

NEWSLINE



THE 85TH ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US AT ITASCA-MANTRAP JUNE 11!

Our 85th Annual Meeting is right around the corner! It may feel like we just wrapped up last year's meeting, but we're already excited to welcome members back once again. The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members, hear updates from your Board Chair as well as our President and CEO. Plus, you get to enjoy a lunch with your co-op.

This year, we'll also hear from our most recent Youth Tour delegate, Grace Officer, who will share highlights from the 2025 Youth Tour experience. We'll then introduce our newest delegates, Leah Romosz and Cadin Carmichael, who will represent Itasca-Mantrap in Washington, D.C. this June.

A Board of Directors election will also take place this year, and voting will be available electronically. Members can vote through our website or SmartHub between May 15 and June 9. If you prefer, you may still vote by mail or in person during the Annual Meeting. Turn to page three to find out who is running in the election this year.

We've loved hosting members at our facility in the past, and we look forward to seeing you again. Registration will open at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a meeting start time of 12:15 p.m. We hope you join us on June 11 at Itasca-Mantrap. See you soon!



CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

Why We Are Talking About Demand – A Quick Recap

Last month, I began a conversation about how electric rates are designed—not just what members pay per kilowatt-hour, but how the costs of providing reliable electricity are actually incurred from our power supplier.

Today, most residential and small commercial members are billed using a two-part rate:

- A system access (basic) charge, which reflects the cost of serving each member, and
- An energy charge, based on the total electricity used (kilowatt-hours).

While this structure has been in place for many years, it no longer aligns as closely with how we are billed by our wholesale power supplier or how modern electric systems are used. A significant portion of our costs is driven not by total energy use (kWh), but by peak demand (kW)—those short periods of time when electricity use is highest across the system.

In Part 1, I also shared our commitment to:

- Education before any decisions are made
- Transparency throughout the process
- Giving members time, tools, and information to understand demand and how individual member usage patterns affect costs

Part 2: Why We Are Talking About Demand

Why a Demand Component Is Being Considered

A demand charge reflects the impact a member’s highest level of electricity

usage during a short time period places on the electric system. Including demand as part of a multi-part rate allows costs to be aligned more closely with what actually drives system investment.

Simply put:

- The system access charge reflects the cost of being connected to the electric system
- The energy charge reflects the cost of electricity used over time
- The demand charge would reflect the cost of building and maintaining a system capable of meeting total energy peak needs

This conversation is not about increasing revenue. It is about fairness, accuracy, and long-term sustainability.

What This Does Not Mean

- It does not mean immediate changes to your electric rate – these studies take 12-18 months to complete
- It does not mean decisions have already been made

Addressing Our Next Steps

You will begin to see demand displayed on your monthly bill as an educational item only. There is no cost associated with this at this time. This display on your bill will help you understand how this may benefit/ impact your service costs in the future and is part of the detail we are providing to help educate everyone on this billing component.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass’n. was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- January financials, subject to audit
- Purchase of Itasca-Mantrap solar array from GRE
- Alternate delegate for NRECA PowerXChange meeting

Reports heard:

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

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap’s membership
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for January 2026
- Administrative Policy 2 fee strategy
- 2026 Strategy Goals and Objectives (survey results)

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

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 1 – Brian Behrens (incumbent)
- District 2 – Pat Roehl (incumbent) and Marvin Vredenburg
- District 3 – Terry Cook (incumbent)

Board directors serve three-year terms, representing all co-op members, and must meet eligibility requirements outlined in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. This is an opportunity to help shape the future of your cooperative and make a meaningful impact in the community.

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

You may vote electronically by visiting our website or logging in to SmartHub between May 15 and June 9. You will also be able to vote by mail or in-person at the Itasca-Mantrap Annual Meeting on June 11, 2026. Each membership is allowed one vote.

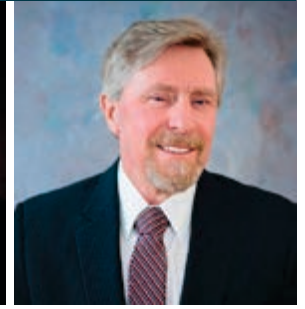
Watch the mail for your invitation to the Annual Meeting and for more information on these candidates and how you can vote.

*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 2



Pat Roehl
(Incumbent)



Marvin Vredenburg
(Candidate)

DISTRICT 1



Brian Behrens
(Incumbent)

DISTRICT 3



Terry Cook
(Incumbent)



Coffee With Your Co-op

Join us for a town hall-style chat with President & CEO Steve Johnson.

Date and time: , May 21 starting at 8:00 a.m.

Location: Osage Bait and Tackle

Hear updates on the latest rate adjustment and demand section on your energy bill.

Limited spots are available so call [218-732-3377](tel:218-732-3377) to RSVP!



Important Update: New Outage Text Number



Reporting an Outage

When an outage occurs, reporting it quickly helps our crews respond efficiently and restore power as safely as possible. Keeping our outage reporting options handy also helps you stay informed.

Below are the fastest and easiest ways to report an outage and check restoration updates.

By Text

Texting is the fastest way to report and check outages.

Text **OUT** to **844-551-6903** to report an outage

Text **STATUS** to **844-551-6903** to check for updates

Important: Members will need to update the outage text phone number to 844-551-6903. Members must have their current phone number on file to use texting. If you have multiple accounts, please report outages by phone or through SmartHub.

