

# NEWSLINE



## ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US AT ITASCA-MANTRAP JUNE 12!

You are invited to the 2024 Annual Meeting! The meeting will be on-site here at Itasca-Mantrap. This year promises to be an event filled with opportunities to meet with other members, to hear from your Board Chair and President-CEO, and to eat a free lunch!

There will be a presentation from our most recent Youth Tour delegate, Tyler Officer. Tyler will share his experiences during his time at the Youth Tour in 2023. We'll also have the pleasure of introducing our newest delegate, Sean Ward, who will continue the tradition of excellent representation in Washington, D.C. in 2024.

We will have an election for our Board of Directors this year and are excited to provide the option to vote electronically. Visit our website or SmartHub between May 15 and June 10 to cast your vote. If you prefer the more traditional method, you may still vote by mail or in-person during our Annual Meeting. Turn to page three to find out who your director candidates are in 2024.

Again this year, we will be hosting the Annual Meeting at Itasca-Mantrap. We've enjoyed having you in our facility in the past, and we are looking forward to your return! Registration will open at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch. We hope you join us on June 12 at Itasca-Mantrap.



## CEO UPDATE

BY CHRISTINE FOX, PRESIDENT-CEO

In any industry, it is crucial to keep an eye on emerging technologies that may impact our lives. In the energy industry, one such technology gaining momentum is electric vehicles (EVs). So, I spend a lot of time thinking about EVs. Not only because they are prevalent in the news but also because Itasca-Mantrap recently purchased our first EV. This acquisition is not just about staying ahead of the curve; it is about understanding firsthand the impacts and benefits of EV ownership. Through this initiative, we aim to gather valuable insights that will help us inform our members and continue to be the trusted energy advisor we strive to be.

EVs are no longer just a novelty; they are increasingly becoming mainstream. As more major automakers introduce electric models into their lineups, it is clear that EVs are here to stay. Ignoring this trend could mean missing out on potential opportunities for our Cooperative and for our members.

From a financial standpoint, EVs can offer cost savings over time. While the upfront cost to purchase an EV may be higher than a traditional gasoline-powered vehicle, the operational costs are typically lower. EVs have fewer moving parts and are not dependent on gasoline, so maintenance and fuel expenses can be significantly reduced. Itasca-Mantrap will analyze the total cost of owning an EV and compare it to the cost of owning an internal combustion engine. Additionally, we can expect that as technology advances and production scales up, more affordable EV options will hit the market.

I know there are several hurdles to EV ownership besides the financial ones.

I, for one, have a bit of range anxiety. I fear I might run out of battery power while driving. Granted, recent advancements in battery technology and the expansion of charging infrastructure are helping to alleviate this concern. Team Members who drive our EV will complete a survey following their drive to reflect on their experiences. I'll be interested to see to what degree range anxiety is a factor for other drivers as well.

And some people may question the environmental benefits of EVs. It is worthwhile to recognize that EVs still produce less carbon on the road as compared to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles. Even if reducing emissions is not your top priority, there is no denying that cleaner air and a healthier environment benefit us all. Itasca-Mantrap has taken one more step to reduce our carbon footprint.

Whether you are enthusiastic about sustainability or simply looking for practical solutions, electric vehicles have a place in our Cooperative's vision for the future. By embracing this technology and adapting to the changing needs of our members, we can ensure that our Cooperative remains relevant and resilient in the years to come. When you see us driving our new Tesla, give us a wave and know we are collecting data that will enable us to remain your trusted energy advisor.

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, February 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- January financials, subject to audit
- Sale/disposal of obsolete equipment

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Marketing and Member Services
- Financial
- CEO
- Meeting attendance

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for January 2024
- Changes to Administrative Policy #2, Miscellaneous Charges

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Sign up for SmartHub today!



## Your candidates for Board of Directors

The following members have submitted the necessary paperwork for their candidacy to serve as a director on the Itasca-Mantrap Board of Directors:

- District 6 – Tim Kivi (incumbent) and Charles “Chuck” Church
- District 7 – Dan Breitbach, incumbent\*

All candidates were certified as duly nominated for election during the Itasca-Mantrap Board meeting in April.

New this year, you may vote electronically by visiting our website and SmartHub between May 15 and June 10. You will also be able to

vote by mail or in-person at the Itasca-Mantrap Annual Meeting on June 12, 2024. Each member is allowed one vote.

Watch for your invitation to the Annual Meeting for more information on these candidates and how you can vote.

\*Pursuant to Itasca-Mantrap bylaws, Article III, Section 3, “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.”

### DISTRICT 6



**Tim Kivi**  
(Incumbent)



**Charles Church**  
(Candidate)

### DISTRICT 7



**Dan Breitbach**  
(Incumbent)



## Week of the Young Child

Itasca-Mantrap participated in “Week of the Young Child” on Tuesday, April 9. The program is sponsored by Park Rapids Early Childhood Family Education and local businesses.

Thank you to Jerry Byer for coordinating, and to Dan Cox, Clay Eberhart, Chad Grande and Mike Moen for demonstrating! Approximately 67 kids and adults enjoyed the presentation!





# Career day @ Park Rapids HS

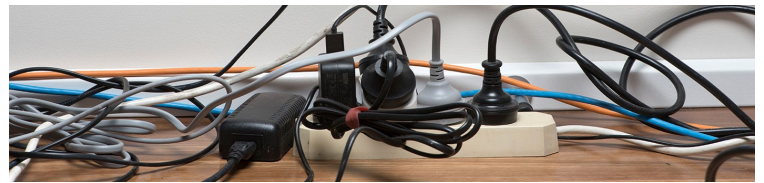
*Connecting and networking*

Itasca-Mantrap was at the Heartland Lakes Job and Career Fair at the Park Rapids High School on April 4. Clay and Mike gave live demonstrations and encouraged students to try performing tasks that lineworkers are required to execute in the field.

It was great to see so many students interested in trade careers! It was a pleasure to connect with the students and potentially meet some of our future team members!



**May is Electrical Safety Month which means you should plug into safety!**



Overloaded Electrical outlets? It's time to call an electrician and install new outlets.

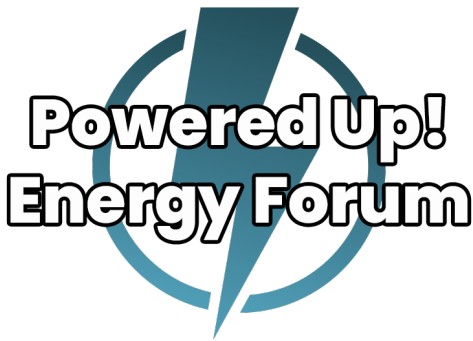
## Powered Up! Energy Forum

*Dive into the world of renewable energy!*

Mark your calendars for July 26! Itasca-Mantrap is thrilled to invite you to the 'Powered Up! Energy Forum,' where industry professionals and enthusiasts alike will come together to explore the latest innovations and trends in renewable energy.

The forum will feature insightful discussions led by experts in the field, covering topics ranging from solar and wind power to sustainable transportation solutions. Attendees will have the opportunity to test drive cutting-edge electric vehicles (EVs), courtesy of local participating dealerships, and experience the future of eco-friendly transportation firsthand.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to network with industry leaders, gain valuable insights, and be a part of shaping the future of renewable energy. Don't miss the 'Powered Up! Energy Forum' on July 26 at the American Legion in Park Rapids, and let's power up together towards a greener tomorrow!



## Youth Tour Delegate Selected

*Congrats to Sean Ward!*



We are proud to announce Sean Ward as our Youth Tour delegate for 2024! Sean, a junior at Park Rapids High School, will represent Itasca-Mantrap in Washington, D.C. June 18-23 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth tour.

Sean was selected based on his stoic demeanor and professionalism during the interview. He showed us his ability to adapt and his willingness to learn from his experiences.



**TIP OF THE MONTH:  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**

Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use—TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power.

Source: energy.gov





## ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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www.itasca-mantrap.com



#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

#### GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

##### DISTRICT 1

Brian Behrens, Chair

##### DISTRICT 2

Patricia Roehl, Director

##### DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Treasurer

##### DISTRICT 4

Al Czczok, 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.*



**Office Closed on Monday, May 27  
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.

## 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.

