



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

DECEMBER 2015

NEWS

Merry Christmas, from Mor-Gran-Sou



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members **Ken** and **Sue Koch**, and grandchildren **Nolan** and **Lainey Koch**.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, take time for faith, family and fun — and don't forget to smile.

In this issue:

- **Community contributes to saloon's success**
- **Clean Power Plan may impact Mor-Gran-Sou members**
- **Serve as a board director for your cooperative!**
- **Youth opportunities: scholarships and trip**
- **Meeting minutes and more**



ABOUT COMMUNITY

RUSTY'S SALOON & GRILL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

*With many ties to the area, **Al Leingang** researched saloons across the United States and built his business using authentic pieces when possible.*

Rusty's Saloon & Grill may be the vision of one man, Al Leingang, who grew up by St. Anthony and wants to see his small town flourish. But it's the contributions of countless Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members that help make this revitalized Western business unique.

One person provided decorative metal. Another donated wood from a snow fence. Another used his sawmill to cut a piece of felled Oak from a tree following a flood. The wood is now part of the bar. Another person painted and provided Western artwork. Another supplied rocks to protect the sewer system. Countless others supplied wildlife and other mounts to decorate the walls. The chairs, made from wine barrels, will display the brands of area ranchers.



COURTESY PHOTO

*The former owner of "Rusty's" for 45 years, **Rusty Hoffman** stops by the renovated saloon nearly every day around dinner time, and visits with locals who like to tell stories about all the good memories they made at Rusty's.*



The parking lot includes space for "horse parking," and it has been well-used by visitors and clubs that can stay overnight in a camping area and utilize a rest room with showers attached to the saloon.

"It's one thing after another like that," Leingang says. "This whole thing is about the community."

Rusty's Saloon & Grill opened the weekend of pheasant opener. Leingang purchased the building from St. Anthony local Rusty Hoffman, who owned Hoffman's Bar, known as Rusty's, for 45 years.

When Rusty wanted to retire, he contacted Leingang to see if he would be interested in purchasing the bar. St. Anthony holds a special place in Leingang's heart, as his grandfather and great-grandfather were from the area. It is also home to the only Verein Hall left in the United States. Leingang, a Mor-Gran-Sou member who owns a hunting cabin in the area, says these connections compelled him to consider the offer and eventually buy the place.

A major overhaul began in April. Significant space was added, the entrance was moved and the inside was gutted down to the frame. It was rebuilt with energy efficiency in mind, utilizing spray foam to insulate the attic, walls and coolers to retain heat and air, and adding a polystyrene ceiling that looks like decorative metal to absorb noise.

To create an old-time Western theme, Leingang researched a book that featured saloons across the United States, and found ideas he wanted to replicate. A hunter who appreciates renovated wood,



COURTESY PHOTO

From the deer to the goose to the pronghorn and more, all the mounts were donated by locals including this fish, caught by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's own **Adam Bloms**. Bloms is the system administrator for Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC.

Leingang incorporated as much nature as possible. The siding is dry-standing hewn trees. The square logs, which came from Montana, have chinking like the original. The recycled table tops came from a bowling alley in Tuttle. The bar is a hand-carved 1908 Brunswick that Leingang had stored for the past 16 years.

"There's a thought behind every process," says Leingang.

Expense was not spared to make the place authentic. After doing more research, Leingang ordered wallpaper with a 1900s design — from France. Then he asked Rusty to drive more than 1,000 miles for an exhibition table.

"People like to make imitation, but most of this is real," says Leingang.

Located close enough to Mandan for residents in the Bismarck-Mandan area to take a short drive — and unique enough for folks in communities along Highway 6 to drive for miles to patronize the saloon — the "fabulous" food and exceptional customer service are what will keep people coming back for more. From the moment

someone enters the saloon and is greeted with, "How the hell are you?" to the time a person leaves and is told to, "Have a grand day," Rusty's Saloon & Grill offers an experience like no other in North Dakota.

Rusty's Saloon & Grill is open seven days a week from 12 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturdays it opens at 11 a.m. For information, call Leingang at 701-445-2022. ■



Utilizing the skills of a chef relatively new to the saloon, owner Al Leingang says the food is "fabulous." So is the service of the employees, many of whom are locals who appreciate having a job so close to home.



If left unchanged, the Clean Power Plan may have a significant impact on our member-owners

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined the utility industry should be doing more to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions into the atmosphere, so it has created a federal plan to speed the process. It will come at the expense of consumers at the end of the line — including the member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan initially proposed an overall 11-percent reduction of CO₂ emissions in North Dakota from 2005 levels by 2030. But when the final rule was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 23, the EPA had kicked that number up to a 45-percent reduction over that same time period.

To the electric cooperatives in North Dakota, reducing emissions by 11 percent sounded challenging, yet achievable. Given today's current technology and short timeframe, 45 percent will be next to impossible. If this ruling remains as is, it will have significant impacts on our membership, communities, state, and rural America as a whole.

