

MAPPING YOUR SAFETY LEARNING

By Lidia Dilley Jacobson, Director, Safety and Loss Control

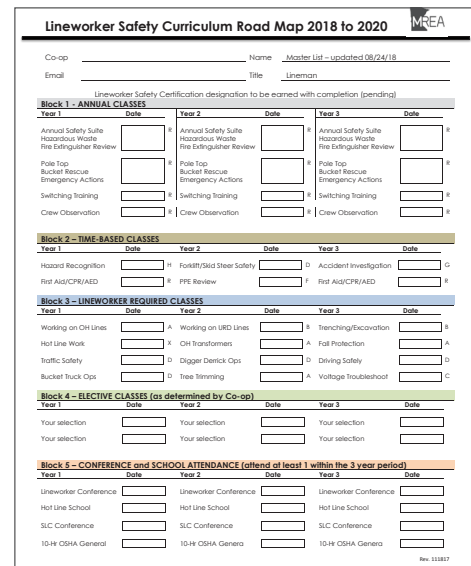
With over 100 safety training topics available from MREA, it can be difficult to understand, to know and be confident the right safety education is being met for your co-op. In working with each co-op, we help answer questions like:

- Are you completing the required annual safety education?
- Is it time for recertification in first aid, forklift safety, etc.?
- When was the last time you had training on accident investigation?
- Have you covered key overhead topics? Underground topics? Driving topics?

And, many more questions can surface. Our solution for guiding your co-op has been the implementation of the Lineworker Safety Curriculum Road Map.

We are in our second year of implementing this worksheet that maps lineworker safety education over a three-year period. It has proven to be beneficial in several ways.

- Ensures REQUIRED classes are scheduled and completed each year.
- Establishes a pattern so years don't go by without having had a core topic.
- When followed, covers the key parts of OSHA's 1910.269 standard.
- Can be customized to meet your specific co-op's needs.
- Can also be tracked for individual lineworkers.



The form is titled "Lineworker Safety Curriculum Road Map 2018 to 2020" and includes a header with the MREA logo. It contains fields for Co-op, Name, Email, Title, and a date stamp. The main body is divided into five sections: Block 1 - ANNUAL CLASSES, Block 2 - TIME-BASED CLASSES, Block 3 - LINEMAN REQUIRED CLASSES, Block 4 - ELECTIVE CLASSES (as determined by Co-op), and Block 5 - CONFERENCE and SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (attend at least 1 within the 3 year period). Each section contains a grid of checkboxes and input fields for tracking completion over three years.

Because safety is for everyone, we are also working on curriculum maps for field services and office employees. These safety road maps, along with the safety competency tracking sheet, help us work together to provide purposeful and relevant education now and in the future. Why? I'll answer with a quote from Herbert Spencer. "The great aim of education is not knowledge but action." Action is what we seek; it is what strengthens our safety culture. It's through our actions, that we set the standard of safety at our co-ops each day.

MREA ANNUAL MEETING

February 18-20, 2019 InterContinental Hotel, St. Paul

Monday, February 18 – Co-op Education Options (pre-conference)

- NRECA BLC 975.1 Capital Credits Issues and Decisions
- 2-Hour Deep Dive & Director-Focused Sessions:
 - Deep Dive 1: Easements 9:00-11:30
 - Deep Dive 2: Broadband 1:00-3:30

Tuesday, February 19 – Annual Meeting Day 2

- Legislative Leadership Panel (moderated), Broadband Coalition, Federal Policy Update 8:00-10:45
- Grassroots Visits to Capitol. Schedule in the afternoon
- MREA is inviting your state legislators to our reception from 5:00-6:30pm

Wednesday, February 20 – Annual Meeting Day 3:

- Official Business Meeting and guest speaker Adam Schwartz 8:30-noon

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR DETAILED AGENDA AND ONLINE REGISTRATION.



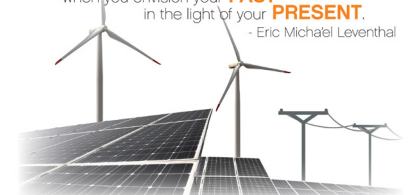
Minnesota Rural Electric Association

ANNUAL MEETING

February 18-20, 2019 InterContinental Hotel, St. Paul, MN



You invoke a new **FUTURE** when you envision your **PAST** in the light of your **PRESENT**.
- Eric Michael Leventhal



WHAT IS REMA?

By Melissa Stachovich, Director of Finance and Administration



REMA stands for the Rural Electric Management Association and was formed over 34 years ago to provide education and training for MREA members. Prior to 2012, REMA was a standalone entity until the REMA CEO and MREA boards approved for REMA to become a subsidiary under MREA with the emphasis that REMA would continue to operate as it has historically while carrying out the vision of MREA of preparing members for success in an evolving industry. REMA has five sections: CEOs, Finance Managers, Member Services, Line Superintendents, and Engineers

and Operations. Each section has an advisory committee made up of members from MREA's seven districts. The advisory members help plan, guide and lead the eleven REMA events each year. REMA continues to operate with a separate dues structure from MREA. Section dues for 2019 are \$385. Paying dues for individual sections gives each cooperative member one registration at each of the conferences for that section.

CHRISTINE FOX NAMED ITASCA-MANTRAP CEO

The Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association Board of Directors has hired Christine Fox as its new president and CEO. Fox's duties as CEO began January 7, 2019. She replaced Mike Monsrud, who retired after 13 years with the cooperative. The board's national search resulted in a large number of candidates and an extensive round of interviews concluded that Fox was the best person to lead the cooperative.

Fox has served as chief financial officer at Itasca-Mantrap since 2014. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Cloud State University, a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from the University of St. Thomas and is also a certified public accountant.

"I'm honored to have been selected as the next CEO of Itasca-Mantrap," said Christine Fox. "Having worked at Itasca-Mantrap the past four years, I know the strength of a local cooperative is that it works with other cooperatives nationwide to develop

new technologies and infrastructure, learns from each other and keeps the grid secure. I look forward to leading a community focused electric cooperative that works efficiently to deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our consumer members. I feel fortunate to live and work in such a beautiful community." Prior to joining Itasca-Mantrap, Fox held various management positions in the manufacturing field.



Nancy Utke, Itasca-Mantrap board chair, stated, "We are very fortunate to be in a position to promote Christine to CEO. She is exceedingly familiar with the financials of the cooperative, and with her past management experience, she will hit the ground running. We look forward to working with Christine in her new role and believe she will make a great CEO!"

HAL HALPERN NAMED CEO & GENERAL MANAGER OF COOPERATIVE LIGHT & POWER

Hal Halpern was named CEO and general manager of Cooperative Light & Power, Two Harbors, effective January 7, 2019. Halpern previously was the chief strategic advisor at Westell, a provider of high-performance network infrastructure.

Halpern was educated as a physicist at the City University of New York and grew up in a cooperative for 15 years. When his family first moved into the cooperative there were fewer than 100 families and the co-op membership grew to more than 5,000 families.

Hal was the CEO of Fiber-Span, a manufacturer of RF ON FIBER communication network products for in-building, in-

tunnel, and outdoor coverage extension systems responsible for saving countless lives. Hal was also CEO of Lightguide Communications where his team was responsible for over one million electric and broadband new builds and upgrades.

Hal intends to apply his considerable experience and innovation skills at Cooperative Light & Power to help the cooperative consider offering fast speed broadband, telecom, renewable energy and other innovative services.



REMEMBERING BOB BERGLAND

By Shari Wormwood, Communication Specialist

Bob Berglund, an electric cooperative leader, passed away at the age of 90 on December 9, 2018. His life is a picture of devotion to the farmer and rural America. He served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, a Congressman, and NRECA Executive Vice President and General Manager from 1984 to 1994.

Berglund saw the birth of Rural Electrification in 1935 and became a front runner for Minnesota's farm economy. After taking farming courses at the University of Minnesota and giving farming a try, he turned to carpentry work and then took an administrative position with the USDA. He eventually returned to farming despite the stagnant agriculture climate at the time.¹

From 1971 to 1977 he served three terms in Congress serving Minnesota District 7 and is credited for shepherding the Farm Act of 1977 to passage.²

When Jimmy Carter, a rural Georgian farmer, was elected in 1977 he nominated Berglund as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From there, he successfully led NRECA for 10 years bringing these programs we depend on today:

- The creation of Cooperative Benefit Administrators in 1984
- The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative in 1986
- The National Economic Developers Association in 1989
- Homestead Funds in 1990
- Congressional adoption of the Rural Utilities Service, successor to the Rural Electrification Administration, in 1994.²

While at NRECA, Berglund said, "The main objective is to take the lead in solving environmental problems by showing that electricity is an important part of the solution. A number of benefits will be seen for our industry, but one of the most important is that we will increase the desirability of electricity for our consumers."²

In response to this quote published by NRECA in Electric Cooperative News, Jared Echternach, CEO of Beltrami Electric Cooperative said, "Berglund, was speaking 25 years ago about beneficial electrification...the very premise upon which we now seek legislative reform. Mr. Berglund's legacy will live on in the work we do today."



Bob Berglund stands near photos and other memorabilia from his time on the Carter administration at his home in Roseau.

In his farewell address at NRECA's 52nd Annual Meeting in New Orleans in 1994, Berglund predicted the broadening mission of electric co-ops as "old-time REA champions retired," but said the motivations of co-ops would remain "family, church, community, honesty, integrity, caring...those are the things you do every day and those are the reasons why I've enjoyed this job enormously."²

Berglund was inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame in 1994 and received the Clyde Ellis Award, the highest honor bestowed on an individual by America's electric cooperatives.²

After retiring, he returned to his farmstead in Roseau, Minn. Tracy Stoll, Roseau Electric Cooperative said, "Mr. Berglund was always concerned with the rural cooperative member. In recent years, Mr. Berglund's attendance at Roseau Electric Cooperative's annual meeting along with visits with management served to remind us of the value of the cooperative business model. His presence and input will be missed!"

¹ <https://www.twincities.com/2018/12/19/ed-lotterman-bob-berglunds-life-encompassed-revolution-in-agriculture/>

² <https://www.electric.coop/bob-berglund-usda-nreca-leader-dies-90/>

CO-OPS, STAKEHOLDERS JOIN FORCES AT ELECTRIFY MINNESOTA EVENT

By Gary Connett, Beneficial Electrification League

It was standing room only in a conference room at Great River Energy's Maple Grove office as nearly 100 people representing electric cooperatives, environmental advocacy groups as well as vendors turned out to learn more about a topic they all have a vested interest in: beneficial electrification.

The event was sponsored by the Beneficial Electrification League – chaired by Gary Connett, who was formerly Great River Energy's

director of member services and marketing – and supported by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Minnesota Rural Electric Association and Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation.

Beneficial electrification is the application of electricity to end-uses that would otherwise consume fossil fuels (think electric vs. gas vehicles) and satisfies at least one (continued on next page)

ELECTRIFY MINNESOTA EVENT (CONTINUED)



Ellen Anderson of the Minnesota Energy Storage Alliance speaks to attendees of the Electrify Minnesota event

Groups attending the event contend that electrifying parts of the economy is necessary to achieve carbon emissions reduction goals worldwide. This is possible due to declining emissions from electricity generation as utilities, which continue to become more efficient and incorporate more renewable sources of energy into their power supply portfolios.

The meeting fostered conversation from panel participants such as Connexus Energy CEO Greg Ridderbusch, Michael Noble of Fresh Energy and Ellen Anderson of the Minnesota Energy Storage Alliance about electrification opportunities in Minnesota. Another panel discussion focused on the variety of residential, commercial and industrial beneficial electrification technologies that can meet the needs of consumers and utilities.

of the following without adversely affecting the others:

- Saves consumers money over the long term
- Benefits the environment
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Improves the overall efficiency of the grid

“Beneficial electrification can provide a number of benefits to our members and the state of Minnesota, and this event brought many thought leaders together to discuss how it can be effectively integrated into our state energy policies,” said Jeff Haase, Great River Energy leader, member technology and innovation.

GRASSROOTS ACTIVITY AMONG YOUR 2019 RESOLUTIONS?

By Darrick Moe, MREA President and CEO, Joyce Peppin, Director of Government Affairs and General Counsel, Jenny Glumack, Manager of Legislative Affairs

While taking down your Christmas tree and nailing down your 2019 resolutions, we encourage you to think about how you can help meet the legislative challenges the cooperative family will be facing in the new year. The November elections resulted in a new majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives, which means new leadership for that body. They haven't decided on their energy priorities yet, but we've heard them express a desire for Minnesota to be a national leader in energy and environmental policies. The Senate will be turbulent, with the majority holding only a one vote advantage and members weighing positions as they contemplate the 2020 elections.

