



# NEWSLINE



Touchstone Energy®  
The power of human connections

April 2023



## CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

**Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 10**

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 10, Itasca-Mantrap, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays,

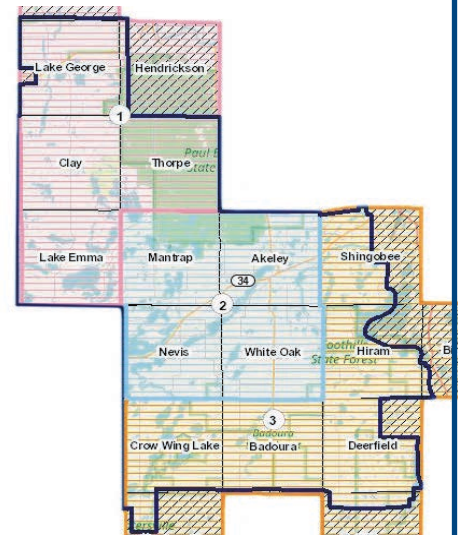
vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Itasca-Mantrap is proud to honor the lineworkers that maintain more than 2,000 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Itasca-Mantrap invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 10, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.

## Deadline for Director Candidates is April 14

Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates for our Board of Directors in Districts 1, 2, and 3. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting on June 13.



Our office will be closed

*Friday, April 7*





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

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous

jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air while wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm for this hazardous and unforgiving profession. But electric line workers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to meeting the challenges of the job and doing it safely.

Itasca-Mantrap's line workers are responsible for keeping the power on day and night. To perform their jobs safely, line workers depend on their years of training and experience. Beyond the specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good line worker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of line

workers. The job requires them to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

It takes a special person to be a lineman, but it takes special people at home to provide a strong support system. A line worker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. They realize that national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones do not necessarily take precedence when a storm or major outage is occurring. Line workers willingly sacrifice these occasions to serve the needs of our members.

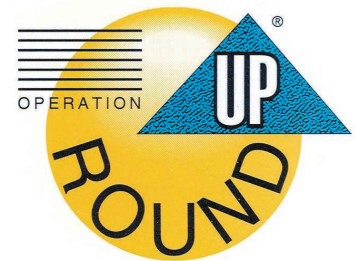
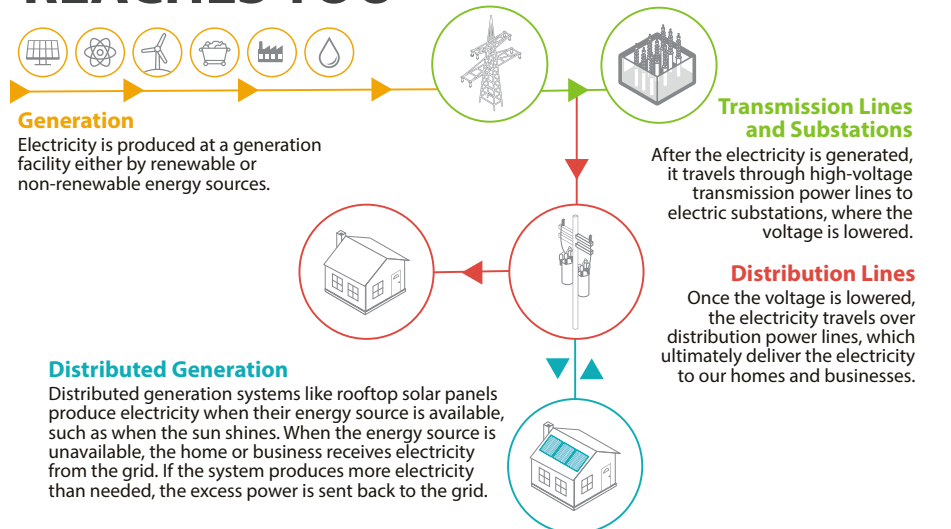
This service goes beyond their work for the co-op. In our area and across the country, line workers are committed to helping others. Line workers are often familiar figures in their communities. You can find them coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, and serving on local advisory boards. At Itasca-Mantrap, we have several coaches and volunteers on staff.

I can't even begin to express my deeply felt appreciation for our line workers. That's why I'm thrilled we have a National Line Worker Appreciation Day. On Monday, April 10, or any day really, if you happen to see one of Itasca-Mantrap's line workers (or one of their family members) out in the community, please take the opportunity to express your gratitude for them and for all they sacrifice for us.

Finally, I would be remiss not to express my appreciation to all the Itasca-Mantrap Team Members. I believe I have the best team ever, and I hope that any/all of your interactions with our team members have left you feeling the same way.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!!

## HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



Your continued support of the Operation Round Up® program to help local civic and charitable organizations is appreciated.

