

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY



"To move forward, you have to give back." This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to the members we serve. With

Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we appreciate serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural North Dakota many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our service area to ensure it continues to thrive.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members (that's you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a cooperative.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our area,

thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for North Dakota's youth, such as education scholarships or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. Its contributing more than \$2800 to Operation Round-up. It means partnering with organizations through the RDFC Fund, and much more.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the cooperative through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our service area. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our membership.

Travis Kupper

MOR-GRAN-SOU CREWS BEGIN LINE PATROL

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative line crews are out in our service territory patrolling power lines and poles. This year's focus is on the Flasher, DeVaul, Cannon, Sioux, Casino, NW Mandan, Custer Trail and Roughrider Substations

"Our linemen are looking for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards and other problems that may affect the distribution lines that bring power to your home or business," said Gary Fitterer, operations manager at Mor-Gran-Sou. Depending on weather and road conditions, members may see linemen patrolling line in a cooperative marked truck, all-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles.

Completing maintenance such as replacing insulators and tightening bolts on a sunny day, rather than fixing an outage in the middle of the night, benefits you and your cooperative remarked Fitterer, "Line patrol helps us find these issues and reduce unplanned outages."

Mor-Gran-Sou ensures items are in working order to prevent unplanned outages and is committed to providing safe, affordable and reliable electric service. Preventative maintenance including line patrol is one of many proactive ways we are strengthening our power system.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

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Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
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Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Travis Kupper
Jason Bentz



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: KALE OHLHAUSER



You might be aware of the green metal box in your yard in your area, but do you know what they are for? These boxes are known as pad-mount transformers and are crucial in converting electricity to a voltage that is safe for use in homes and businesses.

"Although crucial, pad-mount transformers can be potentially dangerous and should not be messed with," said Kale Ohlhauser, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's Journeyman Lineman.

"Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses," said Ohlhauser. "Be mindful of underground cabinets and transformers before removing snow, planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems and digging as this may damage underground lines."

During the winter months, snow removal can be very important around these important pieces to our grid. "The North Dakota winter

can sometimes camouflage these pieces of equipment, making snow removal that much more dangerous," said Ohlhauser. "Be sure to know the location, if near one, to make snow removal safe and easy."

Use these tips to keep you and your family safe around pad mount transformers:

- **Remove snow around pad-mount transformers.** Snow piled on electrical equipment can impact your safety and electric service to your home. In the event of an outage, having the pad-mount transformers cleared of any snow will make it easier for linemen to restore power.
 - **Never touch, climb or play near or on a pad mount transformer.** Inform your children of the dangers of this piece of equipment.
 - **Keep the area around a pad mount transformer clear of any obstructions.** A 10-foot radius is recommended. This includes any trees, shrubs, or other obstructions.
 - **Do not dig around a pad mount transformer.** Below are underground lines that can cause damage to you and the electrical system if hit. Always call 811 before you dig.
 - **Report any damaged or unlocked transformer to your local cooperative.** If you notice anything off about the equipment, call us at 701-597-3301 or 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.
- "At Mor-Gran-Sou electric, we want to provide you with electricity as well as protect your livelihood," said Ohlhauser. "Please take this information into consideration to keep you and others around you safe."

PRAIRIE RECOVERY CENTER: HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The calm scenic background of rural, western North Dakota is a dramatic contrast to the internal landscape many feel of fear and anxiety when needing help with addiction and recovery. It is in the midst of the calm rolling prairie, near Raleigh, ND, that sits a few buildings on the side of a hill with a history of helping those who need it the most.

Today, it is the site of the Prairie Recovery Center, a comprehensive and compassionate care center for addictions and mental health. The recovery center setting is the exact uniqueness that helps serve others who are on their road to recovery and receiving the help they need.

To read more about Prairie Recovery Center, check out this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY BENZ

As we look forward to 2023, it's fitting to take time to look back on 2022 and pay tribute to those we lost who were part of the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative family. We were saddened to learn of the passing of Henry Benz on November 12, 2022.

Henry's life was of service to those in southwest North Dakota. Henry was born and raised on the family farm west of New England, ND. He attended schools locally and after the eighth grade, helped on the farm. He enlisted in the Army in 1953 during the Korean War. With an honorable discharge in 1955, Benz returned to New England where he then met and married his wife, Marge in 1957. Marge and Henry spent some time in Bowman and his employment with Mor-Gran-Sou brought his family to Mandan, ND where they raised their five children.

Henry began his Journeyman Lineman career with Mor-Gran-Sou on April 15, 1968 and worked his entire career working out of the Mandan area. Henry retired in 1994.

To read more about Henry and his legacy, see this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

Holiday Closings

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Feb. 20 in observance of Presidents Day. Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage.