available for 2020, including rebates for lighting, compressed air systems, ground source heat pumps, cooling, heating, ventilation, motors and more.

- Agricultural
 - Dairy-Free Heater
 - Dairy Plate Cooler (Well water pre-cooler)
 - Ventilation
 - Robotic Milking
- Building Studies & Benchmarking Programs
- Commercial Food Service
- Compressed Air
- Electric Forklift
- Lighting
- Motors/Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)
- Vending Machine Controls
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
 - Air Source Heat Pumps
 - Chillers
 - Economizers
 - Ground Source Heat Pumps
 - Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners
 - Rooftop Units

- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (cont'd)

- Small Commercial AC Tune-Up
- Split Systems
- Variable Air Volume
- Water Source Heat Pumps

Contact the Itasca-Mantrap office to see if your energy saving project qualifies for a rebate.



2020 Residential Member Rebates

Heating & Cooling

- **Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)***

14.5 SEER	\$500
15 SEER	\$650
16+ SEER	\$800

*Installed ASHPs must be separately metered and controlled and installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.

- **Air Conditioner or Air Source Heat Pump Tune-Up** \$25
- **Dual Fuel Heating Systems** (per kilowatt installed*) \$25/kW
*Installed dual fuel must be separately metered and controlled on the dual fuel program to qualify for a rebate.
- **Ductless Air Source Heat Pump** \$50
- **Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)** (per qualifying ECM*) \$50
*ECM must be part of a new HVAC system or a new ECM replacement on existing HVAC system to qualify for a rebate.
- **Ground Source Heat Pump*** (5 ton maximum per Member*)
Residential per ton \$400
- **Off-Peak Storage Space Heating** (per kilowatt installed*) \$100/kW
*Installed storage space heat must be separately metered and controlled on the off-peak program to qualify for a rebate.
- **Smart Thermostat** \$25

Water Heating

- **High-Efficiency Water Heating**

Storage Water Heating*	\$600
Peak Shave Water Heating**	\$300

*Installed water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a combined capacity of at least 100 gallons to qualify.

** Installed water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a combined capacity of at least 50 gallons to qualify.

Appliances & Lighting

- **ENERGY STAR® Appliances**

Refrigerator - replacement with proof of recycling	\$75
Freezer - replacement with proof of recycling	\$75
Dehumidifier	\$25

- **ENERGY STAR Lighting* (online only)**

LED Bulb	\$2/bulb
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*Rebate only available through online store at www.energywisemnstore.com

Team Member Spotlight

CASEY DAVIS

Job Title:

Engineering &
Operations
Technician

**Started at Itasca-
Mantrap:**

December 2001

Where I live: Park
Rapids, MN

Education/

Training: Lineworker School at Wadena Technical



KIM VREDENBURG

Job Title:

Accounting Clerk

How I serve the

Co-op: I assist with
accounts payable,
billing, and
member services.

**Started at Itasca-
Mantrap:**

September 2005

Where I live: Nevis, MN

Hometown: Park Rapids, MN

Education/ Training: Business Professionals of America
in High School, Attended MState Detroit Lakes

Prior Experience: Office Internship at Itasca-Mantrap

Why I like working at Itasca-Mantrap: Itasca-Mantrap
has brought me a lot of joy throughout the years. I would
not trade the people I work with for the world! We have
an awesome group here at Itasca-Mantrap.

Family: Married with one son & dog, Sophie

Hobbies: As a family we like to hunt, fish, play outside,
and go to our lake lot. I enjoy making cards, crafts,
upcycles, & most importantly, I adore making things for
other people.



Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired
\$17 billion to members since 1988 –
\$1.2 billion in 2018 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost,
any excess revenues (called margins)
are allocated and retired to members
in the form of capital credits.

*Source: National
Rural Utilities
Cooperative Finance
Corporation*



EASY WAY TO SAVE ENERGY

SEAL IN WARMTH

Close blinds and curtains
during the night to keep cold
air out. Open them during
the day to let sunlight in.