**Thank you!**

# Shop local with Co-op Connections!

Don't forget your Co-op Connections card when you are out shopping locally! Simply show your Co-op Connections card at any local participating business to save. Participating businesses have a Co-op Connections sticker on the business' door or cash register. This free program is one more way you benefit from being a cooperative member.

Co-op Connections® Card



|   |                     |  |
|---|---------------------|--|
| <b>Abigail's Attic Antiques, Collectables &amp; New Gifts</b> ..... | <b>612-720-8833</b> | <b>5%-10% off store wide, excluding new gifts</b>  |
| <b>Amish Oak &amp; Americana Furnishings</b> .....                  | <b>218-732-9544</b> | <b>10% off storewide, non-sale</b>   |
| <b>Aune's Kauppala Gifts &amp; Collectibles</b> .....               | <b>218-573-2520</b> | <b>5% off storewide, non-sale items</b>  |
| <b>Aunt Belle's Confectionery</b> .....                             | <b>218-732-7019</b> | <b>10% off any regularly priced item</b>   |
| <b>Beagle and Wolf Books &amp; Bindery</b> .....                    | <b>218-237-2665</b> | <b>10% off one Midwest Connections pick</b>  |
| <b>Bella Caffé</b> .....  | <b>218-732-7625</b> | <b>Free flavor in coffee drink</b>   |
| <b>Beyond Juice</b> .....   | <b>218-732-0422</b> | <b>10% off</b>   |
| <b>Brothers Self Storage</b> .....                                  | <b>218-255-7057</b> | <b>10% off any size unit or 15% off 10x10 unit (1 year term limit)</b>   |
| <b>Character Challenge Course</b> .....                             | <b>218-760-8442</b> | <b>Buy 1 combo package (\$50), get \$20 discount towards second</b>  |
| <b>Citizens National Bank</b> .....                                 | <b>218-732-3393</b> | <b>\$50 in Chamber Bucks for one originated Consumer Loan; \$20 deposit in your account after opening E-Checking account</b> |
| <b>Dorset Corner Liquor</b> .....                                   | <b>218-732-1770</b> | <b>10% discount on wine purchase, excluding sale items</b>   |
| <b>Ecowater Systems</b> .....                                       | <b>218-732-4332</b> | <b>1 year supply of salt with purchase of a new residential water softener &amp; reverse osmosis system together</b>         |
| <b>Evergreen Gifts &amp; Fun Park</b> .....                         | <b>218-732-9609</b> | <b>5% off any purchase</b>   |
| <b>Flying W Gardens</b> .....                                       | <b>218-732-9782</b> | <b>10% off trees, shrubs &amp; perennials, non-sale only</b>   |
| <b>Haas Printing, Inc.</b> .....                                    | <b>218-732-1430</b> | <b>10% off on color copies</b>   |
| <b>Hafner's Greenhouse</b> .....                                    | <b>218-732-8033</b> | <b>10% off storewide, non-sale items</b>   |
| <b>Jerry's Budget Auto</b> .....                                    | <b>218-732-8809</b> | <b>10% off service and repair on small engines</b>   |
| <b>Kathy's on Main</b> .....  | <b>218-366-2231</b> | <b>10% off any one regularly priced item</b>   |
| <b>Lyle's Shoes</b> .....   | <b>218-237-7777</b> | <b>10% off all in-stock items</b>  |
| <b>Max Bailey Photography</b> .....                                 | <b>218-732-7979</b> | <b>10% off original print order</b>  |
| <b>Minnesoda Fountain</b> .....                                     | <b>218-732-3240</b> | <b>10% off total purchase, cannot be combined with other discounts, not valid on sale items</b>                              |
| <b>Orton's Holiday Menahga</b> .....                                | <b>218-564-4545</b> | <b>5 cents off per gallon</b>  |
| <b>Orton's Cenex Park Rapids</b> .....                              | <b>218-237-2220</b> | <b>5 cents off per gallon</b>  |
| <b>Owl's Nest Resort</b> .....                                      | <b>218-252-2105</b> | <b>10% off weekly rate</b>   |
| <b>Park Rapids Auto Centre</b> .....                                | <b>218-732-7210</b> | <b>5% off parts and labor</b>  |
| <b>Park Rapids Building Supply &amp; Rental</b> .....               | <b>218-732-7633</b> | <b>5% off, non-sale items</b>  |
| <b>Pixie Point Resort</b> .....                                     | <b>218-652-2342</b> | <b>10% off</b>   |
| <b>Quietwoods Resort, LLC</b> .....                                 | <b>218-675-6240</b> | <b>10% off new lodging and camping reservations</b>  |
| <b>Rapids Spirits Liquor Store</b> .....                            | <b>218-732-0998</b> | <b>10% off wine purchase, may not be used with other discounts</b>   |
| <b>Smokey Hills Outdoor Store</b> .....                             | <b>218-237-5099</b> | <b>25% discount on any live bait</b>   |
| <b>Strandell Kennels</b> .....                                      | <b>218-652-6502</b> | <b>5% off training service &amp; puppy purchase, \$3 off daily boarding services (limit 2 days)</b>                          |
| <b>Summerhill Adventures</b> .....                                  | <b>218-760-8442</b> | <b>Purchase one admission ticket to the Back 40, get the second one 1/2 price. (\$10 limit per group.)</b>                   |
| <b>Tamarac Resort &amp; Campground</b> .....                        | <b>218-573-3262</b> | <b>5% off five-day stay or more</b>  |
| <b>The Flower Boutique</b> .....                                    | <b>218-237-7449</b> | <b>15% off storewide</b>   |
| <b>The Wild's Resort &amp; Campground</b> .....                     | <b>218-573-3515</b> | <b>15% off</b>   |
| <b>Tim Parker Family Glass</b> .....                                | <b>218-237-2300</b> | <b>10% off all windshields</b>   |

