

NEWSLINE



Pictured L-R: Nikki Torkelson (I-M), Bob Kaumans, Laura Nelmark, Diane George, Andrea Belair and Katie Pattison

2024 TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

PARK RAPIDS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Itasca-Mantrap has named the Park Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center (PRPRC) as the winner of the local 2024 Touchstone Energy Community Award. In appreciation for the service they provide to the community, the organization received an engraved plaque and a \$500 check.

The PRPRC is a nonprofit whose purpose is to be an open door for women and men who find themselves in a difficult position with little to no support with starting their new family. The award will be used to provide support and resources necessary to help those who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy and bring those pregnancies to full term.

“A lot of our clients are facing an unexpected pregnancy without much support. Providing a safe place for them to talk about their problems and get encouragement seems to be what helps them the most,” said Andrea Belair, the director of the PRPRC.

Some notable achievements from the PRPRC include assisting more than 69 clients over the course of 2024. The organization distributed 375 packs of baby wipes and diapers, along with 20 new car seats. Clients who sought assistance also received approximately \$1,600 in gas cards.

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CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

THE VALUE OF BEING A COOPERATIVE MEMBER

There are many programs that are available to you as a cooperative member. Outside of receiving the electricity that we all depend upon each and every day, Itasca-Mantrap members have access to other programs and incentives to save money, contribute to the community and lower our carbon footprint. I would like to take a few moments to highlight a few of these programs.

CAPITAL CREDITS

Itasca-Mantrap is a not-for-profit electric cooperative. We prioritize giving back to the members and one of the ways we do this is through Capital Credits. Operating at cost means that any excess margins at the end of the year are allocated back to our members rather than being distributed to outside investors or shareholders like other for-profit utilities. This allocation of capital credits is paid back over time (retired) as financial conditions and margins allow.

In January of each year, Itasca-Mantrap's board of directors evaluates the financial health of the cooperative to determine if Capital Credits can be retired, and if so, the amount to be returned to our members.

When a member disconnects service from the cooperative, they will no longer receive Capital Credit allocations. However, their existing capital credit balance will remain in their account until fully retired. It is important to inform your cooperative of any address changes until your account is fully depleted. In the unfortunate event of a member's passing, Capital Credits are transferred to the deceased member's estate and paid out in the estate settlement to close that account.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Unclaimed capital credits are typically the result of incorrect addresses on file with the cooperative. By law, Itasca-Mantrap is required to hold these unclaimed Capital Credits for seven years to allow members time to claim their funds. After this period, unclaimed funds may be used to support member programs or other nonprofit initiatives that benefit our communities.

REBATE PROGRAMS

Itasca-Mantrap offers various programs in relation to energy efficiency and one of these programs provides a variety of rebates to help our members save some dollars as they move towards beneficial electrification. Whether you are remodeling your home, building a new one, replacing appliances or purchasing an electric vehicle, Itasca-Mantrap rebates could help you save.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Itasca-Mantrap members who endeavor to reduce their carbon emissions may do so by owning a piece of solar that is both affordable and accessible with Itasca-Mantrap's **SolarWise** Community Solar array. By purchasing the output of a panel, members can lock in electric rates while lowering their carbon footprint. Itasca-Mantrap offers 5- or 10-year agreements. The cost includes insurance, operations, maintenance and all other costs associated with operating the solar array. Members can purchase these SolarWise panels up front or finance the panels.

For more information on these programs and others, like Operation Round Up, Co-op Connections and Green Touch, please visit our website at www.itasca-mantrap.com.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- October financials, subject to audit
- Director Kivi to serve as delegate for the Cooperative Response Center annual meeting.

Reports heard:

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

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Great River Energy Power Cost Adjustment detail for October 2024
- 2025 Marketing and Communications Plan
- 2025 Financial Budget

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

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The PRPRC also offers a program called Earn While You Learn. This program provides clients the chance to participate in educational opportunities and earn credits called “Baby Bucks,” which can be used to purchase items such as clothing, strollers, or other equipment and accessories from the center’s “blessings



Pictured L-R: Andrea Delair and Nikki Torkelson (I-M)

room.”

“We work with many local organizations, referring clients when we can’t meet their needs and receiving referrals for pregnancy-related concerns. It’s a collaborative effort to support the community.” said Andrea Belair.

The organization demonstrates its commitment to the community by putting service

above self and providing a helping hand whenever possible. If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved and/or support the PRPRC, visit their website at prcparkrapids.org and click the “GET INVOLVED” tab.

The PRPRC award application will be submitted to the Minnesota Touchstone Energy Community Award in consideration for the statewide award. The statewide award recipient selected from all local winners around Minnesota and receives \$1,000 to support its community cause.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy Community Award will be presented to the statewide recipient in February during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association’s annual meeting in St. Paul. The Touchstone Energy Community Award highlights the Cooperative Principle: Concern for Community.

**Pregnancy
Resource Center**
of the Park Rapids Area

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Itasca-Mantrap is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the Cooperative prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Cooperative (not all bases apply to all

programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Cooperative or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program

Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.



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.

To qualify, students must be a high school sophomore or junior and reside in Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative service territory.

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**

Improper use of a generator can lead to harmful consequences such as back feeding energy, which is the flow of energy in the wrong direction.

Back feeding is dangerous for you, your family and your utility workers trying to turn your power back on. Here are some tips to prevent back feeding:

- Read the instruction manual for proper use
- Don't plug your generator into a wall outlet
- Use the correct rated extension cords

Source: SafeElectricity.org



Director Candidates Wanted!

Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates from Districts 4 and 5 for our Board of Directors. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting on June 12.

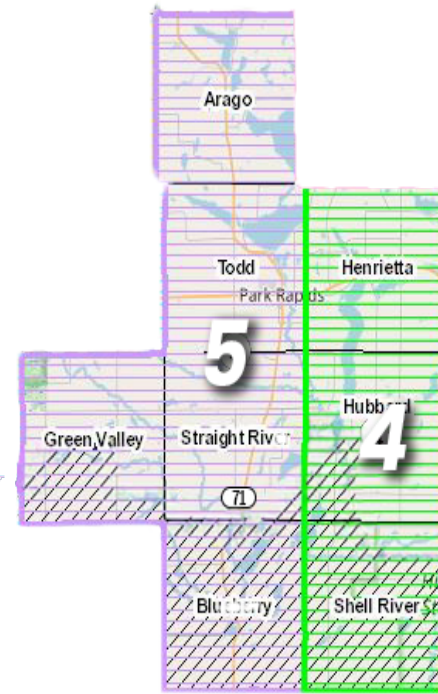
Candidates must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all co-op Members.

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 entity and practices.
- Review and update bylaws and policies, as needed.
- Attend meetings and conferences.
- and more!

Interested? Contact Itasca-Mantrap for a director candidate packet. Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 14.

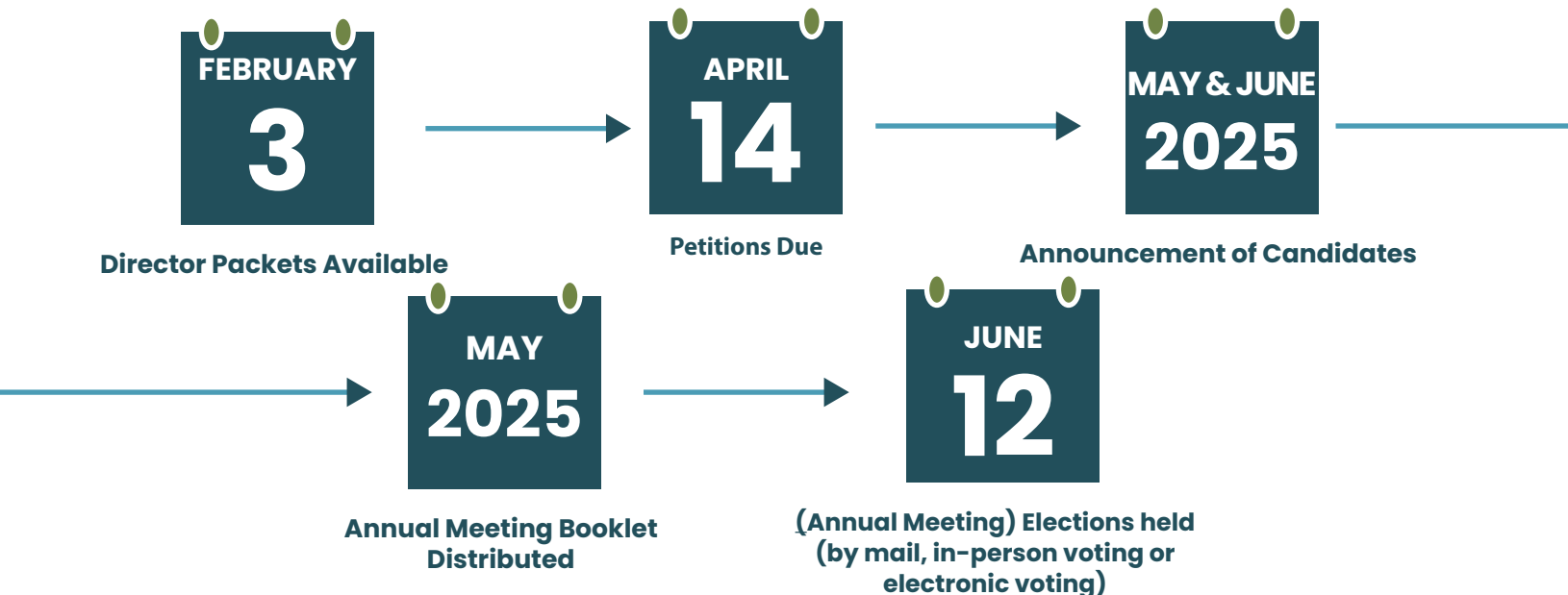


DISTRICT 4 – includes Henrietta, Hubbard and Shell River in Hubbard County.

DISTRICT 5 – includes Arago, Blueberry, Green Valley, Straight River and Todd townships in Hubbard County

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.

TIMELINE





ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192
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, Treasurer

DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Vice Chair

DISTRICT 4

Al Czczok, Assistant Secretary-
Treasurer

DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director*

DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Director

PRESIDENT & CEO

Steve Johnson

*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Operation Round Up

Grant applications are now being accepted

The time is drawing near for the next ORU deadline, and local businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply!

Operation Round Up Grants will be awarded to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the region.

The funds raised through ORU will be distributed primarily in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap. To be considered at the April Trust Board meeting, grant applications must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by Monday, March 17. Download the application form at www.itasca-mantrap.com/operation-round.



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

