



# Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Current News

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### Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### Underground Line Locates

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

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland “Judge” Barth

Vice Chair.....Casey Wells

Secretary-Treasurer.....Pam Geiger

### Directors:

Mark Doll

Vern Frederick

Lance Froelich

Chad Harrison

Bob J. Leingang

Bonnie Tomac

### Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Chris Baumgartner

Donald A. Franklund

**[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)**

### “Like” us on Facebook

*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 four Touchstone Energy core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.*

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

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**

## Safety training saves lives

In June 2008, the *Stabroek News* in Guyana reported electric lineman became stranded on a pole when the support he was standing on gave way

and wires began sparking. His thighs and lower right leg were burnt, and he was rendered unconscious. He hung limply in his safety belt, until one of his co-workers performed a pole-top rescue and lowered him to the ground.

The injured lineman was wearing the necessary personal protective gear, and thankfully he survived.

Accidents like this are not common, but they do happen. Linemen can also be stranded on a pole if they experience heat stroke, a heart attack or other condition that disables them and prevents them from climbing down. That’s why the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires linemen to receive pole-top safety training on an annual basis.

The 12 linemen who work for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative receive this refresher course from safety instructors with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC). During this year’s training, held April 28 at the Mandan Service Center, each lineman had to climb a pole, secure a rope around the waist of a 200-pound mannequin and lower the “body” to the ground.

NDAREC Safety Instructor Steve Homes discussed different techniques on how to secure the rope. In areas where Mor-Gran-Sou Electric has a three-phase distribution system, a lineman could use the pole’s cross-arm to secure his rope.

In other areas that have a single-phase line without a cross-arm on the pole, a lineman could use a screwdriver to secure the rope after the tool has been pounded into the pole.

Remaining vigilant in their culture of safety and regularly reviewing what they already know can make the difference between life and death in a critical situation for linemen who sometimes work long hours in extreme weather conditions to restore electric service following an outage.

Thanks to regular safety training sessions including pole-top rescue, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric’s linemen are better equipped to react quickly and efficiently, and hopefully bring their co-worker and friend home safely to his family, should an accident ever occur.



Leadman Gary Fitterer



Journeyman Lineman Cody Graetz

## MANAGERS' MESSAGE

### Compliance requirements protect Mor-Gran-Sou and increase reliability

In April 2013, a sophisticated sniper attack on the Metcalf transmission substation near San Jose, California, resulted in the most significant incident of domestic terrorism involving the bulk power grid at that time. While the attack resulted in significant damage to electrical infrastructure, it did not cause major power disruptions because officials were able to reroute electricity remotely.

The Metcalf incident is only the beginning. In December 2015, a cyber-attack on a regional electrical distribution utility in Ukraine resulted in more than 250,000 homes being out of power for hours. Quick actions by system operators limited the damage.

While it's hard to imagine something like this happening in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area, it's not a stretch of the imagination.

In 2015, a *USA Today* analysis of federal energy records found that about once every four days, part of the nation's power grid is struck by a cyber or physical attack. If criminals would be successful in taking down part of our national electric grid, it could leave millions in the dark and cause billions of dollars in economic damages.

*To learn how electric cooperatives across the state and nation are protecting themselves from attacks like these, and some of the changes Mor-Gran-Sou is implementing to better protect our physical and cyber security, read the full column in the local community pages of the June North Dakota Living magazine.*

## Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed to honor the July 4th holiday

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency on Monday, July 4.

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Co-op announces candidates seeking board positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for eight Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for election in July. In 2016, the three board positions sought include: one Grant County position, one for the Mandan Area position, and one for the Morton County position.

The board of directors set March 10 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 22. 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 30, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

#### Grant County:

Vernard Frederick, Flasher  
Delwin Petrick, Elgin

#### Mandan Area:

Leland Barth, Mandan  
Cody J. Hatzenbuehler, Mandan  
Clyde Howe, Mandan

#### Morton County:

Dennis Dutke, Mandan  
Jay Larson, Almont  
Travis Wolf, Mandan

A biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou's annual report, scheduled to be mailed later this month.

#### Please note the meeting schedule:

3:30 p.m. CT – Registration begins  
5:30 p.m. CT – Business meeting call to order; election of candidates  
6:00 p.m. CT – Business meeting recessed; banquet served  
7:00 p.m. CT – Business meeting reconvenes

## Head west for less!

Some of North Dakota's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives are making it more affordable to take their families west, including Mor-Gran-Sou. This summer, head to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a **15-percent discount** in association with:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- A Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Lodging at the Bunkhouse Motel, Badlands Motel or Rough Riders Hotel
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you travel to beautiful Medora anytime this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and use the code TOUCH2016 to receive your 15-percent savings. Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code TOUCH2016 at the door.



### Also in the JUNE issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Job and Career Fair in Elgin
- Highway 21 Treasure Hunt June 17-18
- Flasher Public School groundbreaking
- Happy Father's Day!
- Meeting minutes & more