



C@RRENT NEWS

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Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

202 6th Ave. W. – P.O. Box 297

Flasher, ND 58535-0297

Phone: 701-597-3301

701-663-0297

Toll-free: 1-800-750-8212

Fax: 701-597-3915

Email: info@morgransou.com

Underground Line Locates

Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair..... Casey Wells

Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison

Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger

Directors:

Vern Frederick, Rodney Froelich,

Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang,

Kathy Tokach, Steve Tomac

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund

Travis Kupper

www.morgransou.com

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Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.

We also aspire to meet the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

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

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: HAPPY NEW YEAR!



It is this time of year that evokes comfort and nostalgia, recalling family gatherings and traditions and often is a time for us to reflect on the past year.

Today and everyday, I'm

grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here too. This past year we were driven by the motto that "Together we make a powerful difference," which was also the theme of our annual meeting.

The motto shines a light on how together we not only make a difference – but we accomplish more than we would independently and do so in a safe manner. We continued to work in our new normal and placed a heavy focus on the safety of our employees to ensure our workforce was able to be there for our members.

We are aided by the use of technology, which continues to play an important role. Holding virtual board and annual meetings is just one way we continue to find the beneficial use of technology can help our cooperatives

In addition to helping members today, we're focusing on the future. We continued to have a financially sound year and expect the same for the future. In your January statements, you will find the benefit of our good year with a bill credit. At the end of the day, we are committed to you and the communities we serve.

At the heart of all we do is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

Speaking on behalf of our team at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we know the future will be bright, because of you. This holiday season, we wish you and your loved one's peace, joy and prosperity.

We look forward to serving you in 2022.

Travis Kupper

MOR-GRAN-SOU OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program.

We continue to offer more scholarship opportunities to our graduating seniors.

The co-op will award: Nine \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op; \$500 scholarship to a graduating

senior from a school outside of our service area; \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative; \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction; \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services, \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships.

For more details, visit: morgransou.com/content/scholarship-applications-available

FITTERER PROMOTED TO MANAGER OF OPERATIONS

In early November of 2021, Gary Fitterer was promoted to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's Manager of Operations, after previously serving as the lead lineman in Mandan, ND.

"Gary has a vast knowledge base ranging from his time as an intern in Flasher, to leading the team in Mandan. We are excited to welcome Gary to the management team," said Travis Kupper, Co-General Manager and CEO at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

Fitterer, born and raised in Flasher, ND, received his lineman education at Bismarck State College. Shortly after receiving his degree, Gary had the chance to work for Mor-Gran-Sou as an intern.

Gary was hired on full time in the spring of 1999 as a lineman at the headquarters in Flasher. Nearly 3 years later, Gary was transferred to the Mandan outpost, where he would eventually be promoted to lead lineman in 2006. It was during this time that Gary would work throughout his most memorable times as a lineman, including the 2010 ice storm. "I will never forget the experiences we had when the



unpredictable North Dakota weather took out a large portion of our service territory."

Throughout his 20 plus years at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Gary has never experienced any outage quite as extreme. Although the experience was a challenge, Gary was glad he was a part of a cooperative team that worked relentlessly to return power back to the members.

Looking ahead

As Gary steps into the new role as manager of operations, he is grateful to be following the example of Randy Ressler, previous operation manager at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

Read more in this January's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD?

If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated as a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of director, please contact Julie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou office by the March 10, 2022.

Read more in the January issue of *North Dakota Living*.

POSTER CONTEST KID'S WE NEED YOUR HELP

Grab your art supplies and draw a poster that shows how Mor-Gran-Sou has served members for 75 years. This poster should display a clear, creative picture to help celebrate the cooperative's 75th anniversary in 2022.

All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative logo on their entries. 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

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 local pages of the North Dakota Living magazine.

For deadline and rules, visit our website at morgransou.com.

OPT INTO OPERATION ROUND UP

Operation Round Up is a program in which Mor-Gran-Sou members can voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies to the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation.

The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in our local communities.

On average, participating members donate about \$6 a year. The most a member would contribute a month is 99 cents.

The donation is tax-deductible, and

members who participate will receive a summary on their last billing statement of the year.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 800-750-8212. If you haven't already signed up, please opt into the program and support your friends and neighbors in area communities. Please fill out the form found at morgransou.com/content/operation-round.

