



# NEWSLINE



Touchstone Energy®  
The power of human connections

May 2023

Join Us For Our

## ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

### New location this year:



Itasca-Mantrap Office  
16930 County 6, Park Rapids

11:30 AM - REGISTRATION & LUNCH  
12:15 PM - BUSINESS MEETING

### Volunteer 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.



### Tyler Officer Selected as Youth Tour Representative

Itasca-Mantrap has named Tyler Officer as its 2023 Youth Tour Representative. Tyler, a sophomore at Park Rapids High School, will represent Itasca-Mantrap on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 13-18 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Tyler will join hundreds of youth representing electric cooperatives from across the United States in Washington, D.C. to learn more about our nation's rich political history, see American government in action, and tour famous

historical monuments. Students will also meet with legislators and learn more about the importance of electric cooperatives.

Tyler was selected based on his personal achievements and community involvement. He is involved in activities including baseball, trap team, and student council. He is the son of Todd Officer and RaNae Doll.





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

Happy May Day!!!  
As I am writing this on March 30th with the weather predicted to be barely above freezing and 13 inches of snow in

the forecast, I am looking forward to **May** showers bringing May flowers. May is the time of year when we get into full swing with our construction season. It is also the time when all of us "rise out of hibernation" and start work on our own projects. As such, I thought perhaps some safety reminders are in order.

As you work on your own projects:

- Remember to call before you dig! Dial 811 to request a locator to your dig site. They will ensure everything is well marked so you can avoid digging into any dangerous cables. This locating service is paid by Itasca-Mantrap and is free to the public.
- If you have a tree trimming project, remember to locate our overhead lines to make sure there is plenty of clearance. If the tree stands near our lines or appears it may fall close to them, please call us, we would be happy to do the trimming for you. This, again, is a free service for our members.
- If you have a project that entails moving our meter or our lines, even if temporarily, do not

attempt to move them on your own. Call us. There may be a minimal cost to you depending on your needs.

- If your project involves a delivery of sand or dirt, please be sure to check for clearance from our overhead lines. The height of the truck as it is dumping is such that it will hit our line if there is not sufficient clearance. This also applies to other tall trucks and equipment. Are you pouring concrete or building a tree stand? Watch out for our lines!
- If you need any electrical work, be sure to call a licensed electrician. At the very least, shut off the electricity at the breaker box before starting your project.
- In general, keep electrical safety in mind as you work to complete that list of projects you have been dreaming about all winter long.

As you encounter our linemen working around our service territory:

- Please stay clear of their work area. You never know what hazards they are working with.
- If our utility truck is stopped along the road, we ask you to please move to the other lane and allow us some room (did you know this is a state law?).
- Please be patient during power outages. Although we are as eager as you are to get the power back on, we are committed to safety first.

Above all, remember electricity is extremely dangerous.

- If you see a downed line, report it to us immediately and stay clear. Remember the ground may be just as dangerous as touching the wire.
- If you are in a car accident and a line is touching the vehicle, stay inside the vehicle until we shut off the power. If there is danger of the vehicle starting on fire, be sure to jump as far as you can from the vehicle landing on both feet at once and shuffle away from the scene.

Itasca-Mantrap has had a great safety record. We would all like to keep it that way. So my advice to you, as we all gear up for project season is to be careful around electricity. It is dangerous.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Follow us to stay updated on the latest!



# 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 on attending.



Only use light bulbs that meet (or are below) the maximum wattage listed on the lamp or fixture. Exceeding the maximum wattage can cause overheating and potential fire hazards.

Safety starts with you.

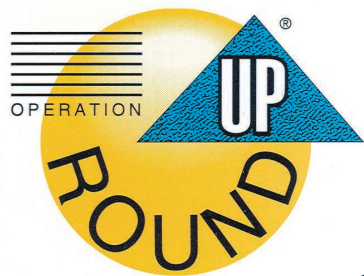
**MAY IS ELECTRICAL  
SAFETY MONTH**

## OUTAGE TEXTING

Text 'OUT' to 888-713-3377 to report an outage.

Text 'STATUS' to 888-713-3377 to check the status of an outage.

Not signed up for outage texting? Text 'ITASCA' to 888-713-3377 to be opted into the service. Ensure that your cell phone number is in our system and linked to your service location. Call our office for more information.



## THANK YOU

for your continued support of the Operation Round Up program to help local civic and charitable organizations.

## Directors To Be Elected by Acclamation

The incumbent directors from Districts 1, 2, and 3 submitted the necessary paperwork for election to the Itasca-Mantrap Board of Directors and were certified as the duly nominated candidates for election during Itasca-Mantrap's 82nd Annual Meeting on June 13.

Being the only candidates to submit documents for their districts, the incumbents will be elected by acclamation pursuant to Itasca-Mantrap bylaws, Article III, Section 3, which states, "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." All directors will serve a three-year term.

### DISTRICT 1



**BRIAN BEHRENS**  
(Incumbent)

### DISTRICT 2



**PAT ROEHL**  
(Incumbent)

### DISTRICT 3



**TERRY COOK**  
(Incumbent)

## Unclaimed Capital Credits

We need help with our capital credit records. There may be a check waiting for you or someone you know. Visit our website at [www.itsasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com) and click on the Member Services tab, then click on Capital Credits, then click on the Unclaimed Capital Credits link. If you know the current address of someone on that list, please contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 888-713-3377.



## Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- January financials, subject to audit
- Appointed the Director of Operations as an officer of the Cooperative.
- Work Order Certificates from February 2022-December 2022
- Appointed Director Utke as the Great River Energy director for 2023 and will serve a two-year term.
- Director Utke as the delegate for the GRE Annual meeting in April.

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Privacy Committee report
- Distributed Energy Resource facilities report
- 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 January 2023

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

## May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. Electricity provides comfort with its instant availability and when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Itasca-Mantrap is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members.

# A Safe, Happy House

### Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

**DON'T**  
place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.

**DO**  
keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

**DON'T**  
overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

**DO**  
ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.

## ⚡ Temporary Power Safety



Temporary wiring should be designed and installed according to **OSHA, NEC,** and **NFPA 70E** requirements.



Temporary power must be installed by a **qualified electrician.**



Temporary power equipment should be located on a worksite **protected from vehicle traffic,** accessible only to **authorized persons,** and suitable for the **environmental conditions** that may be present.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



Source: energy.gov



## Office Closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day

## Summer Residential Rates

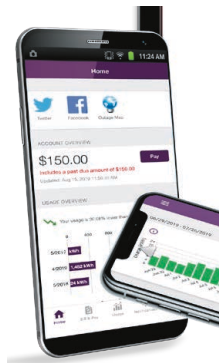
Itasca-Mantrap's summer electric rates will go into effect in June. The general service rate for June, July and August is 12 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), compared to 10 cents per kWh from September through May. The Basic Charge for residential services is \$38 per month throughout the year.



## Monitor your Energy Use with SmartHub

Have you used more electricity this winter than last? Curious how many kilowatt hours you use on the weekends compared to the weekdays?

The answers are at your fingertips when you download the free SmartHub app!



### 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 Czezok, 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.