The new Chair of the Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Committee, Rep. Jean Wagenius, visited the MREA Board in December. This provided an opportunity to visit about what is important to co-ops and our members. She noted it was too early to discuss specific bills, but made clear she will continue to prioritize energy policy that is responsive to her environmental concerns.

The bipartisan nature of our issues and efforts is more important than ever. Thankfully, we have deep roots and good friends in both parties. It promises to be a legislative session that will require substantial work across parties, and more importantly across our membership, to be as successful as possible. While MREA works hard at the legislature, the source of our strength lies in the unity of effort and engagement of our grassroots network across the state.

We continue to work in partnership with the municipals on CIP reform legislation. We are seeking a path forward with as broad a base of support as possible, which is critical to the effort. During the joint cooperative and municipal team meeting on Dec. 19, the

group planned next steps in negotiating with stakeholders and in furthering developing bill language. We appreciate the time and talents of the CEOs and G&T representatives continuing to work on this priority. While we remain committed to proposing meaningful reforms, the likelihood of success is unclear.

Get prepared and get started. Looking at news around the country regarding higher renewable energy standards and other significant measures in the context of our legislative landscape raises alarm. If you have a new legislator, start building a relationship. If your legislator doesn't know a lot about rural electric cooperatives, it is a good time for another visit. Think about how you can help – the cooperative family will need to be at the top of our game and fully engaged.

If you'd like assistance from MREA or have information to share from meetings with legislators, please let us know.

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LEARN, DEVELOP AND CONNECT

WITH MREA TRAINING AND EVENTS IN 2019

Have you started circling, highlighting or better yet, registering for the MREA events you plan to attend this year? While the latest events are always online, we also make it a priority, before the end of each year, to provide the membership with our calendar of events featuring our education and training programs.

With 83 events and trainings plus seven trade shows, there's something for every member. You'll see plenty of what you've come to expect, MREA's upcoming events include:

- REMA conferences
- Lineworker conference, hotline schools and hands-on equipment training
- Four DG interconnection process trainings
- Employee networks
- A full slate of director training
- Leadership training

We continue to build in new and requested educational opportunities to adapt and prepare members for the dynamic nature of our evolving industry. Here are some highlights:

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE: JANUARY 23 (BRAHAM)

This newly added network group is for co-op employees only, specifically for forestry services personnel and those responsible for vegetation management, including engineering, operations and line superintendents.

LINeworker TRAINING CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW: JANUARY 23-25 (ALEXANDRIA)

We're at a new location, which will offer more of a conference feel with outdoor evening fun featuring snowmobiling and ice fishing. We're planning an indoor equipment display at the trade show and a new "Tool Time" session on Friday morning, where vendors will safely demonstrate unique tools.

MREA LEGAL SEMINAR: JUNE 11 (MAPLE GROVE)

Every other year we feature a legal seminar. This is an exclusive opportunity for electric cooperative attorneys or co-op staff to share information and get an in-depth overview of hot topics and current challenges in the utility industry affecting Minnesota and nationwide.

14TH ANNUAL BURN CENTER BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT: JULY 26 (BECKER)

Online registration is now open to golfers and/or sponsorships. Pass the word along for this wonderful cause.

COMING UP THIS MONTH...

DATE	SEMINAR	LOCATION
January 16	REMA Member Services pre-con: DG interconnection process training	Hilton Mpls/St. Paul Airport MOA
January 16-18	REMA Member Services winter conference and trade show	Hilton Mpls/St. Paul Airport MOA
January 17	DG interconnection process training	Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.
January 18	District 1 meeting	Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.
January 22	DG interconnection process training	People's Energy Cooperative
January 22-24	NRECA Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) summit	Courtyard Marriott, Maple Grove
January 23	Vegetation management roundtable	East Central Energy
January 23-25	Lineworker conference and trade show	Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria
January 28-30	Winter DC legislative visit	Washington, D.C.
January 30-31	Leadership training: module 2	Kandiyohi Power Cooperative