North Dakota's electric cooperatives have always considered ourselves good stewards of the environment. For many years now, we have been retrofitting coal-based power plants, restoring land to its original habitat through reclamation, and developing renewable-energy resources — all while meeting or exceeding environmental requirements. We have taken these steps to provide our member-owners with affordable and reliable electric service, which has become one of the

foundational lifelines to our society. The EPA's plan puts that in jeopardy.

Electric cooperatives are heavily invested in coal-based generation for good reason: At the time that we knew we had to build more generation to meet increasing demand for power in the 1970s, the nation was operating under the Fuel Use Act. This Act made it illegal to use natural gas for power generation, virtually forcing power companies to use coal as the primary source of fuel.

It was not hard to follow the law. North Dakota is blessed with the two abundant natural resources required to produce affordable electric power: lignite coal (used as fuel) and water (which creates the steam to spin the turbines). From 1963 through 1985, North Dakota's electric cooperative members invested some \$5 billion to build about 3,500 megawatts of coal-based generation that provides dependable, affordable electric power to millions of people in the Great Plains (roughly 55 percent of the electric power generated in North Dakota is shipped outside our borders). While North Dakota-based generation cooperatives have invested in renewable energy, renewable generation constructed prior to 2013 does not count toward North Dakota's carbon-reduction goals.

Some of you may be thinking, "We want cleaner air. We want to do what's right for the environment." Electric cooperatives care about the environment, too. That's why our power providers have spent a tremendous amount of money on mercury controls, sulfur controls



Franklund



Baumgartner

and air-particulate controls, to protect our water and air. You may remember the issue of "regional haze," in which the idea was to reduce carbon monoxide and air particulates in order to improve visibility. The Clean Power Plan is a very different issue. It deals with carbon dioxide — not carbon monoxide. There is no viable solution for CO₂. The improvements the EPA wants made will have no noticeable impact on our air quality.

Our state's response to the Clean Power Plan is following two tracks: implementation and litigation. The N.D. Department of Health is taxed with developing an implementation plan. Before year's end, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said the state will also file suit in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., to seek a stay in the rule. Collectively, 26 states are opposing this rule.

This region's coal-based power plants are some of the cleanest, most reliable, and best operated and maintained facilities in the world. Because we believe in being good stewards of the environment, North Dakota's electric cooperatives will continue to invest in technology to make these plants even cleaner. Coal must remain in the mix, if we are to have affordable and reliable energy.

The current plan is unaffordable, and may cause significant rate increases for our member-owners. To make it attainable, we need realistic goals, and technology and time.

We'll keep you updated on this important issue as events unfold. ■



Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 15, 2016

Are you looking for a way to serve the people of central southwestern North Dakota? Look no further, as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative can help you fulfill that desire. Why not serve as a board director for the cooperative? 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, the following three board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Vern Frederick;
- The Mandan Area position presently held by Leland "Judge" Barth; and
- The Morton County position presently held by Pam Geiger.

Under the bylaws and due to the use of 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 March 30, 2016. 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 June, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in person.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board and will meet for the first time, set for Jan. 13, 2016.

The members of the Nominating Committee include Leslie Dirk, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Kathy Hoff, Leith; Jim Hopfauf, Flasher; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Lisa McLaughlin, Fort Yates; Rodney Nelson, Almont; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

For a person to be nominated, the member vying for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou by 4 p.m. CT (3 p.m. MT) on Thursday, March 10. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jackie Miller, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297. If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. You can also email Jackie at jlmler@morgransou.com.

The Nominating Committee members or Jackie can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou's website at www.morgransou.com. To download the form electronically, click on the link entitled Find the Declaration of Candidacy form on the home page. Candidate qualifications can be found on the website under Home/Cooperative/Articles and Bylaws/Board of Directors/402 Director Qualification or on the declaration of candidacy form.

If you have questions about the process, give Jackie a call. 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 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board. ■

Latest scam uses actual co-op recording to trick members

Courtesy, in part, of Electric Cooperative Today

Another utility scam has been reported. This time, perpetrators targeted an electric cooperative in Missouri, and used its recorded phone message to try and trick consumers.

Affected members reported receiving calls demanding payment or they'd be disconnected within minutes. They were given a callback number, which played the real co-op recording that thanked them for calling their electric cooperative.

It was a poor-quality reproduction, but good enough to sound legitimate.

When asked to choose an option, members were greeted by a person with a foreign accent, who claimed to be an employee with the cooperative.

You can imagine this person's surprise when an actual employee of the cooperative called and stated who he represented, demanded the phone scam end immediately, and that he had contacted the attorney general's office and filed a report.

The statement was followed by a curse-filled response and hang-up.

Members, to the best of our knowledge, this particular scam has not targeted consumers in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area. It could though, or another one like it. Please be aware that scams can occur anywhere, and take great care in providing personal information. If you have concerns or questions about making payments on your utility bills, please contact us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. We are a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative that is always happy to hear from you and work with you, our member-owners.



