



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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- Youth programs available

JANUARY
2026

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HAPPY New Year



MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Easy ways to stay informed



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/CEO

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, we want to take a moment to look at the many ways we stay connected to you, our members. Our goal is to make it simple and convenient for you to stay connected with what matters most. Whether it's a planned outage, severe weather response, board decisions or program updates, we offer several ways to keep you in the loop.

Website: Our website serves as an information hub for members. On our website, you can find information

ranging from outage maps and payment options to cooperative news.

Social media: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for real-time updates, outage alerts, and stories about our employees and community.

Print newsletter: Every month, members who receive a physical bill also receive our print newsletter, which highlights co-op news, programs and engaging infographics that spotlight the topics and issues you care about most. If you have paperless billing, you can also find the print newsletter in your SmartHub account.

E-newsletter: Our monthly e-newsletter delivers cooperative news and helpful tips straight to your

inbox! Our e-newsletter includes a member-focused question-and-answer section, program updates, and relevant state and national news. If you are not currently receiving the e-newsletter, call our office to update your email or update it within SmartHub.

North Dakota Living and local pages: You may often see us refer to articles in *North Dakota Living* as our local pages. Starting on C1 in *North Dakota Living*, you'll find updates on what's happening at your cooperative from operations and member services, along with safety tips, board meeting highlights and member stories that celebrate our community.

SmartHub: Available on the web, smartphones and tablets, SmartHub lets you pay your bill, track your energy use and receive the latest co-op news right at your fingertips. Within SmartHub, you can also report an outage without ever having to make a call. Sign up for timely notifications about outages and planned maintenance through SmartHub.

Staying plugged in helps you get the most out of your membership, because this cooperative belongs to you. If you ever have questions or need assistance accessing any of these tools, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always here to help. 



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Your voice, your impact! Participate in our member satisfaction survey and play a vital role in shaping the future of our services. If you receive a paper statement, you will get your member survey in the February billing statement. More information regarding the survey will be available in February.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: Power in your hands



Steve Tomac
Board Chair

As the chair of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, I am honored to serve our electric cooperative and our members. We are a co-op, so we operate a little differently than other utilities.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's decisions are made by directors who you elect and who are required to live in our service area.

Everyone who pays to receive electric service from the co-op is a member.

When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here to pay for the

electricity used or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our members. This is your cooperative, and your voice matters. That is why I want to encourage anyone interested to consider running for a director position.



Mor-Gran-Sou announces annual poster contest **KIDS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Grab your art supplies and draw a poster that tells our readers how you play and work safely around electricity. All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative logo. No matter what you draw, have fun! We can't wait to hear from you. Cash prizes will be awarded in each division.

DIVISIONS

- Preschool to kindergarten
- First grade to third grade
- Fourth grade to sixth grade

DEADLINE:

Posters must be received at the Flasher office no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on Friday, Feb. 27.

RULES:

- Posters must be on white, 8.5x11-inch paper.

- Posters must depict the theme of how to play and work safely around electricity and display the Touchstone Energy Cooperative logo. **Be creative!**
- Print the child's name, grade, address, age and parents' names on the back of the posters.
- Only dependents of current Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members are eligible for this contest.

PRIZES:

Each division will be awarded three prizes (nine prizes total): three first-place prizes of \$15; three second-place prizes of \$10; and three third-place prizes of \$5.

WINNERS:

Winning posters will be featured in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

As a board member, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the direction and decisions of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. Some of the responsibilities include:

- **Monthly board meetings:** The board convenes once a month (typically on the last Wednesday of the month) to review matters crucial to our cooperative's operations, development and growth.
- **Ongoing training opportunities:** Continuous learning is crucial. Board members have access to training sessions to enhance their knowledge and skills in governance and utility management.

The commitment of directors is valued, so they are compensated for their time and travel expenses.

If you are interested, please contact a board member, a member of the Nominating Committee or call Julie Armijo at our cooperative office to learn more.

Please know that you, the members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, are at the heart of everything we do. We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. We hope to see you at one of our regional meetings in the spring and at our annual meeting in June. The power is in your hands. 

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 in 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 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. 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, met for the first time Dec. 15, 2025. The committee will meet for a final time at 6:30 p.m. CT on Feb. 19.

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. 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 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. 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 and/or they can be presented in person at one of the Nominating Committee meetings. 

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric annual meeting deadlines

Feb. 12 – Declaration of candidacy deadline, submitted by 4 p.m. CT to the Flasher or Mandan office
Feb. 19 – Final Nominating Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. CT, Flasher
June 11 – 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@morgansou.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

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:

Planned cooperative projects



Gary Fitterer
Manager of Operations

As we look ahead into 2026, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is committed to bringing additional reliability and safety to our system. A team of engineers and operation employees from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric have thoughtfully planned to ensure seamless execution of the upcoming projects. These projects include strengthening our system and new services and upgrades.

Strengthening our system

Various substation projects have been diligently planned for 2026 as part of the current work plan. Completing these projects will allow for enhanced electric services for members.

- **North Almont Substation:** Two miles of aged overhead power line will be replaced with two miles of new underground distribution cable. Additionally, new underground cable will be installed west of the North Almont Substation. The 1.25 miles of underground cable will allow three miles of aged overhead power line to be retired.
- **Sioux Substation to Sitting Bull Substation:** Our staking technicians will begin acquiring easements to replace 7.5 miles of aged overhead power lines with 7.5 miles of underground cable.
- **Cannon Substation:** 3.5 miles of single-phase overhead power lines will be replaced with 3.5 miles of two-phase underground cable. Upgrading to two-phase will help expand load access in this area.

• **Plainsview Substation:** Two miles of overhead power line will be replaced with two miles of underground cable. This conversation is being made due to increases in rejected power poles during pole testing.

• **Solen Substation:** Crews began cutting over seven miles of three-phase overhead line in 2025, and we will continue to retire the seven miles of overhead line in 2026.

• **DeVaul Substation:** Five miles of three-phase overhead power lines will be replaced with five miles of three-phase underground cable southwest of the substation.

Additional projects crews will work on this year including pole testing on transmission lines, tree trimming and maintenance throughout the service territory. These initiatives will help us ensure our infrastructure is safe and reliable across our service area.

New services and upgrades

Throughout the year, our crews will continue to plan and install new services as well as service upgrades to meet members' needs. Whether you plan to build a new house, install a grain bin or have other plans that include bringing electric services, be sure to call our office. By contacting us in the early stages of the planning process we can help provide guidance and analyze what your projected electric service requirements may be as well as service availability and potential costs.

We would like to remind members to report outages by calling 800-750-8212. This information helps us assess where the cause of the outage may have originated from. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric continues to focus on the goal of providing safe, efficient, reliable service to our members and look forward to serving you in 2026. 



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Winter storm safety



Troy Kuball

Apprentice Lineworker

Snow, ice and high winds are often an inevitable part of the winter on the prairie. These conditions can have an impact on our electric infrastructure, which may lead to power outages.

"We know that outages during storms can be unsettling," says Troy Kuball, apprentice lineworker. "But here at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, our team is ready and prepared to help get power restored in a safe and efficient manner."

During uncertain times like power outages, it is important to be prepared and stay safe. Here are some tips to keep in mind before, during and after an outage.

- **Make a storm kit.** Having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Include items such as water, nonperishable foods, blankets, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries. Keep in mind all households may be different and make the kit

applicable to you. Place all items in a storage box, so all the items are in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

- **Report outages.** In the event of an outage, it is important that all outages are reported. This helps cooperative employees understand the issue and send a crew to restore the outage. Report an outage by calling 800-750-8212.

- **Use generators safely.** If you plan to use a portable generator as a power source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. It is also important to follow the manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.

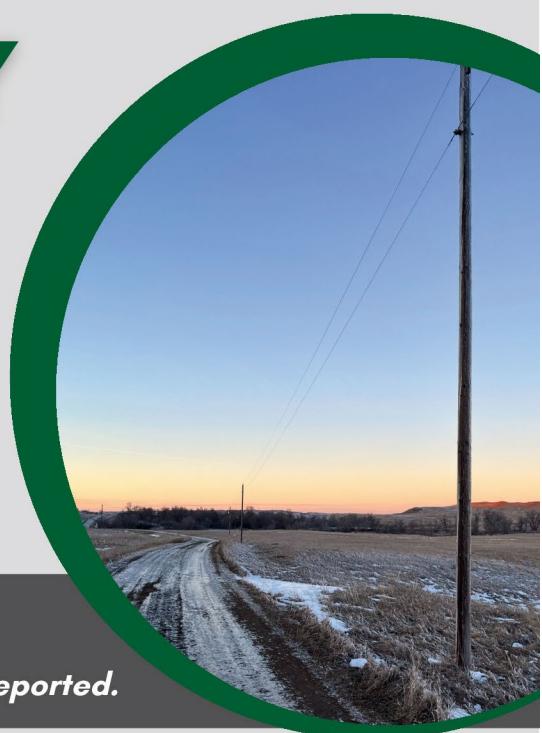
- **Never approach or touch a downed power line.** Always assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call us to report the downed power line immediately.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Additionally, rest assured knowing Mor-Gran-Sou Electric employees are working as efficiently and safely as they can to restore power to your home. 

REPORT EVERY OUTAGE

**If you experience a power outage,
please call us immediately at
800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or
701-597-3301.**

Please keep in mind, our social media pages and email are not connected to our dispatch center. Call one of the numbers above to ensure your outage is reported.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 29

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 29 at the Mandan Service Center. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 amended.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative and other items. Several additional Basin Electric reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which

detailed the projects currently being handled by line crews, including new service installations and service upgrades. Armijo provided a member services report on 2026 member events and programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided the board with a written report. Fergel provided a general counsel report on legal topics and projects, such as board policy review.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed the preliminary capital budget, capital credits, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association programs and more.

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. on Jan. 28 in Mandan. 

Statement of nondiscrimination

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice

and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD3027, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250-9410
- 2) fax: 202-690-7442
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is an equal opportunity provider.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
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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/CEO	Travis Kupper
Co-GM/CEO	Jason Bentz



www.morgansou.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

