

NEWSLINE



MEMBER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE EMBRACING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT ITASCA-MANTRAP

On December 6, the feeling of the “Holiday Spirit” decked the halls of Itasca-Mantrap for the Member Appreciation Open House!

We had hot coffee and cider, cookies from Angelic Enterprises, and the member gift, which was a set of sturdy juice glasses with our new branding on it! If you stopped in, you had a chance to enter our giveaway drawing to win one of three gift baskets from participating local Co-op Connections businesses! We started this tradition to celebrate our local/small businesses and to connect with our community.

The participants of this year’s Co-op Connections giveaway were Aunt Belle’s Confectionary, Beyond Juice and Kathryn’s on Main.

The winners of our giveaway baskets were:

- Aunt Belle’s Confectionary - Ron Meyer
- Beyond Juice - Terry Phillips
- Kathryn’s on Main - Pat Fullerton

Thank you to the more than 100 members who came in and spent time with us. And to all our members, we hope this holiday season is a special one for you as we usher in the new year!



CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

As we begin 2025, I would like to share the initiatives Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is pursuing to fulfill our mission of “Serving our Members.”

Safety

The safety of our team, communities, and members is always our top priority. Safety is not just a value we uphold—it’s a core principle that guides everything we do. We foster a safety-first mindset in all our team members, ensuring that every task is performed with efficiency and care. Our strong safety culture means that we look out for each other and, above all, prioritize the well-being of our members as we work throughout our service area. Our system is expansive, so if you notice anything unusual—such as a tree touching power lines—please reach out to us, and we will address it promptly.

Reliability

For 2025, we’ve developed a responsible budget for system operations and maintenance, ensuring that our infrastructure remains well-maintained, reliable, and safe. We will continue to invest in underground power facilities, cutting-edge system equipment, and replace aging infrastructure like wooden poles, ensuring that our system remains dependable. Additionally, we will maintain our focus on vegetation management and Right-of-Way clearing programs. Our certified arborist will continue a rotational program, preventing vegetation from interfering with our power lines. These efforts directly

support our ability to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power to you.

Value

We are committed to delivering value to you in everything we do. Electricity powers many aspects of our lives, contributing to our high quality of life. Itasca-Mantrap provides the energy that lights our homes, keeps us warm on cold winter days, and helps us stay cool in the summer. In so many ways, electricity is indispensable.

In the first quarter of 2025, we will finalize and implement the cost of service study we completed last year. While we have successfully maintained stable rates for many years, we may need to make rate adjustments in the future to keep pace with rising costs for materials, labor, and power transmission and distribution. It’s important that all our members understand why these adjustments are necessary and how they contribute to the long-term health and reliability of our cooperative.

Serving You

On behalf of myself and the entire team at Itasca-Mantrap, we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Thank you for your continued partnership and for being a valued member of our cooperative. I am honored to serve you and look forward to working together for many years to come. Stay safe!

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative was held on Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- September financials, subject to audit
- Board budget for 2025
- 2025 meeting dates
- Great River Energy requests for the NextEra Energy amendment to the Three Water Wind Energy purchase and the APEX Clean Energy – Big Bend Wind Project Energy purchase.
- Revisions to Board Policy 5.80, Records Retention

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- Financial report
- CEO report
- Quarterly reports
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap’s membership
- Great River Energy Power Cost Adjustment detail for September 2024
- Operation Round Up – Fall 2024 Awards

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

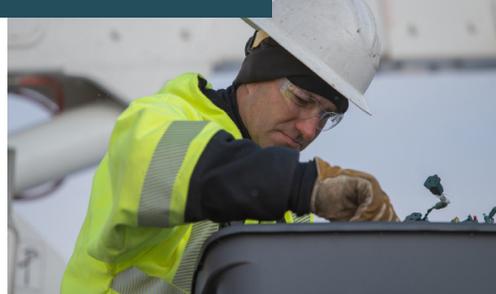


LIGHTING UP DOWNTOWN

POWERING UP TOGETHER

Itasca-Mantrap is thrilled to once again join forces with Minnesota Power to light up the big tree in downtown Park Rapids!

This festive tradition is made possible thanks to CHI St. Joseph's Health Hospice Care, whose support allows us to come together and brighten our community during the most wonderful time of the year.



New Year, New Savings.



Visit our website itasca-mantrap.com/rebates to learn about programs to help you save energy and money.

Play it Safe: 10 Do's and Don'ts When Using Portable Generators

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Itasca-Mantrap reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

- 1. DO:** Install backup CO alarms.
- 2. DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- 3. DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
- 4. DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
- 5. DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
- 6. DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.

7. DON'T: Open windows or doors while the generator is running.

8. DON'T: Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.

9. DON'T: Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

10. DON'T: Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 218-732-3377.



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This could be you!

Youth Tour 2025!

Attention Itasca-Mantrap Area High School Sophomores and Juniors!

Are you ready for the experience of a lifetime? We're looking for our next Youth Tour delegate to represent Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative on an unforgettable, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.!

Explore the heart of American history with visits to iconic landmarks like the World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and Mount Vernon. Dive into the fascinating exhibits at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History—and so much more! Along the way, you'll connect with leaders, peers, and representatives from Minnesota, creating memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

How to Qualify:

You must be a high school sophomore or junior. Your family must be a member of Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative.

Trip Details:

Dates: June 16-21, 2025

Application Deadline: March 3, 2025

Ready to apply?

Visit itasca-mantrap.com/youth-tour for the application or pick one up at your school's counseling center. Make sure to submit your application by March 3, 2025, to be considered. Don't miss this incredible opportunity—apply today and take the first step toward an adventure in the nation's capital!



2024 Youth Tour winner: Sean Ward



**TIP OF THE MONTH:
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that improves energy efficiency and saves money each month. The Department of Energy rates it medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can handle it. Pre-cut jackets or blankets cost about \$20 at most home improvement stores.

Source: Energy.gov





ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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OFFICE HOURS

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