Energy Efficiency

Use less energy and lower your utility bill while meeting your daily energy needs with the following energy tips.

Adjust the temperature.

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10% savings by taking a few simple steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees.
- During warm weather,

the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees.

- Clean the filters of your HVAC system to cut costs up to 15%.
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping.

Shine the light on savings.

Incandescent light bulbs operate at only 25% energy efficiency.

Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star®-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Also save by turning lights off in empty rooms.

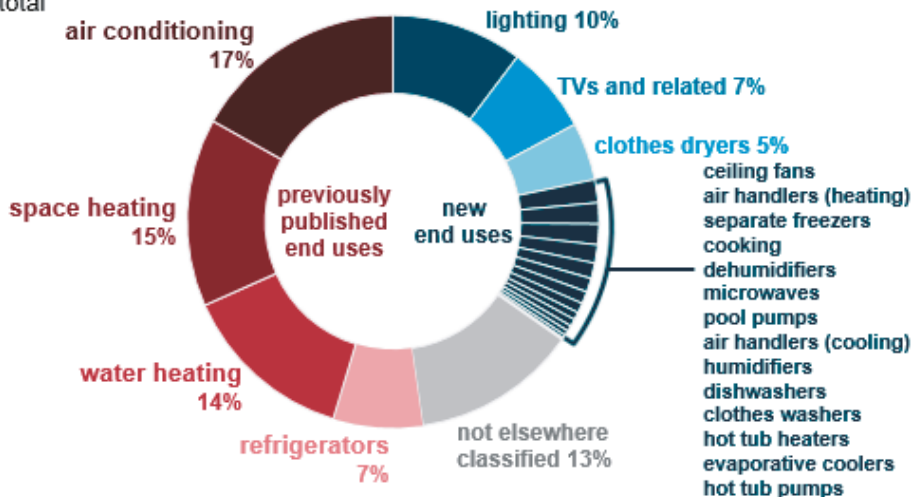
Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your water heater with an insulating blanket. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

Put cold hard cash back in your wallet.

Energy Star appliances use at least 15% less energy than non-qualified models and 20% less energy than required by current federal standards. Save energy and money by not keeping your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees for separate freezers.

Residential electricity consumption by end use, 2015
percent of total



Melvin "Mel" Noeske



January 22, 1923 – December 7, 2019

Itasca-Mantrap mourns the passing of former district 7 board director Melvin Noeske, a longtime resident of Osage. Mel was elected to the Itasca-Mantrap Board of Directors in 1970 and served as a board officer and on many committees until his retirement from the board in 2006.

Mel's 36 year commitment and service to Itasca-Mantrap, its members and the area are appreciated. Mel is survived by his son Lowell, daughter Marie, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many other relatives. Funeral services were held December 12 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Park Rapids.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently?

Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Team Member News

Myrna Baumgart (right) retired in January after more than 26 years as executive assistant for the President-CEO and recording secretary for the board of directors. She also was co-editor of the member newsletter and assisted the leadership team during her employment with Itasca-Mantrap.

Jackie Carroll (left) joined Itasca-Mantrap in December as Executive Assistant. She has been employed in the administrative support field for nearly 16 years. Prior to joining Itasca-Mantrap, Jackie served Bemidji State University in the Office of the President.

Jackie and Myrna worked together for over a month to facilitate a smooth transition of duties. Congratulations to both!



Electrical Substation Safety Tips



Teach youngsters to stay away from electrical substation fences — they are NOT for climbing.



Contact us if you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that is open or vandalized.



Never fly kites or drones near substations.



Never release metallic balloons near substations, which can cause outages when they contact power lines.

SmartHub App

Itasca-Mantrap's SmartHub online and mobile app provides many features that help you manage your account, from billing and payment information to detailed usage reports.

Upon opening the app, the usage reports and contact us buttons are right on the home screen. Outage and billing alerts will also be on the home screen, allowing ease of communication.



Pay your bill, check your electricity use, report an outage and more!

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

Email: itasca@itasca-mantrap.com

www.itasca-mantrap.com



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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