Co-op scholarships available for high school graduates

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering four \$500 scholarships to qualifying seniors.

The scholarship program, sponsored by Mor-Gran-Sou and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of the children of cooperative members. To qualify, students must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year

college, university or vocational/technical school. They must be U.S. citizens and dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members.

As in past years, Mor-Gran-Sou will offer four scholarships. Two of the four are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. We ask that the applicant specify which scholarship award he or she is requesting.

Recipients will be chosen on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average; activities, achievements and honors; work experience; a personal statement of career goals; an essay question centered on local cooperatives and how they serve the area; and an appraisal from



a high school or college counselor or adviser, instructor or a work supervisor who knows the student well.

The scholarship will be awarded during the 2015-2016 school year. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at www.morgransou.com.

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016. Please deliver or mail all necessary information to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.

If you have questions or would like further information, please call Julie or Jackie at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212. ■

Mor-Gran-Sou announces annual safety 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. This poster should display a clear, creative picture of this year's theme: "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® 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

DEADLINE:

Posters must be received at the Flasher office no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on **Monday, Feb. 29, 2016.**

RULES:

- Posters must be on white, 8.5- by 11-inch paper.
- Posters must depict the theme, "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" and display the Touchstone Energy logo. Be creative!
- Print the child's name, address, age and parent's names on the back of the posters.
- Enclose a photograph of the child for publishing purposes.
- Only dependents of current Mor-Gran-Sou 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, along with the child's photograph, will be featured in the Mor-Gran-Sou local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine. ■



JUNE 11 to 17, 2016



WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.

HIGH SCHOOL
SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS



- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- If you have questions, contact Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-597-3301 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 29, 2016. Emailed entries should be directed to jlmliller@morgransou.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.

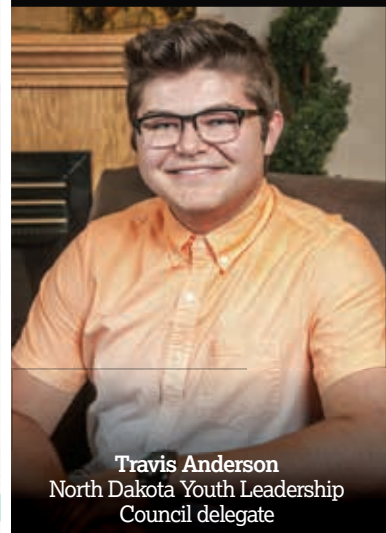
ESSAY QUESTION:

"Pick one of the four Touchstone Energy® core values — innovation, integrity, accountability or commitment to community — and describe how you see this in action at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative."

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

Click the link below to find out why you should write an essay for the 2016 Youth Tour.
www.youtube.com/ndarec



Travis Anderson
North Dakota Youth Leadership Council delegate

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Oct. 30, 2015

- Approved the Sept. 30, 2015 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credits refunds to estates
- Heard update on the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan
- Reviewed and discussed preliminary 2016 Budget
- Reviewed and discussed the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Power Services Agreement
- Set the 2016 budget annual maximum amount for capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted Mor-Gran-Sou's IRS 990 form
- Confirmed 2016 Mor-Gran-Sou Strategic Planning date and time
- Approved voting ballot for the National Information Solution Cooperative district nomination
- Heard update on Healthcare Trust
- Elected a Mor-Gran-Sou director to the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives Board, and assigned an alternate
- Accepted a member to serve on the 2016 Nominating Committee; awaiting two other designees
- Accepted the proposed deadline dates for candidate nomination and process per Bylaw 403
- Confirmed Director Geiger as the representative from the Board to assist the Nominating Committee
- Approved attendance and voting delegates/alternates for upcoming meetings
- Heard Co-General Managers/CEOs' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA)
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed safety meeting minutes and safety reports
- Reviewed and accepted director's and attorney's financial report for September
- Heard director reports and held discussion on meetings attended

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

Dec. 21, 2015 in the NDAREC board room,
Mandan, at 10:30 a.m. CT
Jan. 27, 2016 in the NDAREC board room,
Mandan, at 10:30 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Leland "Judge" Barth or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved Board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at www.morgransou.com, or contact the office for a copy.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Our entire organization wishes our member-owners a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year! In observance of the holidays in December and January, Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed:

- **Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, for Christmas**
- **Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, for New Year's Day**

Members: Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.



Former Mor-Gran-Sou lineman passes away

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was saddened to learn of the death of Christie Bandle, who passed away on Nov. 7. He was hired as a groundsman in August of 1974 and upon his retirement from the cooperative, was working as a lineman. The board of directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou extend their condolences to the family and friends of Christie Bandle.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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Email us: info@morgransou.com
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Leland "Judge" Barth
Vice Chair..... Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors Mark Doll,
Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,
Chad Harrison, Bob J. Leingang,
Bonnie Tomac

MANAGEMENT

Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Chris Baumgartner
Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Donald A. Franklund

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative