



# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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SEPTEMBER  
2026

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**From parades to community gatherings, summer was full of memorable moments. We were proud to celebrate alongside our members and neighbors throughout the summer season.**



*Mor-Gran-Sou Electric participated in Carson's World Fair parade.*



*Deb Haugen (left), Troy Kuball and Julie Armijo walked in New Salem's CowTown HoeDown parade.*



*Julie Armijo (left) and Deb Haugen walked in the Mandan 4th of July parade along with other cooperative employees.*



MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



*Glen Ullin Public School's electric bus hits the road for another school year.*

# CHARGING AHEAD:

## Electric buses power local schools

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

A new school year brings familiar excitement across Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's service area. Just as students look forward to visiting with classmates and teachers prepare to welcome their students, school buses get ready to hit the road once again. Among them is an electric bus at the Glen Ullin Public School.

### Powering forward in Glen Ullin

In 2022, the Glen Ullin Public School added an electric bus to its fleet through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean School Bus Program. The new technology brought a new experience for both students and drivers.

According to those at the school, the electric school bus is much like a traditional bus, but is quieter, warms up faster and is powered by electricity. Included in the bells and whistles that have benefited the driver and students is the programmable heating. This allows the bus to begin warming up before the bus driver even arrives to begin the route, which is appreciated on the brisk winter mornings.

The electric bus is kept at the school's shop, which allowed the Glen Ullin Public School to install an in-house charger. The electric bus takes about four to five hours to charge and can run a full day's bus route,

which is a 20-mile round trip, on a single charge.

Another benefit discovered was the cost savings to taxpayers. Electrically charged buses do not need to be filled with diesel fuel like a traditional school bus.

"We are expecting savings, one on maintenance and fuel," says Glen Ullin Public School Superintendent Marty Bratrud. "We are anticipating a savings around \$4,000 a year and that's after purchasing electricity."

The Glen Ullin Public School is offered a special charging rate through its power supplier. Putting the electric bus on the road for another school year saves taxpayer funds and uses local resources.

"An additional benefit is we are using resources that are homegrown right here, and that is a win-win," Bratrud says.

The benefits of new technology also come with its own set of challenges. The bus seats were filled with district students for a few school years before issues arose with the charging unit.

"We received the parts to fix the charger early this summer," Bratrud says.

The charging station is operational for the school year, and Bratrud is excited to get the bus back on the road.

"We look forward to using the electric bus for the city route once again for the school year," Bratrud says. 

# Back to school safety tips



As students return to classrooms and school activities, everyone should take extra care on the road. School zones, bus stops and surrounding neighborhoods become much busier, with children walking, biking and crossing streets throughout the day. By staying alert and eliminating distractions, you can help create a safer environment for students and school staff.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind as the school year begins:

- Slow down in school zones and near bus stops.
- Never pass a stopped school bus.
- Expect increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

- Put away distractions while driving and watch for children crossing streets unexpectedly.
- Obey posted school zone speed limits.
- School buses, farm equipment and other vehicles often share rural roads. Allow extra time to reach your destination and be patient when traveling behind slower-moving equipment.

Keeping everyone safe on and around roadways is a shared responsibility. Slowing down in school zones and exercising patience on rural roads can help prevent accidents and save lives. By remaining attentive and giving extra travel time, we can help ensure a safe school year. 



## Watch for more opportunities!

Teachers, be on the lookout for student-based opportunities this year! Our employees have a vast amount of knowledge and are available to provide students with information on how energy services are provided and how to stay safe around electricity. If you would like a member of our team to visit a classroom, give our office a call.

Also keep an eye out for student opportunities, such as our safety poster contest, Youth Tour opportunity and high school senior scholarships! 



MOR-GRAN-SOU  
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## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Ensuring reliability**



**Travis Kupper**

*Co-General Manager/CEO*

You expect reliable and affordable electric service from your electric cooperative, so how does Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative deliver on that promise? A complex network of power generation and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide the electricity? That's a particularly complicated question, given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting energy needs so essential to your quality of life is balancing electricity supply with demand. While that may sound simple, a complex web of facilities and organizations work together to make it happen each day.

Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system,

regulating the number of cars – in this case, electricity – and their destination.

Our cooperative is part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) as the regional transmission organization.

In recent years, organizations such as SPP have issued new requirements for additional generation capacity. These requirements are being put in place to ensure the grid has enough available power, even during extreme conditions.

As a distribution electric cooperative, we don't generate our own electricity, but we purchase it through our generation and transmission (G&T) providers, including Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). This means our G&T providers will need to have additional sources of power and are building for the future to ensure we have enough capacity. Ultimately, this has also increased our power costs to ensure reliability.

While these investments come at a cost, they are essential to maintaining the reliable electric service you depend on today while preparing the grid to meet the challenges and energy needs of tomorrow. 

# Scan these QR codes to read a message from our power suppliers, Basin Electric and WAPA.



**Basin Electric Power  
Cooperative article**



**Western Area Power  
Administration article**

## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES:

# Operation Round Up helps neighbors



**Julie Armijo**

Chief of Staff/Member  
Services Manager

Communities are built on neighbors helping neighbors. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was founded by community members who sought change. Cooperatives are different. Cooperative values reflect dedication to strengthening the communities we serve.

One of the most meaningful ways we live out that commitment is through our Operation Round Up program, which supports community

members, organizations and initiatives locally. By investing in projects that enrich lives, foster opportunity and build stronger communities, we are proud to give back and support the people and organizations working every day to create lasting change.

### Apply for Operation Round Up grant

Operation Round Up is a voluntary, charitable program that allows cooperative members the opportunity to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar. The pennies, dimes, nickels and quarters accumulate in a fund. The funds are then distributed by the Charitable Foundation board in the form of grants to nonprofit agencies, corporations or organizations for charitable causes. Applications are accepted for charitable causes and crucial needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, emergency

services and education.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving have supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families and so much more.

Since 2018, with donations from members, we've donated over \$20,000 to 28 recipients. This shows small donations over time can collectively make a big impact.

If you know of an organization that could use support, encourage them to apply. Our next Operation Round Up grant application deadline is Sept. 11.

### Round up your bill

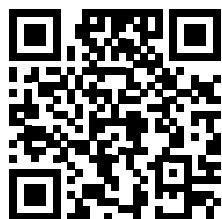
Did you know as a member, you can contribute to the positive change by donating your change? When you "round up" your monthly bill from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and donate to the Operation Round Up fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life.

By rounding up the change of your monthly bill, you are making a tax-deductible donation to the foundation. Members who participate in Operation Round Up will receive a summary of their giving on their December billing statement each year.

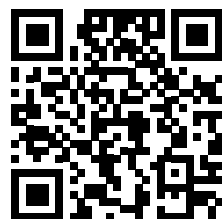
All funds flow directly into the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Charitable Foundation and are overseen by a board of directors.

If you haven't already signed up, please consider opting into the program and supporting your friends and neighbors in area communities. Scan the QR codes or visit our website for more information on the program. 

**Scan the QR code  
to apply for an Operation  
Round Up grant**



**Scan the QR code  
to round up  
your monthly bill**



## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: New technology installed in substations



**Gary Fitterer**

*Manager of Operations*

Each year, our operations and engineering team diligently compiles a work plan to improve our system's reliability. Projects are included in the plan for various reasons, from aging infrastructure to technology upgrades or alignment with the cooperative's long-term goals.

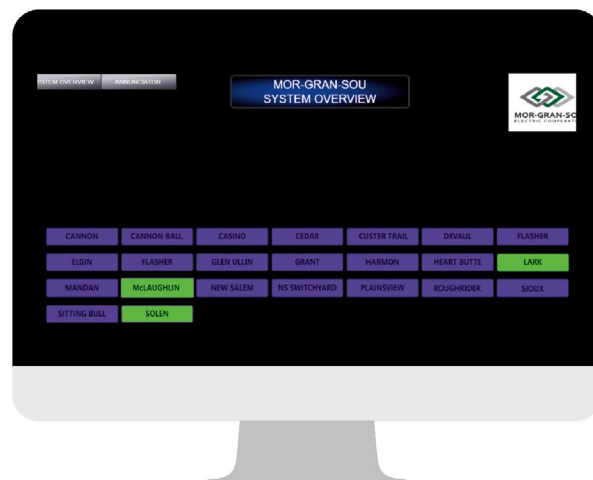
One project in this year's work plan was installing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) technology in the Lark, McLaughlin and Solen substations located in the

southern half of our system.

