



# NEWSLINE



March 2021

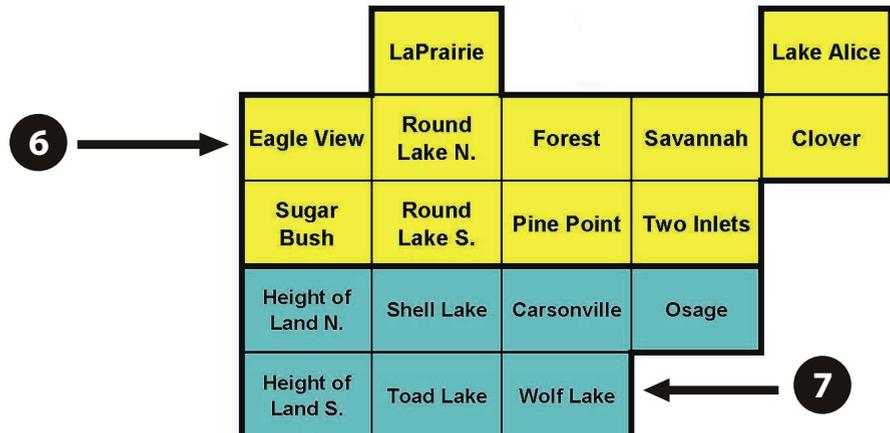
## DISCONNECTIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT WILL RESUME IN MARCH.

### Director Nominations Open in Districts 6 and 7

Nominations are open for director candidates who live in district 6 and district 7. Nominees must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Copies of the bylaws are available at [www.itsasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com) and at our office.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, call our office to request a director candidate packet. The packet contains the nomination petition form and other information.

**Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12.**



#### DISTRICT 6

Eagle View, Forest, Pine Point, Round Lake North, Round Lake South, Savannah, Sugar Bush and Two Inlets Townships in Becker County; Clover and Lake Alice Townships in Hubbard County; and LaPrairie Township in Clearwater County.

#### DISTRICT 7

Carsonville, Height of Land North, Height of Land South, Osage, Shell Lake, Toad Lake and Wolf Lake Townships in Becker County.

### Service Continues while Our Office Remains Closed

At Itasca-Mantrap, safety is our number one priority, for our members and for our team members. Your health and our team members' health are a significant part of that priority.

The Itasca-Mantrap office closed to the public on March 19, 2020, and continues to remain closed, to limit the potential person-to-person spread of COVID-19.

We encourage members to pay their utility bills by using one of the following options:

- Mail the payment (PO Box 192, Park Rapids, MN 56470)
- Pay online through SmartHub ([www.itsasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com))

- One-time online payment – Pay Now Button ([www.itsasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com))
- Drive-up drop boxes - located in the East end of our parking lot and in the alley of the Park Rapids Post Office
- Automated Payment by Phone: 218-732-3377

Our Member Services Department is on hand to handle co-op business over the phone. If you need to contact our office, please do so by emailing [itsasca@itsasca-mantrap.com](mailto:itsasca@itsasca-mantrap.com) or by calling 218-732-3377 or toll free 888-713-3377. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work through this process. Stay safe and stay healthy.

### Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options



Mail



SmartHub



Pay Now



Drive-up Drop Boxes



Auto Pay



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

If you are like most Americans, you are interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment.

But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the electric grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Itasca-Mantrap and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When Itasca-Mantrap takes advantage of technology advances in the production of electricity, those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

### Electricity is getting cleaner

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means

that you can benefit from the flexibility of the electric grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for its 10-year lifespan.

As Itasca-Mantrap taps into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

### Small steps to help the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, leaf blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of their electric counterparts, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

### How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Itasca-Mantrap is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the

market as they become available. We can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through programs like interruptible dual fuel service, off peak energy storage, and electric vehicle charging at a whole house time of use rate. In addition, through our SmartHub app, we offer our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use. To save you money, we also offer rebates for EnergyStar appliances, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps and more.

We care about our community because we live here too. I hope you will reach out to Itasca-Mantrap, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn more about ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for *all* of us.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Follow us to stay updated on the latest!



## Three Electrifying Kitchen Appliances to Save Time *and* Energy

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

**Air fryers** are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food—this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200+.



**Electric griddles** have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once—like a “one-pan”



meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your local retail stores.

Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a **pizza maker** for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are

multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150+ online or at your local retailer.



These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy. To learn about additional ways to save energy at home, visit our website at [www.itasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com).

### Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

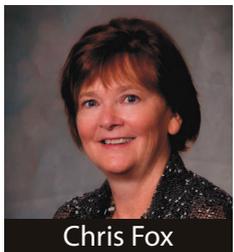
- Approved the consent agenda.
- Heard the Operations and Safety report and the Marketing and Member Services report
- November financials were received and filed subject to audit.
- CEO Christine Fox gave her monthly CEO report.
- Reviewed the 2021 Marketing Plan
- Approved the 2021 Financial Budget
- Approved changes to Itasca-Mantrap insurance policies
- Approved distribution of excess margins in the form of an \$85 Member credit and deferred revenue
- Signed an engagement letter with Brady Martz for the audit of 2020 records.
- Approved the Residential Renewable Energy Meter Rate (R197)
- Approved changes to Board policies.
- Appointed Director Cook as alternate delegate for the Minnesota Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting.
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

The March meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

# Employee Appreciation Day March 5, 2021

Thank You

for being awesome!



Chris Fox



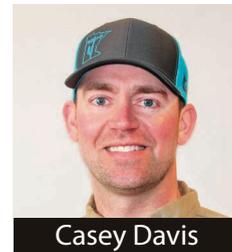
Aaron Tompkins



Alexia Isaacson



Beth Eischens



Casey Davis



Chad Grande



Chris Bungert



Dan Cox



Darin Ova



Esther Simon



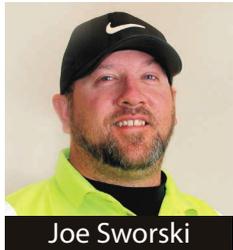
Jackie Carroll



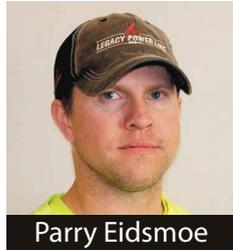
Jeff Weiss



Jerry Byer



Joe Sworski



Parry Eidsmoe



Kevin George



Kim Vredenburg



Tim Huwe



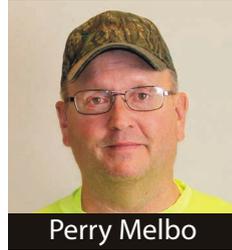
Mike Moen



Nikki Torkelson



Sue Zinniel



Perry Melbo



Rachel Hillukka



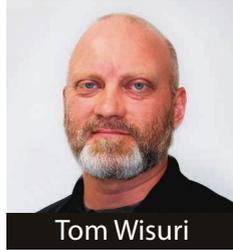
Randy George



Renee Anderson



Shanna Olsen



Tom Wisuri

Not Pictured: Kelly Pulju, Mike Kasperek.



**Itasca-Mantrap**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Capital Credits Paid to Members

There are many benefits that come with co-op membership, but perhaps one of the best benefits is capital credits.

What are capital credits? As a Member of Itasca-Mantrap, you invest in the efficient operation of Your Cooperative. Unlike an investor-owned utility, Itasca-Mantrap doesn't pay dividends or other amounts to shareholders who don't purchase electricity from us. Therefore, any excess revenue - or margins - is allocated back to the Members in the form of capital credits.

At the end of each year, Itasca-Mantrap calculates its operating margin, which is the amount by which operating income exceeded operating expenses during the year.

Itasca-Mantrap then allocates the excess margins as capital credits to each Member based on the amount of electricity purchased throughout the year. When the board of directors determines it is financially feasible, capital credits are retired - or paid

back to Members - in the form of a check.

In the interim, Itasca-Mantrap uses the allocated, but unretired, capital credits to improve and expand the electric system and meet other capital needs. This reduces the need to borrow money and helps provide reliable electric service.

Checks were issued in February totaling nearly \$950,000. The capital credits included Co-op Credits through 2003 and GRE Credits through 1990. Capital credit payments under \$10 are held until additional capital credits are paid.

Capital credits paid to Members, previous Members and estates, paired with the nearly \$950,000 distributed this February nets over \$1.1 million in capital credits paid to members for 2020.

To help ensure you receive your capital credits, please call to update your address each time you move.

## HOW DO CAPITAL CREDITS WORK?



Itasca-Mantrap tracks how much electricity you purchase throughout the year.

At the end of the year, Itasca-Mantrap completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.



Itasca-Mantrap allocates margins to Members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during that year.

When the co-op's financial condition permits, your board of directors decides to retire, or pay, the capital credits.



Itasca-Mantrap mails your capital credit check!

## The One Card That Does it All®.

Co-op Connections® Card



**Itasca-Mantrap**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



[www.itsasca-mantrap.com/content/co-op-connections](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com/content/co-op-connections)

## Apply for a Grant from Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up Grants will be awarded to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the region. Contributions will be distributed primarily in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap. Projects should fit one or more of these categories: Community Service, Education, Youth, Community Economic Assistance and the Environment.

To be considered at the April Trust Board meeting, grant applications must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by March 15.

Download the application form at [www.itsasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com).

Members that participate in the Operation Round Up Program have their monthly billing statement rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. Thank you to our members that choose to participate in this program. Your participation allows us to continue distributing grants to local organizations in need.

Itasca-Mantrap's Operation Round Up Program joins 28 other Minnesota electric cooperatives that participate in this program. These 28 cooperatives have distributed grants to local non-profit organizations totaling nearly \$5 million.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer.

Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

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



Manage your electric bill when it is convenient for you. Use the SmartHub app to access your account 24/7.

  
Wednesday, March 17  
**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**  
WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS A MEMBER!

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER**  
Don't forget to spring forward on March 14! Set your clocks forward by one hour.



**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