

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: IT'S A MATTER OF CO-OP PRINCIPLES, PART II



For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all Mor-Gran-Sou employees when

I say that we are thankful to be in such an incredible place.

You may recall that last month, my column touched on the first three cooperative principles, so this month, I'd like to share with you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Autonomy and Independence

The fourth principal, Autonomy and Independence, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local communities. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the

knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this newsletter every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.

Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through grants, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in the communities we serve.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Mor-Gran-Sou, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Travis Kupper

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SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: JESSE KUHN



The beautiful season of lights is officially upon us as the holidays approach and the year draws to a close. “Here at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we want to remind you that before decking the halls, remember that safety should always come first,” said Jesse Kuhn, Mor-Gran-Sou’s Engineering Technician.

When decorating with lights this holiday season, Kuhn recommends these few tips to take into consideration:

- Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations... an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
- Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.

- Don’t overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
- Don’t overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
- Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.

- Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Most of these tips apply equally to inside and outside decorating activities.

In addition, Kuhn suggests investing in LED lights this season. “Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, whether the large or mini bulb, LEDs will last for many, many years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out. Aside from physically destroying the bulb, the LED is amazingly robust.”

To our valued members, on behalf of everyone at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

2023 YOUTH TOUR: WIN AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

High School sophomores and juniors: Write a winning essay and win a trip of a lifetime! The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is set for June 18-23, 2023. Compose the winning essay and represent Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative as part of the North Dakota delegation.

Every June, as many as 1,800 high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation’s capital as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives – cooperatives that are committed to educating America’s rural youth about America and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

Participating in the Youth Tour is an awesome way to learn about this great nation, develop leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives, and make friendships that will last beyond the week.

Learn more by visiting our website at morgransouelectric.com/youth-tour.

APPLY FOR LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 – May 31. Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will go into 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 back within a week or two.

Shannon Rolandson, outreach specialist at Community Options says, “anyone is welcomed” to apply by visiting your local human service zone office or Community Options office. Applications can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov. Read more in this month’s issue of North Dakota Living.

Holiday Closings

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage. We thank all veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!