SCADA technology helps staff access, monitor and control Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's system from remote locations. This allows for enhanced service across the area for isolating issues, outage detection and enhanced safety.

When an issue is detected, SCADA relays an alert to the operations team at the cooperative. The operations team is able to provide line crews with detailed information about where the issue is located versus patrolling until the issue is found. The cooperative is also able to collect historical data, which is a key benefit.

Safety is a top priority at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and SCADA helps enhance safety. Due to real-time monitoring status on all equipment at the substations,



the operations team can open and close switches at the substation without being physically present. This can be especially beneficial during extreme weather events, such as a fire, tornado or blizzard.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is proud to make investments that improve reliability for our members. We look forward to continuing upgrades across our service territory in the coming years, helping to reduce outages, improve service reliability, and ensure our members have access to safe and dependable electric services. 

## KEEP YOUR HEAT METER ON!

**Members, if your home has a sub-meter for the separately metered electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel.**

If you have a heat meter, please make sure the breaker to the meter is turned on all year, to ensure we receive meter readings. If the breaker is off, your electric heat kilowatt-hour usage will not be billed correctly. The separately metered heat rates run Oct. 1 through April 30.



## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Outdoor electrical safety



**Layton Kasper**

*Journeyman Lineworker*

Fall brings busy days outdoors, whether you're tackling fall projects, preparing for cooler weather or simply enjoying time outside. It is also a good time to look around your home, yard and shop to check for potential electrical safety hazards.

Taking a few simple precautions can help prevent accidents and keep everyone safe. Remember these outdoor electrical safety tips this fall:

- Check extension cords, power tools and outdoor electrical equipment for signs of wear or damage. It is a good time to replace frayed or cracked cords to help prevent shocks and fires.
- Use extra caution when operating electrical equipment near puddles, ponds, livestock waterers or wet grass. Never handle electrical devices with wet hands.
- Be aware of power lines when using ladders,

trimming trees, moving equipment or completing outdoor projects.

- Make sure extension cords, outlets, power strips and tools are designed for outdoor use when used outside. Outdoor-rated products are built to withstand weather conditions.
- Never operate a portable generator inside a home, garage, shed or other enclosed area. Keep generators outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents. Always make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating a portable generator.
- If you notice a damaged utility pole, pad-mounted transformer (the big green box) or downed power line, stay away and contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative right away. Never attempt to inspect or repair electrical equipment yourself.

Electricity is all around us, and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and quality electric service to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can be aware of hazards before damage occurs. 



Journeyman lineworker **Chance Magilke** takes safety precaution when working in an underground transformer.



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# TIPS FROM THE CO-OP TEAM

## SMARTHUB | *Update your information*



Keep your information up to date and ensure Mor-Gran-Sou Electric can reach you during outages, for capital credits and more. Log into SmartHub to update your contact information.

## STAY ALERT | *Downloading apps*

Be cautious when downloading apps. Only use official app stores and check reviews first. Our SmartHub app can be downloaded by visiting your smartphone's official app store.



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative did not hold a regular board of director meeting in June. July board meeting highlights will be available in October's local pages of *North Dakota Living*.



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800-795-0555 OR 811

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Steve Tomac  
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison  
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger  
Directors..... Mark Doll, Seth Johnston,  
Ryan Petrick, Tess Schmidt,  
Kathy Tokach, Katie Wirt

### MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO ..... Travis Kupper  
Co-GM/CEO ..... Jason Bentz

**morgransou.com**

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