



NEWSLINE



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

May 2022

YOU'RE INVITED!

Itasca-Mantrap's 81st Annual Meeting

WHO:

You, the members of Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n.

WHAT:

81st Annual Meeting

WHEN:

5 p.m. Registration & Dinner Begins
6:30 p.m. Business Meeting Begins

WHERE:

Park Rapids High School
401 Huntsinger Ave, Park Rapids, MN 56470

WHY:

Itasca-Mantrap is owned and controlled by its members. Participate in the cooperative, learn important information about the past year, current information, and what lies ahead.



WATCH FOR MORE INFO IN OUR UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING BOOKLET

Door prize drawing will follow the business meeting, must be present to win great prizes! Present the card from the back cover of the Annual Meeting Booklet to be eligible for one of the two \$100 cash prizes.

REMINDER:
Mail in your voting ballots!

May is Electrical Safety Month

**PLUG
INTO
SAFETY**



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





CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

May is Electrical Safety Month. It is a good time to remind ourselves about the hazards of electricity and the things we can do to make

our interaction with it safer. It is also important to remember that we must always practice safety. This applies to our crews who are out there working in the danger day in and day out, but it also applies to you, our members, and our community. It is quite easy to get complacent around electricity. It is always all around us. We rely on it for our very existence and forget it can also threaten that very existence. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted because of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO, it is my responsibility to keep our team members safe. Safety is always top-of-mind for us within the Cooperative. I also want to keep you, all our fellow members and our community safe. For this reason, you will see Itasca-Mantrap hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year. We discuss emergency scenarios such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed

power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electric devices. And, most recently, we are planning training for our emergency workers and first responders on how to respond to an accident involving an electric vehicle.

Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances and the tendency for us to be oblivious to the dangers of electricity, I would like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips:

- Replace frayed or cut cords immediately. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use, or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, they could cause a shock when handled.
- Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle – by having too many devices running on one circuit.
- Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you are planning to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.
- Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating creating a potential fire

hazard. Do not exceed the wattage of the cord. This could create a risk of overloading and thus creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

Furthermore, we should all be aware of the dangers outside the home. Keep away from downed power lines and if you happen to be involved in an automobile accident that involves a power line, stay in your vehicle. If you must leave your vehicle, jump as far away as you can, landing on two feet and then shuffle your way to safety. Also, please talk to your children and grandchildren about the hazards of electricity. Make sure they are aware of overhead power lines and the danger they impose.

The safety of our team members, members, and community members are paramount to us here at Itasca-Mantrap and keeping everyone informed is one of our strategic initiatives. Please contact us for additional tips or if you would like us to provide safety demonstrations at your school or upcoming event.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Co-op Connections® Card



Itasca-Mantrap

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Go Beyond the Card

Bring your Co-op Connections Card when you are shopping around town! You may also use the app or website in addition to the Co-op Connections Card to save.

Jacob Lof Selected as Youth Tour Representative

Itasca-Mantrap has named Jacob Lof as its 2022 Youth Tour Representative. Jacob, a sophomore at Park Rapids High School, will represent Itasca-Mantrap on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 14-19 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Jacob will join hundreds of youth representing electric cooperatives from across the United States in Washington, D.C. to learn more about our nation's rich political history, see American government in action, and tour famous historical monuments. Students will also meet with legislators and learn more about the importance of electric cooperatives.

Jacob was selected based on his personal achievements and

community involvement. He is involved in activities including boy scouts, band, trap team, and BPA. He is the son of Dustin and Shelley Lof.



AGI Project Update

Itasca-Mantrap crews will be out in the field installing new meters as part of our advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system. The new meters will improve reliability and give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(218) 732-3377

(888) 713-3377

www.itasca-mantrap.com

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES



Power Surges: How they Happen and What to do About Them

It isn't always possible to prevent a power surge. Some causes, such as weather, are impossible to control. However, by being prepared it is often possible to minimize power surge damage.