**Utke's Country Pine Furnishings** ..... 218-732-3860

**Warnick's Janitorial Service** ..... 218-732-5019

**3rd Street Market** ..... 218-732-9063

**5% off in-stock merchandise. Present card at time of purchase**

**20% discount on any service, excluding house cleaning**

**Free coffee with purchase of a pie**

*Deals subject to change. Visit [www.itasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com) for more information. Contact our office for a card.*

## Inflation Reduction Act

Maybe you've heard of the Inflation Reduction Act. If you haven't, you probably will as the year goes by. Many details are still in development, but if you are building a new home, remodeling, considering replacing your heating or cooling system, or buying an electric car, you'll want to look into the Inflation Reduction Act.

Starting in 2023, homeowners and business owners can take advantage of various tax credits and rebates to make energy-efficiency improvements to their homes and businesses. Some programs are income-based, while others are tax credits.

Later this year, you may want to consider the provisions of the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act, which will provide upfront discounts on a variety of home improvement projects such as electric service upgrades, electric vehicle chargers, electric stoves, heat pumps, windows, doors, insulation, and more.

Other elements of the Inflation Reduction Act provide tax credits for rooftop solar, residential energy storage, and new and used electric cars, just to name a few.

We encourage you to check out the websites below to see how you can benefit from the various rebates and tax credits for energy efficiency improvements. Your local accountant is also a good resource on the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 | Internal Revenue Service (irs.gov)  
<https://www.irs.gov/inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>
- Department of Energy  
<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/inflation-reduction-act-2022-what-it-means-you>
- CERTS – The Inflation Reduction Act: What you need to know  
<https://www.cleanenergyresourcetteams.org/inflation-reduction-act-what-you-need-know>



## Volunteers needed for GreenTouch!

We are looking for volunteers to help ready Itasca State Park for visitor season! We will meet at the park Saturday, May 6 at 8:00 a.m. and serve a free lunch around noon. No park pass is required that day.

Volunteers are needed for pruning, transplanting trees and shrubs, installing tree cages, high pruning, removing bud caps, raking and various other projects.

Volunteers can RSVP by calling Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 1-888-713-3377.



*Pictured: Volunteers from a previous GreenTouch Event hosted by Itasca-Mantrap.*

## Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



**April is National Safe Digging Month.**

## Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent Agenda
- December financials, subject to audit
- General retirement of capital credits through 2005 and Great River Energy (GRE) capital credits through 2000 for approximately \$1,199,367.17, not including estate retirements.
- Bill credits for capital credit payments under \$100.
- Updated deferred revenue for 2022 to \$3 million based on updated excess margins at year-end.
- Approved the preparation of applications to the USDA for grant and loan funding.
- Amendment to the GRE Purchase Power Contract.

### Reports Heard:

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

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Great River Energy (GRE) PCA detail for December 2022
- Project presentation by Knute-Nelson

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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Source: energy.gov

# APPS & AMPS



Let's talk watts! We invite you to join us at Ice Cracking Lodge in Ponsford to enjoy delicious appetizers, and powerful conversation. Learn more about the benefits of being a member and receiving your power from Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative.

**DATE: Thursday, May 11**

**TIME: 5:30 P.M.**

**WHERE: Ice Cracking Lodge**

RSVP by Friday, May 5 if you plan to attend.

## SmartHub App

The SmartHub online and mobile app help you manage your account by providing many features including, but not limited to:

- Billing & Payment Information
- Outage Reporting
- Quick, Easy Communication
- Billing Alerts
- Detailed Usage Reports



### 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, 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.