

# NEWSLINE



## ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US AT ITASCA-MANTRAP JUNE 12!

The 84th Annual Meeting is almost here! As the clock winds down, it feels as if it was only yesterday that we opened our doors to you. The Annual Meeting, like in years past, provides the opportunity to meet with other members, to hear from your Board Chair and President and CEO, and enjoy a free lunch!

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

There will be an election for our Board of Directors this year, and voting will be available electronically. Visit our website or SmartHub between May 15 and June 10 to cast your vote. If you prefer the 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 2025.

We've enjoyed having you in our facility in the past, and we are excited for your return! Registration will open at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch. We hope you join us on June 12 at Itasca-Mantrap. See you soon!



## CEO UPDATE

Guest Article by Shannon Snell,  
Director of Operations

As spring arrives and the ground thaws, our operations team is gearing up for another busy construction season. This is the time of year when we're out in force—replacing aging lines and equipment, building new services, and upgrading our system. This work is a key part of our commitment to providing safe, efficient, and reliable electricity to power our members' homes and businesses for years to come.

Planning these projects often begins years in advance with detailed engineering analysis. Our engineering team uses advanced modeling software to evaluate system loading, voltage levels, and anticipated growth across our service territory. This data helps us identify areas where the infrastructure is under strain or where increased demand is expected. We also review outage history and reliability metrics to locate parts of the grid that would benefit most from upgrades. This strategic, data-driven approach allows us to prioritize projects based on need, ensuring we enhance system performance and continue delivering reliable service to our members.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without a strong focus on safety. The safety of our crews and the communities we serve is always our top priority. You may see our crews working any time of the day or night—and in all

types of weather—responding to outages, completing planned upgrades, or preparing for future development. We ask that you please drive carefully when passing work zones and give our crews the space they need to work safely.

If you have your own construction plans this summer—whether it's building a deck, putting up a fence, or planting trees—we urge you to plan ahead and stay safe. Be sure to contact Gopher State One Call by dialing 811 at least three working days before you dig. This free service will locate public underground utilities like electric, gas, and water lines up to the meter. However, it does not mark any private underground lines that may have been installed by the property owner, such as power to outbuildings, yard lights, wells, or irrigation systems. If you suspect there may be private utilities on your property, it's your responsibility to have them located. Consulting with your electrician or a private locating service is the best way to do so. Taking these steps can help you avoid a dangerous and costly accident.

We appreciate your cooperation and support as we work to keep our electric system strong and reliable. Here's to a safe and productive construction season—for all of us.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- January financials, subject to audit
- NRECA Bylaws – Proposed Resolutions and Amendments
- Delegate Appointments for April 1, 2025–March 31, 2026
- Changes to Board Policies
  - 7.13 – Billing Errors
  - 7.32 – Deposits
- Director Cook as delegate at the CFC Annual Meeting

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- GRE: Value of Regional Transmission Investments
- Summaries of meetings attended

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for January 2025
- Strategic Discussion Recap
- Safety Compliance Assessment
- Changes to Administrative Policy #2, Miscellaneous Charges

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, May 29, 2025, 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 4 – Al Czczok (incumbent) and Dale Johnson
- District 5 – Nancy Utke, incumbent\*

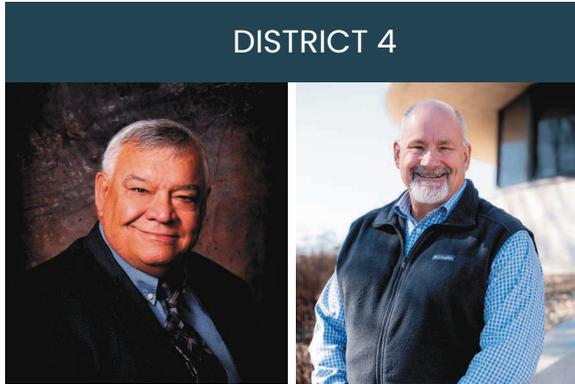
All candidates were certified as duly nominated for election during the Itasca-Mantrap Board meeting in April.

You may vote electronically by visiting our website 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, 2025. 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 4

**Al Czczok**  
(Incumbent)

**Dale Johnson**  
(Candidate)



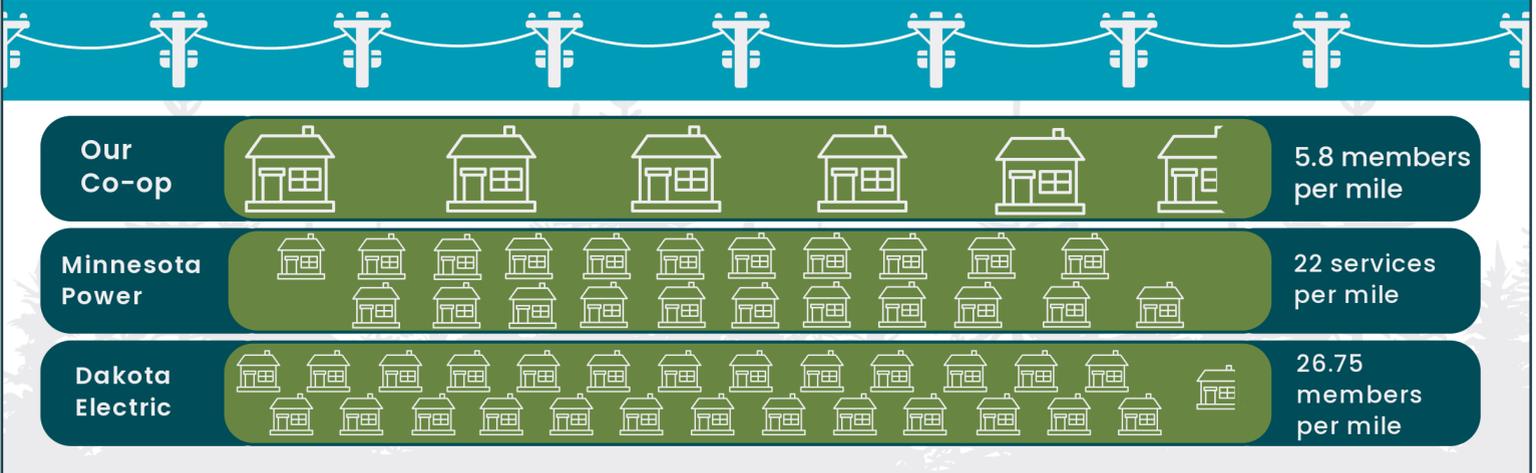
DISTRICT 5

**Nancy Utke**  
(Incumbent)



## Inbetween the lines

While some electric cooperatives are larger and serve more members per mile of line, there are others—like ours—that serve fewer members per mile. It means there are fewer people to help cover the cost of building and maintaining those lines. Even though we power fewer consumers compared to other utilities, we always go the extra mile for you—the members we proudly serve!



# UPCOMING 2025 RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL AND LARGE POWER ACCOUNTS:

## WHAT THE RATE CHANGES MEAN

As your electric cooperative, we are committed to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We have successfully held off a rate increase since 2018. We made it through COVID-19 and the resulting supply chain and inflationary issues. However, due to years of rising costs, we can no longer continue to absorb these increases and now find we must adjust our rates. Effective with the July 2025 billing, our small commercial, large commercial and large power accounts will see a rate increase. A residential rate increase is expected in 2026.

### Why is this necessary?

Wholesale power costs, which make up approximately 69% of our total operating expenses, continue to rise. Our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), has announced an 8.5% increase. This increase reflects the need for critical investments in grid infrastructure, which will strengthen our system's resilience, expand future capacity, and support the transition to renewable energy sources, a mandate from the state.

### When will this increase go into effect?

Small commercial, large commercial and large power accounts will see this rate adjustment with the July 2025 billing, to be sent out in August.

### Investments in a Resilient and Sustainable Energy System

The investments we are making now will result in a more resilient, efficient, and sustainable energy system in the future. These efforts will help strengthen our grid, protect against outages, and better prepare us for the challenges posed by climate change and increased energy demand. They are also crucial for supporting the state's mandate to transition toward renewable energy sources, which requires significant upgrades to our infrastructure.

### Residential rate increase coming in 2026

While this rate adjustment will apply to commercial and large power accounts in 2025, we want to let our residential members know that a rate increase is

planned for 2026. This increase will help us continue to manage rising wholesale power costs and maintain our commitment to a resilient, sustainable energy system. We will provide more details about the residential rate adjustment in future editions of NewsLine.

### Looking ahead

We understand that any rate increase can be challenging, and we want to assure our members that these decisions are being made with careful consideration. We are committed to managing costs efficiently while ensuring we have the infrastructure and resources to meet your energy needs, both now and in the future.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work to build a stronger, more adaptable energy system for all our members. We remain dedicated to providing you with safe, affordable electricity and will continue to keep you informed as we make these important investments.

### Approved Rates July 2025

Small Commercial	Current	New Rate
Basic Charge	\$40.00	\$50.00
Energy Charge		
• June-Aug.	\$0.120	\$0.125
• All other months	\$0.100	\$0.105

### Large Commercial

Basic Charge	\$51.00	\$51.00
Demand Charge		
• June-Aug.	\$18.00	\$19.25
• All other months	\$11.50	\$12.75
Energy Charge	\$0.050	\$0.055

### Large Power

Basic Charge	\$53.00	\$58.00
Demand Charge		
• June-Aug.	\$21.25	\$22.25
• All other months	\$16.00	\$17.00
Energy Charge	\$0.047	\$0.0525

## Week of the Young Child

*Demonstrations for the kiddos at Itasca-Mantrap!*



Itasca-Mantrap participated in “Week of the Young Child” on Tuesday, April 8. The program is sponsored by Park Rapids Early Childhood Family Education and local businesses.

Week of the Young Child is our opportunity to “open our doors” to our members and the public to showcase a little of what we do.

Thank you to Jerry Byer for coordinating and to Dan Cox, Kevin George, Karl Just and Andrew Sandberg for demonstrating! Approximately 75 kids and adults enjoyed the presentation!

## Youth Tour Delegate Selected

*Congrats to Grace Officer!*



We are proud to announce Grace Officer as our Youth Tour delegate for 2025! Grace, a junior at Park Rapids High School, will represent Itasca-Mantrap in Washington, D.C., June 16–21 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Grace was selected as our Youth Tour representative because of the experiences and opportunities she pursued, such as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, National Honor Society and the Excel Award, to name a few. During her interview, she demonstrated how those experiences have contributed to her personal growth, as well as a strong drive for self-improvement. We are confident she will represent us exceptionally well in Washington, D.C.!



**TIP OF THE MONTH:**  
**ENERGY**  
**EFFICIENCY**

Is your refrigerator running? Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator operating efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. Energy costs can increase as much as 35% and shorten appliance life.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





# 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.



## 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.

## Itasca-Mantrap 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

