



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Careers in energy
- Powered by purpose
- Help with weatherization
- Generator safety

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

YOUTH TOUR:

Schmidt reflects on Youth Tour and her selection to the Youth Leadership Council

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

Each June, Washington, D.C., comes alive with youth from across the country during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. To select a delegate, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative holds an annual essay contest for high school sophomores and juniors.

This year, Alexis Schmidt from Mandan was chosen as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's delegate and joined other youth sponsored by electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., for a week of learning about electric cooperatives and our nation's rich history, as well as expanding their leadership skills.

A core memory

The days spent in Washington, D.C., on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity are jam-packed with memorable experiences. Students from across North Dakota, who were also chosen by their electric cooperatives, had the chance to get to know each other during an orientation event before traveling together throughout Washington, D.C.

"We all clicked really easily," Schmidt says. "Within a couple of minutes, we were all talking and getting to know each other right away and we became a family very quickly."

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Schmidt visited the U.S. Capitol on her Youth Tour visit.



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From visits to monuments, museums and even a musical at the Kennedy Center, students are immersed in an unforgettable experience from the beginning.

Schmidt says she enjoyed visiting the U.S. Capitol, seeing a performance of "Moulin Rouge" and meeting people from across the United States.

"I didn't understand the sheer scale of the Capitol, so that was cool. I also really enjoyed 'Moulin Rouge,'" Schmidt says. "Because that was the first time I had been so far from home, I would say meeting the other groups was a cool experience."

Schmidt credits the Youth Tour for helping her grow in skills, such as leadership.

"There's a lot of self-growth. You become more open, and I've definitely noticed that," Schmidt says. "Through this whole experience, I feel I've become very open to just talking to people."

She says this experience will help her far beyond her senior year at Mandan High School.

"In terms of college, I have some really crazy references and connections," Schmidt says. "There are so many internships that open up and scholarships."

The Youth Tour is a unique trip for the students who are awarded the opportunity, but its potential expands beyond the trip itself.

Youth Leadership Council

Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is an additional opportunity Youth Tour provides. Students who are selected for Youth Tour also have the chance to represent their state in a yearlong program, taking part in workshops about cooperatives, advocacy and service. After an interview, YLC applicants are chosen by their chaperones and peers.

Schmidt recalls being at breakfast one morning when the North Dakota chaperones were about to announce the YLC representative. It was between Schmidt and another participant she had grown close to over the course of the tour. After a short speech from each delegate and another round of voting, Schmidt was chosen.

Schmidt is the first Mor-Gran-Sou Electric representative to be chosen for this opportunity.

"Being selected for Youth Leadership Council is a tremendous accomplishment and we're thrilled for Alexis," says Julie Armijo, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric member services manager. "As Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's first representative chosen for this opportunity, she has set a wonderful example for future participants."

Since being chosen to serve, Schmidt has attended YLC Base Camp, where she has traveled back to Washington, D.C., to meet her fellow delegates.

"Base Camp was so fun, so let me just start there.

That was the coolest experience ever," she says.

While at Base Camp, delegates learn more about themselves, their skills and how to be better leaders, community members and cooperative advocates.

"I definitely learned that being a leader is not an easy task," Schmidt says. "During Base Camp, you learn about who you are at your core and how you can help other people unlock their higher potentials."

As a YLC delegate, Schmidt has a few tasks to complete. She will write and present a speech to the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of directors, which will be recorded and sent to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to choose the national spokesperson. Her other task is a community service project, which will take place in October.

"I'm hoping to learn more about myself. I'm hoping that I can unlock a better and more authentic version of myself, while also helping other people fulfill their full potential," Schmidt says. 

Apply for Youth Tour

Supporting the youth of our members is one of the many ways Mor-Gran-Sou Electric delivers value beyond electricity. These opportunities help instill life-long skills in students and bring them a chance to build their resumes. Each year, one student is chosen through an application process to represent Mor-Gran-Sou Electric on the Electric Youth Tour. Visit our website for more information and to apply. The application deadline is Jan. 15, 2027.



North Dakota Youth Tour students visit Washington, D.C. for a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Careers in energy



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

October is a special time for electric cooperatives as we celebrate National Cooperative Month and Careers in Energy Week. It is an opportunity to recognize the people, partnerships and shared values that make cooperatives unique. While members see the end result every time they flip a switch, a dedicated team is working behind the scenes every day to deliver reliable power and exceptional service.

You've likely heard the phrase, "Not all heroes wear capes." In our industry, many wear hardhats, harnesses and safety gear. Our lineworkers demonstrate their commitment every day in maintaining the electric system, responding to outages and working in challenging conditions to keep power flowing to homes, farms and businesses. Their dedication and willingness to answer the call, no matter the time or weather, reflect the cooperative spirit of service and commitment to the members we serve.

