

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY



Over the past year, you've probably heard or read about Mor-Gran-Sou's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from

other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

Now, with the holidays behind us, it has made me pause and reflect on the role we play in our rural area. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a

catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Operation Round-Up program, where we take donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to help fund beneficial programs in the communities we serve. Or our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.


You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is—after all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know that our core job is to keep

the lights on; but our passion is our local areas and community and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you—whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options—please reach out to us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.



Travis Kupper

FRANKLUND RETIRES FROM MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC

After more than 33 years in the industry, and 28 years as Co-General Manager/CEO of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Don Franklund, has announced his retirement.

Early Beginnings

Sleeves rolled up and ready to work, 16-year-old Don Franklund received his first taste of serving cooperative members by trenching cable in for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. Little did he know that years later, Franklund would return to the cooperative but in

a much different capacity.

For Franklund, the energy industry was always a passion, stemming from his father who was an electrician. After graduating from Mandan High School, he obtained a degree as a lineman and got to work. A year into the field, during a stormy night changing cross arms in the hail he vividly remembers asking himself if he wanted to do this for the rest of his life.

After that experience, Franklund found another field in the energy

industry and went back to school to pursue a degree in electrical engineering from North Dakota State University. His new degree lead him out of state to Denver, CO and although he traveled to a few more states for employment opportunities, his heart returned him home to North Dakota to raise his family.

To read more about Franklund and his time at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, check out our local pages in this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

202 6th Ave. W. – P.O. Box 297
Flasher, ND 58535-0297
701-597-3301 | 701-663-0297
1-800-750-8212
info@morgransou.com

Underground Line Locates
Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 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

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Travis Kupper
Jason Bentz



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: JACKIE MILLER



Jackie Miller
Chief of Staff
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

**SAFETY STARTS
WITH ME**

"At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we do our best to maintain our system to ensure readiness for all types of severe weather and to reduce the number of outages, but mother nature can be unpredictable," said Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou's chief of staff.

That being said, outages are inevitable. Here at Mor-Gran-Sou, our line crew takes necessary safety precautions when restoring power for you, our members.

However, our line crew's safety remains in your hands. When using portable generators in the event of a downed power line, this can prove to be dangerous and in some cases fatal to our lineman when used incorrectly.

A generator plugged into a home's wiring or regular household outlet can cause back feeding along power lines and electrocute anyone that comes into contact with them - even if the line seems deenergized.

Not only does this cause danger for our lineman, but also for our members. In the event that a generator is used improperly, generator owners may also be at risk of electrocution, fire, injury, property damage, or carbon monoxide poisoning.

Here are some tips to ensure you are using a generator correctly:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.
 - Always plug appliances directly into generators.
 - Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.
 - Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
 - Never overload a generator.
 - Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
 - Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
 - Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
 - Never refuel a generator while it is operating.
 - Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family as well as those that assist in bringing power to you, our members. Contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric for more information regarding generator hook ups.

BENTZ ANNOUNCED AS CO-GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Line workers in the energy industry are taught from early in their careers that they will be faced with various challenges on a regular basis. These challenging conditions prepared Jason Bentz for his new role as Co-General Manager/CEO of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

In late 2022, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors announced that Bentz would be joining Travis Kupper in leading the cooperative beginning in 2023.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of director, Kathy Tokach, noted, "We are confident in Jason's leadership abilities to help us through any challenges we may encounter as a cooperative, today and into the future."

Serving the cooperatives

From a young age, Bentz recalls his interest in the electric service industry. His basic understanding of the profession came from a cousin who served as a cooperative lineman for many years. "I was always interested in being able to work with my hands while being outside, and since I wasn't afraid of heights, I thought I would pursue a career as lineman," Bentz noted.

To read more about Bentz and his new position at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, check out our local pages in this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

REMEMBERING ROBERT "BOB" GIPP

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. It was with great sadness that we learned that Bob Gipp, who served as a Sioux County director from 1976 to 2003, passed away on Oct. 31, 2022.

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

OPERATION ROUND UP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Do you know of an individual or organization worthy of consideration to apply for grant money from Mor-Gran-Sou's Electric's charitable fund, Operation Round Up?

The deadline of January 13, 2023 is approaching to apply! Learn more by calling Julie at 701-597-3301 and 800-750-8212.