

# NEWSLINE



## #THANKALINEWORKER

### LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 8, 2024

On April 8, 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 conditions that are less than ideal, 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.

A service oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker. When disaster strikes, lineworkers answer the call

because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, or birthdays.

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 to thank a lineworker for the important work they do.

On April 8, use #ThankALineworker on Facebook to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives. We may share your posts to #ThankALineworker on April 8.



## 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 wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Itasca-Mantrap's lineworkers are responsible for keeping the power flowing day and night. To perform their jobs safely, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires them to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Not only does it take a special person to be a lineworker, but it takes special people to be a strong support system at home. A lineworker'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.

In our area and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards. I'm proud to say Itasca-Mantrap has several coaches and volunteers on staff.

Monday, April 8 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. I can't even begin to express the deeply felt appreciation that I have for our lineworkers. If you happen to see one of them (or one of their family members) out in the community, please take the opportunity to express the gratitude that all our Itasca-Mantrap family has for them.

While the emphasis of this article has been on the lineworkers, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the contributions of our office staff to support our members. I truly believe I have the best team in place to meet the needs of our members. I hope that any/all your interactions with our team members have left you feeling the same way.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- December financials, subject to audit
- Donation to National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Fund
- Donation to the Cooperative Family Fund
- General retirement of capital credits through 2006 and Great River Energy (GRE) capital credits through 2004, totaling \$1,326,061.45, not including estate retirements.

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Marketing and Member Services
- Financial
- CEO
- Quarterly Reports
- Team Member Survey Response
- Meeting attendance

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for December 2023

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, —April 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.—

Updating your information as easy as 1,2,3!

Sign up for SmartHub today!





## Director Candidates Deadline Approaching

Time is running out! Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates from Districts 6 and 7 for our Board of Directors. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting on June 12.

**With less than two weeks left, contact Itasca-Mantrap today for a director candidate packet. Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 15.**

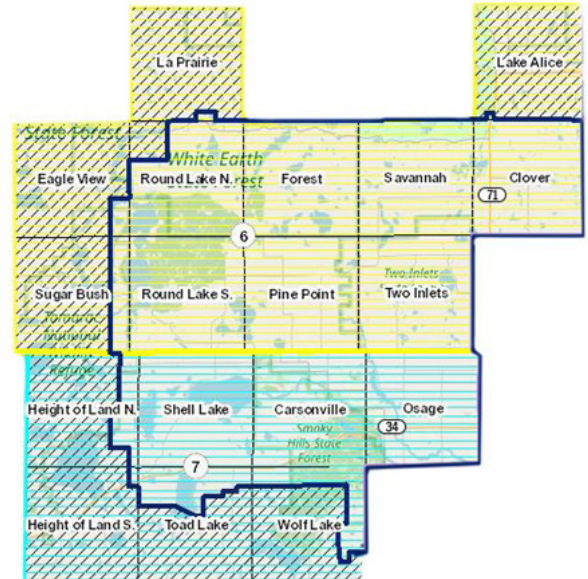
Candidates must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all co-op Members.

Wondering what's involved in being a director?

### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Establish relationships between the board, the membership and the President-CEO.
- Report to the membership.
- Maintain legal practices.
- Review and update bylaws and policies, as needed.
- Attend meetings and conferences.
- and more!

For more information, contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377. More details about serving on the Itasca-Mantrap Board, including director qualifications can be found at [www.itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors).



DISTRICT 6 – includes 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 – includes Carsonville, Height of Land North, Height of Land South, Osage, Shell Lake, Toad Lake and Wolf Lake Townships in Becker County.

**Join us on April 9 @ 10 a.m.**

## **Week of the Young Child Adventures Around the Town-2024**



The Week of the Young Child provides an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to sponsor activities for children age five and under and their families. We are a proud participant and will host our planned activities on Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. (weather permitting) with April 11 as our back up date.

We invite you to join us at Itasca-Mantrap to see live demonstrations with our digger truck and bucket truck as well as pole climbing!

See you there!



We commenced our rebranding project in the summer of 2023. A major part of our identity includes our trucks and the decals that are on them.

Many of our trucks will bear our new logo, which you may have already noticed driving out and about. We hope that our new decals are much more noticeable, and provide clarity about who is visiting your property!

We also want to announce the newest addition to our fleet— a Tesla Model Y. The new electric vehicle will be used for daily employee errands, meetings, business trips and more, giving us first-hand experience with electric vehicles.

We encourage you to come and see it for yourself. Stop by to ask questions about the Tesla and what our experience with it has been so far. We look forward to embracing the new era of electric vehicles as we work toward reducing our carbon footprint!

# Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, April 18 Location: Foxy's Bar & Grill

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm 26146 Co Rd 89, Park Rapids

Space is limited to 50 members.  
RSVP today!



## Call 811 before you dig

*Practice precaution to protect you and your community*

We understand the weather has been very generous this year and with that follows spring cleaning and other projects around your home.

If you are planning to dig anywhere, please do not hesitate to call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com). It is a free service designed to keep you and your community safe.

April is National Safe Digging Month. Dig safe and dig smart!



## Spring Cleaning!

*Volunteers needed for our GreenTouch cleanup!*



Spring is right on our doorstep!

We are looking for volunteers to help ready Itasca State Park for visitor season!

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

We will meet at the park Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 a.m. and serve a free lunch around noon. Park passes are not required that day.

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

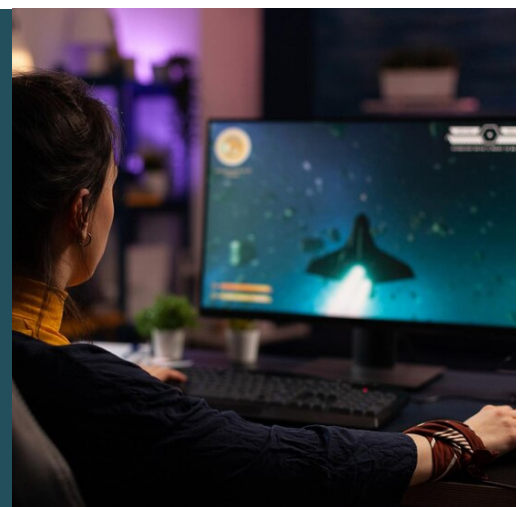


**TIP OF THE MONTH:  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

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





# ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 732-3377 | (888) 713-3377  
itasca@itasca-mantrap.com  
www.itasca-mantrap.com



### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

#### DISTRICT 1

Brian Behrens, Chair

#### DISTRICT 2

Patricia Roehl, Director

#### DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Treasurer

#### DISTRICT 4

Al Czeczok, Assistant Secretary-  
Treasurer

#### DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director\*

#### DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

#### DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair

#### PRESIDENT-CEO

Christine Fox

\*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an  
equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Co-op Connections cards available!

Co-op Connections cards with our new branding are now available at Itasca-Mantrap! If you would like a new Co-op connections card, call in or stop by at Itasca-Mantrap!

If you have already called in and requested a new card, it will be mailed to you as soon as they arrive!

## LOCAL BUSINESS BIG SAVINGS

AVAILABLE IN THE PALM OF YOUR HANDS



Scan here to check  
out local participating  
businesses!

Co-op Connections® Card



Or go to our website  
under the “community”  
tab and click  
“Co-op Connections”

## Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options

Pay through  
the SmartHub  
app



Mail in  
your  
payment



Setup  
autopay



Pay in  
office



Pay online  
at our  
website



Put your  
payment in  
the drive-up  
drop box

