



C@RRENT NEWS

Vol. 20 ■ No. 5 ■ May 2022



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

**Find us on Facebook, Instagram
and LinkedIn!**

*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: SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE



May is Electrical Safety Month, and while we all depend on electricity to power our lives, accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

That is why safety is the top priority at Mor-Gran-Sou. Over time, Mor-Gran-Sou has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, Mor-Gran-Sou's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service to its member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but more importantly, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones and keep our members safe. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Mor-Gran-Sou has a safety coordinator whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity.

As importantly, we encourage all our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a

culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors and their safety. We continue to share safety information with our members through our social media, website and our monthly Safety Starts with ME articles, which can help members understand what they can do to stay safe.

As we recognize National Electrical Safety month, we want to encourage you to keep electrical safety in mind. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There are many things you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity, including:

- Do not attempt to do DIY electrical projects that could overload your outlets
- Do not use any extension cords that are cracked, frayed or damaged
- Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss.
- If you see anything that does not seem quite right, give us a call at the office or send us a picture at safety@morgransou.com

Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

Travis Kupper

ATTEND MOR-GRAN-SOU'S 75TH ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again; Mor-Gran-Sou is gearing up for the 2022 annual meeting, which will be held on July 15 at Fort Yates.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new board members.

Mor-Gran-Sou's employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food, games and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event. This year, we will also be unveiling something new, you won't want to miss!

Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for seven Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for three board director positions up for re-election in July. In 2022, the three board positions sought include: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan-Area position, and one Morton County position.

The board of directors set March 10 the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms.

The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 15. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names they received be forwarded to

the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 23 the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

Grant County

Scott Katus - Watauga
Ryan Petrick - Elgin
John Schmid - Carson
Myles Stoller - Elgin

Mandan Area

Pam Geiger - Mandan

Morton County

Mark Doll - New Salem
Curtis Feland - Almont

ByLaw Amendment

The members will also be asked to approve a bylaw amendment this year to eliminate the term limits from the bylaws. The term limit provision only allows a board member to seek six consecutive three year terms. The position of the MGS Board of Directors is that term limits should be eliminated because a director is always subject to not being elected when the term expires. In addition, term limits may prevent a director from serving on national boards. MGS is the only North Dakota electric cooperative with term limits for its directors.

Learn more by reading this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

LANDEIS WINS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



For Wyatt Landeis, from Mandan High School, an opportunity to travel and learn about our nation's capital, is what persuaded him to apply for the North

Dakota Youth Tour.

His knowledge, research and time won an all-expense trip to Washington, D.C., to see our nation's capital through the NRECA Youth Tour.

Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou holds a contest to select one local sophomore or junior high school student to attend the NRECA Youth Tour. The winner will travel with other North Dakota teens and join 1,400 students from across the nation during the Youth Tour. Participants will learn about cooperatives, visit with legislators at the Capitol, see the national monuments, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Wyatt is the son of Mor-Gran-Sou members, Kim and Jason Landeis. He is involved in his community and is involved in many extra-curricular activities including band, Boy Scouts and DECA.

Wyatt wrote this year's winning essay. See what Wyatt had to say in this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

MOR-GRAN-SOU AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

Mor-Gran-Sou/Basin Electric scholarship

The winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/ Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship award is Adam Gress. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2022. Adam is the son of Ben and Trina Gress, from Mandan, ND. Adam plans to attend North Dakota State



University to pursue a degree in food science.

Mor-Gran-Sou/WDUS/3C Construction scholarship

Two \$500 scholarships were made available, on behalf of West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction. Clayton Marohl was awarded a \$500 WDUS scholarship. Clayton is the son of Jonathan and

Michelle Marohl from Solen, ND. He plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science and pursue a degree in diesel technology.

There was no applicant for the 3C Construction scholarship.

Mor-Gran-Sou high school scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou offered one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area,

for a total of six \$500 scholarships awarded. This year's recipients receiving \$500 in the fall of 2022 are:

- Elgin-New Leipzig Public School chose Samantha Ellison, daughter of Jeff Ellison.
- Flasher Public School chose Jace Friesz, son of Jade and Sonya Friesz.
- Glen Ullin Public School chose McKenzie Gerving, daughter of Mike and Carrie Gerving.
- Mandan Public School chose Jenna Gierke, daughter of Steven and Kristy Gierke
- New Salem-Almont Public School chose Emily Morman, daughter of Tim and Tiffani Morman.
- Home school or school outside Mor-Gran-Sou's service territory: Meghane Olsen, daughter of Blaine and Becky Olsen.