



# NEWSLINE



June 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



### 2023

#### Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Reports of Officers, Directors, and Committees.
2. Announce directors.
3. Any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

ITASCA-MANTRAP OFFICE  
CLOSED 11 AM - 2 PM  
TUES, JUNE 13

### WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UP TO \$1,300 REBATE WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$1,300
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$450



Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. Get up to a \$1,300 rebate when you install one.

*Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts are subject to change without notice. Installed centrally ducted ASHPs must be separately metered & controlled and must be installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.*



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

One of my favorite events of the year is scheduled for June 13th, when Itasca-Mantrap will host our annual meeting

for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event because it's a great opportunity for me, our Board, and our team members to talk with you and hear directly from you what's on your mind.

We hope you are planning to join us for the meeting, which will take place at the Itasca-Mantrap office, rather than the school. When we started planning this event, we understood the school would not be available this year due to construction. As it turns out, the construction will start later than originally anticipated, but we already had plans in motion to host at our office. This will be new for us. The well-oiled machine we have perfected over the past many years may be a little squeaky, but we are committed to providing a great annual meeting. Just have a little patience with us.

With your comfort and time constraints in mind, we have truncated the meeting agenda to limit our speaking engagements as well as the length of our reports. However, we will be eager to listen to you and answer any questions you may have.

Spending this time with you and hearing your perspective on our Cooperative's energy future is important to us. In fact, it is essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our Cooperative. As I'm sure you know, the energy industry is in the midst of massive change. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to local homes, schools, and businesses.

As an electric cooperative we are governed by our Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors is comprised of seven members who live right here in our local service area. They are in the best position to know where community investments are needed.

This local input means those closest to the community know its needs and

priorities and help direct where co-op dollars are spent. Every year we invest funds to make updates to our local system which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. These investments help ensure reliable power for everyday life.

In 2023, we have three Board seats up for election. All three of our incumbents are running unopposed and will therefore, according to the Itasca-Mantrap bylaws, be elected by acclamation. (By the way, we hope you will consider running for the Board in the future. We are always looking for people who care about our community who would be willing to serve.)

Our core mission is to serve our members. We believe that to do this, we need to listen to you. One of the best opportunities for us to do so is the annual meeting. Please come and let us know what is on your mind.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

## A Packed Event at Apps & Amps

Itasca-Mantrap hosted 22 members at Ice Crackin' Lodge during our Apps & Amps event on Thursday, May 11. Attendees enjoyed an evening of mingling, appetizers, and getting their questions answered by Itasca-Mantrap team members and board members.

Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed an evening of socializing with us!



## Operation Round Up Awards \$35,000

Thanks to the generosity of Itasca-Mantrap Members, the Itasca-Mantrap Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently awarded \$35,000 in Operation Round Up grants for 56 civic projects in the Itasca-Mantrap and surrounding area. Applications were received indicating a need of more than \$115,000. Because of limited funding, all requests could not be granted.

Operation Round Up, a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, is designed to provide financial assistance to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap. Since the program's inception in 2006, Operation Round Up and Itasca-Mantrap members have awarded more than \$1.2 million to local organizations.



The Operation Round Up Trust Board meets twice a year to select grant recipients from the applications received. The next application deadline is Friday, September 15, 2023.

Heartland Lakes Community School (HLCS)		Park Rapids Girls Golf	500
HLCS Summer Youth S.T.E.A.M. Activities	\$ 500	Park Rapids National Honor Society	500
Nevis School		Park Rapids Senior Slam	700
3rd Grade Classrooms	500	Carsonville Fire & Rescue Department	1,000
3rd Grade Class Library	300	Hackensack Area Fire Rescue	1,000
Nevis Elementary Resource Room	400	Heartland Arts Inc.	500
Nevis Elementary School Social Work	500	Helping Hands/Century PTA	1,000
Nevis Elementary Title 1 Reading	500	Hubbard County DAC	500
Nevis Public School Library	500	Kinship of the Park Rapids Area	1,000
Nevis Science Department	400	Lakes Area Dive Team, Inc	1,000
Nevis 2nd Grade Classrooms	300	Let's Go Fishing - Headwaters Chapter	400
Nevis Elementary Robotics	500	Living at Home of the Park Rapids Area	1,000
Nevis Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)	300	Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota/LSS Meals Hubbard Co.	1,500
Nevis Post Prom Party	700	Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota/LSS Meals Menahga	1,500
Nevis Robotics Team 3102	760	Nevis Lions	1,000
School Wellness	300	Northern Light Opera Company	1,000
Special Education Classroom (9th & 10th)	300	Northwoods Arts Council	600
Special Olympics	300	Osage Bait & Tackle Senior Nutrition Meals	2,000
Park Rapids School		Park Rapids Clay Dusters	500
2nd Grade Classroom Garden	115	Park Rapids Farmers' Market	500
Century Elementary EBD program	300	Park Rapids Figure Skating Club	400
Crop Art/Ink Drawings	500	Park Rapids Fire Department	1,500
End of the Year Fun	300	Park Rapids Water Ski Team	750
Kindergarten Classroom	350	Park Rapids Youth Baseball	500
Operation Esports Lab	300	The Headwaters Science Center	500
Physical Science Supplies	550	True Friends	500
Positive Reinforcement	300	Voyageurs Area Council	500
Park Rapids Alternative Learning Center	400	Walker Bay Theater	900
Park Rapids Alternative Learning Center	325	Walker Youth Hockey Association	500
Park Rapids Area HS Business Professionals of America	750		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>



Pictured Above: Spring 2023 Operation Round Up Distribution (ORU)  
 ORU Board Members are pictured below, seated L-R: Chris Longfors, Carol Winskowski, Jennifer Magnussen; standing L-R: Richard Maggaard, Al Judson and Ron Ahmann. Not pictured: Rhonda Lageson

Vacating the Board after having served their maximum terms are Richard Maggaard, Al Judson, Rhonda Lageson and Chris Longfors. Thank you for your service!



## Team Member News



Welcome to Raul Garcia!

Raul joined Itasca-Mantrap as our new Marketing & Communications Specialist in May. Raul is from the Hackensack area but has lived in the metro area for the last few years. Raul is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead with a bachelor's degree in integrated advertising & public relations. Raul has held several communications and marketing positions, most recently with kiddywampus and Ecreativeworks.

Welcome Raul!



Congratulations to Andrew Sandberg!

Andrew has successfully completed the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Lineworker Apprenticeship program and was promoted to a Journeyman Lineworker.

Andrew is a graduate of the Minnesota State Community and Technical College Electrical Lineworker program. He worked for Skyline Utilities in Brainerd before beginning his employment with Itasca-Mantrap as a fourth-step apprentice in November 2021.

Congratulations Andrew!

## Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent Agenda
- February financials, subject to audit
- Submission of applications to the USDA and Great River Energy for pass-through grant and loan funding for the Crystal Brook expansion.

### Reports Heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO 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 February 2023
- Operation Round Up director vacancies
- Updates to Administrative Policy 2, Miscellaneous Charges; Administrative Policy 5, New Service Guidelines; and Administrative Policy 6, Service Alteration Guidelines.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

# Week of the Young Child

Itasca-Mantrap participated in "Week of the Young Child" on April 18. The program is sponsored by Park Rapids Early Childhood Family Education and local businesses.

Thank you to Jerry Byer for coordinating, and to Dan, Jaryd, Jeff, and Kevin for demonstrating! Approximately 30 kids and adults enjoyed the presentation!



## GreenTouch Success

Itasca State Park is ready for visitor season! Thank you to Clearwater Polk for partnering with us in this event as well as a big thank you to all 25 of our volunteers for installing tree cages, raking and various other projects.

**DATE:**  
Saturday, May 6  
8:00 A.M.

**LOCATION:**  
Itasca State Park

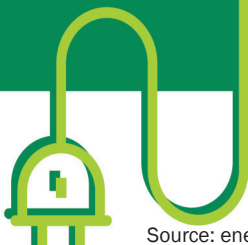
**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS**  
25



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Source: energy.gov

Follow us to stay updated on the latest!



## Summer Residential Rates

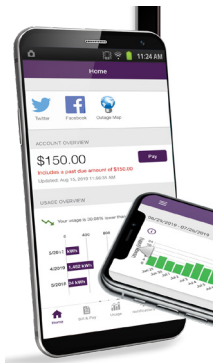
Itasca-Mantrap's summer electric rates will go into effect in June. The general service rate for June, July and August is 12 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), compared to 10 cents per kWh from September through May. The Basic Charge for residential services is \$38 per month throughout the year.



### Monitor your Energy Use with SmartHub

Have you used more electricity this month 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)  
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### 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.