Equally important are the member services professionals who serve as the connection between

the cooperative and its member-owners. Whether answering billing questions, helping members understand programs and services or providing information during outages, they ensure members receive the support they need. Their work helps strengthen relationships and reinforces our commitment to putting members first.

These roles represent just a portion of the many career opportunities available within the energy industry. Behind every reliable electric system are employees in engineering, operations, information technology, accounting, communications and administration who work together to support our mission. Each position plays an important role in delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

As we celebrate Cooperative Month and Careers in Energy Week, we recognize and thank the employees and industry partners whose hard work makes a difference every day. Their expertise, teamwork and dedication help power our communities, support local economies and improve the quality of life for the members we proudly serve. 




Jesse Kuhn, engineering technician, works with members on obtaining easements and works with members on other needs.



Line crews work on projects to ensure reliability for members such as converting overhead services to underground.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members gather to the annual meeting in Mandan.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: **Powered by purpose**



Steve Tomac

Chair

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, let's take time to reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative.

As a director of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, I have the privilege of helping guide an organization that is truly different from other utilities. Unlike investor-owned utilities, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric doesn't exist to generate profit for investors. Our mission is to provide reliable, affordable electric services to our

members. That mission is at the heart of everything we do.

Being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally governed. That's more than a slogan. It's the

foundation of our business model. As members, you elect board members who provide the direction of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

In June, you elected three new board members, including Seth Johnston from Leith, Tess Schmidt from Mandan and Katie Wirt from Selfridge. These new board members join six other dedicated directors to address the unique challenges and opportunities facing our region. Decisions about your electric service aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away. They're made locally by people who share your values and have a vested interest in our communities.

Having locally elected directors is the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose. On behalf of the board of directors, thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to serve as your locally owned and governed electric cooperative. 

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES:

LIHEAP helps cover weatherization costs



Julie Armijo

Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager

Winter heating costs can be a significant concern for members across Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's service area. Fortunately, programs are available to help eligible individuals reduce energy expenses and maintain a safe, comfortable home throughout the colder months. Taking advantage of these resources can help ease financial stress and improve energy efficiency, making it easier to stay warm when temperatures drop.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help low-income and eligible individuals with assistance when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Through the N.D. Department of Health and Human Services and local human service zone offices, individuals can find help with a variety of services when it comes to home energy assistance such as heating.

Services offered

LIHEAP does more than help families pay their utility bills. The program can also cover a variety of weatherization services to improve a home's energy efficiency and help lower utility costs throughout the year.

Eligible households may receive assistance for insulation in attics, walls, floors and foundations, as well as weatherstripping, caulking and other upgrades that reduce drafts and improve a home's energy performance. LIHEAP can also help with furnace cleaning, repairs, replacements and chimney inspections or cleaning to improve both efficiency and safety.

Apply for LIHEAP

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will visit your home and assist you in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent into the state for review, and the results will be provided within a week or two.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services.

Applications are now being accepted year-round and can be found online at applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office. 

Scan the QR code
or reach out to your
local human service
zone office for more
information and
to apply.



Additional resources:

Three Rivers Human Service Zone:

Grant County

106 Second Ave. NE, P.O. Box 278
Carson, ND 58529
Phone: 701-622-3706 or 711

Morton County

210 Second Ave. NW
Mandan, ND 58554-3124
Phone: 701-667-3395

Sioux County

303 Second Ave. Ave., P.O. Box B
Fort Yates, ND 58538
Phone: 701-854-3821 or 711



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Powering together**



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

As the seasons change and communities settle into a busy time of year, we also take the opportunity to celebrate National Cooperative Month. It's a time to reflect on what it means to be part of a member-owned organization committed to serving our members and strengthening our communities. As an electric cooperative, we are guided by seven cooperative principles, including cooperation among cooperatives, which is a principle that plays an important

role in the work we do every day.

Our cooperative has a unique story. Years ago, our board of directors recognized the value of working together and joined a cooperative that partners with other cooperatives every day. By sharing expertise, resources and services, these cooperatives can operate more efficiently, control costs and better serve the members who depend on them.

Through ownership of Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative (IEA), Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative works closely with three neighboring electric cooperatives, KEM Electric, Roughrider Electric and Slope Electric. It's a perfect example of how cooperation among cooperatives strengthens everyone involved.

Reduce costs

Through IEA's services, Mor-Gran-sou Electric works alongside other cooperatives to help improve efficiency and better serve members. While IEA's engineering department assists with system analysis, maintenance planning and future expansion, the collaboration extends far beyond engineering.

IEA also supports information technology and supervisory control and data acquisition systems, works with accounting teams on budgeting and financial planning, and partners with member services departments to help communicate outage information and other important updates to members. By sharing resources, expertise and services, participating cooperatives can accomplish more together than they could individually while keeping costs manageable for the members they serve.

An advantage is the strong relationship we have with the other three cooperatives. When a specific piece of material is unavailable through our distributors, we can

reach out to the other cooperatives to see if they have what we need. Most of the time, they do, allowing us to either replace the material later or reimburse them for it. This partnership essentially gives us access to additional warehouses, helping us secure materials more quickly and keep projects moving forward.

Providing mutual aid

A well-known value of cooperatives is the willingness to help when others are in need. When a storm hits and a co-op is in need of additional crew members or equipment, we call each other for assistance. Because we are neighboring cooperatives, we are often familiar with the service area and may use the same technology to make the process a bit smoother during urgent situations.

Through these partnerships, we can better serve you with cost savings while maintaining quality of service to our members. By working together, sharing resources and supporting one another, we build a stronger cooperative. This month, we are proud to not only celebrate what we have accomplished, but who we have accomplished it with! 



When available, line crews provide assistance known as mutual aid to other co-ops during prolonged outage situations.



Generators can provide backup power during outage situations but it is important to use them properly.

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Generator safety



Wayde Eckroth

Journeyman Lineworker

When the lights go out, a generator can provide peace of mind by keeping essential appliances and equipment operating. Generators can be used as backup power source during outage situations, but they need to be used in a responsible way.

When generators are used incorrectly, they can pose threats to the user as well as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative employees. If misused, generators can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. If they are not connected properly, electricity can backfeed onto the line, causing harm to lineworkers while they are restoring power.

To ensure generators are used correctly, follow the manufacturer's instructions and keep these tips in mind:

- Install and regularly test carbon monoxide alarms. Keep generators at least 25 feet from doors, windows and vents.
- Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage or in any enclosed or partially enclosed space.
- Keep children and pets away from generators while they are running.
- Use properly rated, three-pronged extension cords and inspect them before use.
- Never connect a generator directly to household wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed by a qualified professional.

Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

Before winter weather arrives, be sure your generator is ready to provide backup power if needed and keep these tips in mind. If you have questions about the proper use of portable generators, give us a call at our office. 



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS July 29

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on July 29 at the Flasher headquarters. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's co-General Manager/CEO Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Operations Manager Gary Fitterer, General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Board reorganization: Directors were reelected to their existing board positions, including Steve Tomac as chair, Chad Harrison as vice chair and Pam Geiger as secretary-treasurer.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic items: Bentz presented the co-general managers' report, which reviewed several industry, regulatory and cooperative matters. He also discussed upcoming training and policies. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial

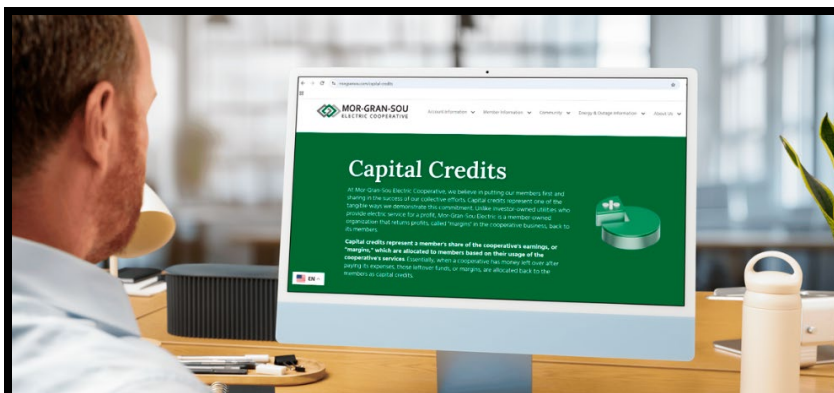
report, which included the balance sheet and income statement. Fitterer provided an operations report on projects and system activities of the operations crews. Armijo provided a review of the 2026 annual meeting, youth and program updates. She also outlined other member service initiatives. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided the board with a written report updating the board on progress of new office radios. Fergel provided a general counsel report covering legal topics and ongoing projects, including wildfire mitigation review, capital credit retirement policy and other items.

Action items: The board discussed and resolved 2027 board meeting dates, an update to the wildfire mitigation plan, committee appointments and other items.

Discussion: The policy committee discussed its timeline for bylaw amendments for the 2027 annual meeting.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 10 a.m. CT Oct. 28 in Mandan.



A searchable unclaimed capital credit list is available to view on our website.

Visit morgransou.com/capital-credits to view the entire list. Call our office with any information regarding members on the list.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

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