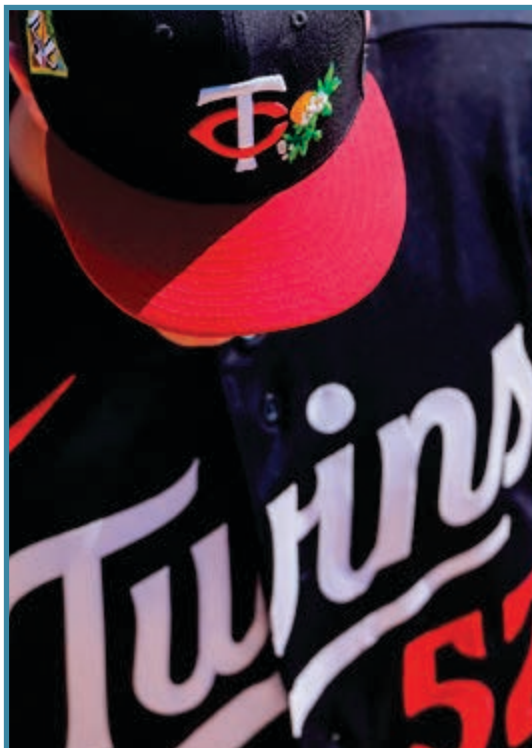
By Phone

You can also report an outage by calling us at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 888-713-3377. During business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.), our office staff will assist you and connect you to the outage system. After hours, you will be directed to our automated outage reporting system.

A quick check can save you time and help determine whether the issue is inside your home or on our lines:

Check your breakers to make sure one has not tripped. Check your meter display to see if it is blank. Check with neighbors to see if they are also without power.

Itasca-Mantrap crews work hard to restore outages as quickly and safely as possible. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during these times.




Twins
COMMUNITY FUND

YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC!

PARK RAPIDS, MN

FREE TO ATTEND! OPEN TO EVERYONE, AGES 6-12!

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 25	TIME: 4:00-6:00 PM
FIELD: PARK RAPIDS BASEBALL FIELD 501 HELTEN AVENUE PARK RAPIDS, MN 56470	HOST: ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

 REGISTER FOR FREE: [TWINS.COM/CLINICS](https://twins.com/clinics) 

Meet Our Youth Tour Delegates!

Congrats to Leah Romosz and Cadin Carmichael

As you may have noticed in the title, it is delegates plural. Due to a wonderful opportunity in cooperation with McLeod Cooperative Power Association, Itasca-Mantrap will be sending TWO delegates to Washington D.C. for the 2026 NRECA Youth Tour! Thank you to McLeod for your partnership as we invest in the next generation of leaders. Let's meet our delegates!



Leah Romosz

Junior
Nevis High School

Leah was selected because of her aptitude and eagerness to chase after her goals. Her favorite subjects are Geography and English, she is on the knowledge bowl team and she aspires to one day be a Nurse Practitioner. As an athlete, she participates in

Track and Cross Country with notable accolades of the All State Academic Award and the MN Cross Country All State Team Academic Award. She has confidence on and off the track!



Cadin Carmichael

Junior
Nevis High School

Cadin was selected because he showed resilience and determination when pursuing this opportunity. He truly understands the value of the Youth Tour and is eager to embrace all it has to offer. His favorite subject is Science and he aspires to be an IT/Cyber

Security professional some day! Cadin is a devoted member of the Knowledge Bowl team as well as the Year Book Committee.

We are excited to see our Youth Tour Delegates represent Itasca-Mantrap in Washington D.C. Let's all congratulate them and wish them good luck!

Randy George

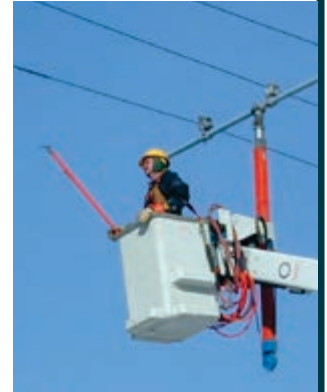
Retired Lead Lineman

YOS: 1987 - 2022

35 Years

Itasca-Mantrap mourns the passing of Randy Arnold George, a former Team Member at Itasca-Mantrap.

Randy began his career with us as a temporary worker in 1987 and transitioned to full-time employment as an apprentice lineman in 1988.



By 1991, he had attained Journeyman Lineman. Randy followed this career path until his promotion to Lead Lineman in 2006.

He retired from Itasca-Mantrap in 2022, after 35 years of service.



Itasca-Mantrap extends our deepest condolences to Randy's family and friends who cherish his memory.





ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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.

Apps and Amps

Good Times at Jack Pines

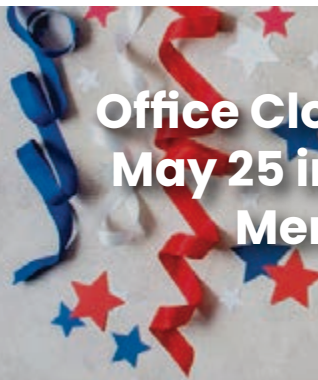


Our latest Apps & Amps event was held April 9 at Jack Pines Cookhouse and brought members together for an evening of appetizers and conversation.

The topic of the night was “What is demand?”, sparking great questions and helpful discussion. While discussion and questions are great, it really is about connecting with members in a relaxed setting, listening and sharing insights.

Thanks to everyone who joined us. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Newsletter for the next Apps & Amps event!

Office Closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day



ITASCA-MANTRAP
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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 13 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), compared to 11 cents per kWh from September through May. The Basic Charge for residential services is \$42 per month throughout the year.