WHAT CAUSES POWER SURGES?

Power surges are just as the name suggests: surges of electrical power that are higher than normal. There are several causes for a power surge including the following:

- **Electrical Overload.** Electrical overloads can occur when too much power is drawn from a single circuit. This happens most commonly from overusing extension cords and plugging in too many devices into the same circuit.
- **Faulty Wiring.** Faulty wiring is a potential internal cause of power surges, which are more likely to happen with damaged or exposed electrical wires. It may not be easy to see faulty wiring, especially if it's located behind walls. However, there are other signs that faulty wiring is present. These signs include outlets with burn marks, a burning smell coming from wiring or outlets, a buzzing sound coming from outlets, and circuit breakers frequently tripping. If you see

these signs, unplug any connected electrical devices immediately and turn off electricity to the area if possible. It's best to contact a certified electrician if you suspect faulty wiring.

- **Lightning Strike.** Lightning damage usually results from a direct strike on power lines, which produces a large voltage. This creates a spike in voltage, which in turn causes a significant power surge.
- **Power Outage.** While the lack of electricity during a power outage doesn't usually cause any issues, the return to connection could cause a jump in current when power is restored.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR HOME AGAINST POWER SURGES?

There is no way to predict or prevent every power surge but the following suggestions can be helpful to mitigate damage to home appliances and electronics:

- **Unplug everything during a storm.** This may be the single best way to protect your home appliances, computers and smaller electronic devices like gaming systems.

- **Use appliance-grade surge protectors for sensitive electronics.** Surge protectors with a high joule rating (2000+ joules) can help protect critical appliances in the event of a power surge. Consider purchasing appliance-grade surge protectors for your home's computer, refrigerator, washer and dryer, air conditioning unit or home theater system.
- **Have an electrician evaluate your wiring.** If you live in an older home, it is worth having a licensed electrician evaluate your wiring. Old, outdated wiring can fall into disrepair and may cause surges. Even with newer homes, it can be helpful to have an experienced electrician "audit" your wiring to identify any potential future issues.
- **Distribute your appliances.** Since electrical outlets, extension cords and even power strips can easily become overburdened, it is wise to distribute appliances between outlets and surge protectors. For example, use dedicated surge protectors and outlets for the television and computer, rather than combining them. Distributing where appliances are plugged in can help prevent outlets from becoming overburdened.

Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present. The Board took the following action.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- January financials, subject to audit
- Christine Fox as delegate for the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) meeting
- Director Utke as the Great River Energy (GRE) Board Director for Itasca-Mantrap
- Director Utke as the delegate for the GRE Annual meeting
- Director Roehl as the delegate for the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting with Director Cook serving as the alternate delegate
- Christine Fox as the voting delegate for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting
- The rescindment of Board Policy 3.50, Door Prize Eligibility

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative
- Privacy Committee report

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Itasca-Mantrap's Code of Ethics for Team Members

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

APPS & AMPS



Let's talk watts! We invite you to join us at The Outpost in Huntersville to enjoy delicious appetizers, and powerful conversation. Learn more about the benefits of being a member and receiving your power from Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative.

DATE: Wednesday, May 11

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

WHERE: The Outpost in Huntersville

RSVP by Friday, May 6 if you plan on attending.



MEMORIAL DAY 2022

OFFICE CLOSED ON MAY 30, 2022

Unclaimed Capital Credits

We need help with our capital credit records. There may be a check waiting for you or someone you know. Visit our website at www.itsca-mantrap.com and click on the Member Services tab, then click on Capital Credits, then click on the Unclaimed Capital Credits link. If you know the current address of someone on that list, please contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 888-713-3377.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov



Source: energy.gov

PLUG INTO SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.



THANK YOU

for your continued support of the Operation Round Up program to help local civic and charitable organizations.

ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192
Park Rapids, MN 56470

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
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E-mail: itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



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1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

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Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
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