



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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DECEMBER
2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A time for giving

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

As the lights, snow and joy of the holiday seasons surround our local communities, thoughts begin to shift to the tradition of giving to others. For many, local food drives and gift donations are a great way to support others this season. Throughout Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's service area are various opportunities to give to those who may need some extra assistance this season. A trademark of rural North Dakotans is their willingness to help those in need. Below are just a few opportunities to give back in our communities.

Grant County giving tree

For a second year, Grant County giving tree, One County, One Heart, is ready to serve those who may need a little extra support this holiday season.

In 2024, community members Riley and Austen Dahl noticed a need to help support their local community and were quick to brainstorm an idea of a local community giving tree. Riley says the idea stemmed from her husband who is known for his willingness to always help others.

The One County, One Heart drop-off is in the Heart River Health Care's lobby in Carson. A giving tree is a community initiative where people donate requested items to assist those in need. Riley says they are collecting gift items to help families this holiday season, like books, toys and clothes.

"We wanted something within our community to help everyone," says Riley. "To help our own."

One County, One Heart also assists local schools and businesses through donations.

"We ask local schools if they are in need of extra

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY RILEY DAHL



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hats or gloves,” Riley says.

The Dahls rely on community members to help identify people who may need some extra help during the holiday season. But the donations are also open for people to get what they may need to make the season a little brighter.

Riley reflects on last year's drive and recalled an instance with a new family who moved to the community and how through the giving tree they were able to assist the family with gifts from donations from the drive.

As the Dahls continue this community initiative, they hope to help others and spread kindness throughout the community.

Items can be dropped off at Heart River Health Care on Tuesday's and Thursdays up until Christmas Day. Monetary donations will also be accepted and utilized towards community benefit. If you have any questions or know of someone in need, contact Riley at 701-516-2277. One County, One Heart can also be found on Facebook.

Morton County angel tree gift drive

For its eleventh year, employees in various departments at Morton County are helping sponsor 100 children through an angel tree gift drive. Of the sponsored children, 50 are identified through the Mandan Public School district and 50 are foster care children identified through Three Rivers Human Service Zone. An angel tree gift drive helps those who may need some additional assistance through the holiday season.

The facility at the school and employees at Three Rivers Human Service Zone identify the families and work with them on a list for the children.

Items on an angel tree often include clothes, toys, beauty products, and other items requested by the students.

“The giving tree covers every child within a family, whether they are in school or not” says Kari Hatzenbuehler, Morton County treasure.

All items are collected at the Morton County Courthouse and employees will deliver them in December. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, contact Kari Hatzenbuehler or Wendy Bent at the Morton County office at 701-667-3200.

Tri-county food pantry box

In early 2025, Wendy Bent along with her family and the local 4-H Group found a way to help those in need of food assistance through building a community food pantry box. The food pantry box, which is located outside of the Morton County building, began when the Bent family built the structure and brought it to their 4-H group, Falling Stars 4-H Club. From there,



The food pantry box is located on the northwest side of the Morton County building in downtown Mandan.

the 4-H club installed the food pantry box in front of the Morton County Courthouse and began stocking it.

“We have had difficulties keeping it stocked,” says Wendy Bent, director of human resources for Morton County.

Morton County employees diligently work to help with food donations to keep the food pantry box stocked. Bent says they're hoping to make the community more aware of the food pantry box and hope people can help by donating items.

The box is located on the northwest side of the Morton County building where Three Rivers Human Service Zone is located. This human service zone serves Grant, Morton and Sioux County. Here, members from the tri-county area seek and apply for assistance. The office lets members know of the additional assistance they can help themselves to outside of the building through the food pantry box.

Donation items as well as monetary donations can be dropped off at the Morton County Human Resources Department in the Morton County Courthouse.

Updates about the angel giving tree and food pantry box can be found on the Morton County Facebook page Morton County, North Dakota- Government.

In the fast pace of the holiday season, don't forget to take some time to help out a neighbor in your community. Whether you have the means to give through donations or simply volunteer your time, a generous act of kindness can go a long way this season. 

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Small change can change lives



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

The holiday season is finally here. It is commonly called the most wonderful season of all, because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right in our communities and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our communities are and what a big impact we

can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, you help us spread the good during the holiday season and throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help local organizations and individuals in need.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. The

cooperative principle, "concern for community," is one of the seven principles we follow as a cooperative. It defines who we are as an organization.

When we first brought electricity to this community in 1940, the quality of life improved. But other issues also needed to be addressed, and this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing quality-of-life improvements in our communities through the years. It's why we created Operation Round Up.

To date, we've given \$19,566 back to local community organizations with your help. Across the country, more than 350 electric cooperatives have an Operation Round Up program. Together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows small donations from electric co-ops like ours can collectively make a big impact over time.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in our communities. We hope you will think of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric as more than your electric provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright! 



NEED A BRIGHT IDEA FOR A HOLIDAY GIFT THIS YEAR?

We have energy gift
certificates available!

Call the office at
800-750-8212,
701-663-0297 or
701-597-3301.



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: Director nomination details



Julie Armijo

Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager

As we begin to prepare for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting next June, we have begun to seek director nominations. Our board of directors leads our cooperative with passion and forward thinking to ensure the longevity of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. If you are interested in running for a director position, learn more below!

Director elections

The initial commitment is a three-year term, with provisions in the bylaws limiting a director to serving six consecutive three-year terms, after which time the director is not eligible for another six consecutive three-year terms until one year has elapsed.

At the annual meeting on June 11, 2026, the following three board positions will be elected:

- **Grant County** – currently held by Casey Wells (serving his sixth and final three-year term)
- **Mandan Area** – currently held by Robert Leingang (serving his sixth and final three-year term)
- **Sioux County** – currently held by Rodney Froelich (serving his second three-year term)

Under the bylaws and due to a mail-in ballot, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Instead, the bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee of five to nine members who geographically represent the cooperative. These members will provide a list of qualified and willing candidates to the board for approval and inclusion on the ballot at the board of directors' meeting scheduled for Feb. 25, 2026. This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate's biographical information to be included with the notice of meeting sent to the members in May, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in person.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, which is appointed by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's directors, will meet for the first time at 6:30 p.m. CT Dec. 9. The committee will meet for a final time at 6:30 p.m. CT Feb. 19, 2026.

For a person to be nominated, the member running for a board seat must submit the completed

declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric by 4 p.m. CT on Feb. 12, 2026. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric office by the Feb. 12, 2026, deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

Bylaws and resolutions

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting scheduled for June 11, 2026. The board of directors has charged the Nominating Committee with reviewing and advising the board of any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions. Therefore, any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions should be submitted in writing no later than Feb. 12, 2026, and/or they can be presented in person at one of the Nominating Committee meetings. 

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric annual meeting deadlines

Dec. 9 – Initial Nominating Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. CT, Flasher

Feb. 12, 2026 – Declaration of candidacy deadline, submitted by 4 p.m. CT to the Flasher or Mandan office

Feb. 19, 2026 – Final Nominating Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. CT, Flasher

June 11, 2026 – Mor-Gran-Sou Electric annual meeting

Contact info

For board nominations, contact the Nominating Committee or Julie Armijo at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

Completed board declaration forms, bylaws and resolutions can be mailed to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297 or P.O. Box 1090, Mandan, ND, 58554-7090. Forms can also be emailed to Julie at jarmijo@morgransou.com.

For additional information or questions, call Julie at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

Nominating committee:

Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony
Jackie Buckley, Mandan
Rosie Erhardt, Mandan
Garek Murphy, Fort Yates
Jim Neubauer, Mandan
Toby Olin, New Salem
Donald D. Roth, New Leipzig
Jeff Striegel, Carson
Katie Wirt, Selfridge
Kathy Tokach, board liaison



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CO-OP YOUTH PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE



YOUTH TOUR

Youth Tour 2026 is calling, are you in?
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is now
accepting applications for the 2026 Youth Tour.
Apply today and level up your summer!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JAN. 16

SCAN ME



HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric offers a
variety of scholarships for high school seniors.
Whether you're attending a four-year university,
technical college, or trade school, there are
various scholarship opportunities available.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEB. 13

SCAN ME



Scan the QR codes above or visit **morgransou.com** for more
information and details on each of these initiatives.

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Reflecting on 2025



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

This past year, we made significant strides on projects outlined in our work plan, but also faced some unplanned instances. Here are a few projects we completed to ensure safe and reliable electric services to you, our members.

Underground conversion

This year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative installed 24 miles of underground utility cable. A major portion of that was converting 5 miles of single-phase overhead power line to underground cable from the Grant Substation near Carson.

Another substantial conversion project was retiring 7 miles of three-phase overhead power line to underground cable out of the Solen Substation. Other projects included installing new services, service upgrades and replacing underground cable. Converting to underground cable allows for additional safety and reliability to our system.

Transmission line reroute

This summer, 33 miles of aged transmission line and poles were retired and replaced with 14 miles of updated 69-kilovolt overhead transmission line and infrastructure from the Cannon Substation to the Grant Substation near Carson.

This project helps ensure reliability in the area. Although there are now fewer miles of transmission

line, the same amount of substations are served, but this decreases the miles of infrastructure exposed to weather elements.

Storm restoration

Throughout the summer, our system endured various hail, high winds and thunderstorm conditions, which impacted our infrastructure. The impact included replacing 19 69-kilovolt transmission poles with three-phase distribution. Also replaced were 13 single-phase utility poles and nine three-phase utility poles in various areas of the system. Additionally, 11 115-kilovolt H structures were damaged around the New Salem area. These storms caused over \$900,000 of damages to our service area.

Technology updates

We continue to upgrade technology across our service area. Sectionalizing technology is being updated from aged oil-circuit reclosers, commonly known as OCRs, to TripSavers. This year, we upgraded 15 oil-circuit reclosers to TripSavers.

TripSavers are oil-free equipment and require little to no maintenance when compared to traditional reclosers, ultimately reducing outages due to failures and creating better coordination throughout our system.

As we continue through the remainder of the year, we want to encourage you to report outages by calling the office. Thank you for your support throughout 2025. We look forward to ensuring safe and reliable electric services for you in 2026! 



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Holiday cybersecurity tips

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyberattacks is ever-present.

"We are committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger," says Patty Kluge, member services representative II. "But members can help, too. When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data."

During the holiday season, people across our service territory increase their online shopping or manage personal accounting through the web. We'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help bolster your online safety during this busy season.

- **Think before you click.** Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click a bad link or download a malicious attachment. Avoid messages that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.
- **Create strong, unique passwords.** When it comes to passwords, remember length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Create unique passwords for each online account you manage and use phrases you can easily remember.
- **Enable multifactor authentication when available.** Multifactor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.



- **Update software regularly.** Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones and tablets, should always be updated to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.
 - **Stay protected while connected.** Whatever the network device, the best defense against viruses and malware is to update to the latest security software, web browser and operating systems. Sign up for automatic updates if possible and protect your devices with anti-virus software. Another way to stay safe while connected to outside networks is to use a virtual private network or VPN.
- Being cyber aware is an essential practice year-round, but it is important to be additionally vigilant during busy times of the year. We hope these cyber tips help you stay safe this holiday season and everyone has an enjoyable holiday! 

HOLIDAY CYBERSECURITY TIPS

- **THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**
- **CREATE STRONG, UNIQUE PASSWORDS**
- **ENABLE MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION**
- **UPDATE SOFTWARE REGULARLY**
- **STAY PROTECTED WHILE CONNECTED**





MOR-GRAN-SOU
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MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Oct. 1

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 1 at the Mandan Service Center. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric co-General Managers/CEOs Jason Bentz and Travis Kupper, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: An agenda amendment was proposed. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a joint electric and broadband cooperative meeting, impacts of the June storms, the North Dakota Rural Electric Political Action Committee, power supplier updates and more. Several Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which reviewed projects being completed by line crews, including substation maintenance, new services and line retirement. Armijo provided a member services report on youth programs, Operation Round Up and member engagement. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided the board with a written report. Fergel provided a general counsel report on legal topics and his projects, such as the wildfire mitigation plan.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed workforce policies, financial forecast and other items.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session during the 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. Dec. 17 in Mandan. 



Happy holidays!

**Mor-Gran-Sou Electric offices will be closed
Dec. 24 and 25 as well as Jan. 1.**

**Line crews will be available in the event of
an outage. We hope everyone has a joyful
holiday season!**



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair.....Steve Tomac
Vice Chair.....Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer.....Pam Geiger
Directors.....Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEOTravis Kupper
Co-GM/CEOJason Bentz

www.morgransou.com

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