



CURRENT NEWS



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**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland “Judge” Barth
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells

Directors:

Mark Doll, Vern Frederick
Lance Froelich, Chad Harrison,
Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Chris Baumgartner
Donald A. Franklund

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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 and employer.

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Founding co-op principle guides Manager Baumgartner to Basin Electric

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth cooperative principle, and Chris Baumgartner is showing his commitment — by continuing his role in a new capacity at Basin Electric Power Cooperative. His final day serving as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s co-general manager and chief executive officer was July 28.

Baumgartner has partnered with Don Franklund for the past five years to co-manage Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider, Slope, and KEM Electric Cooperatives under the shared management and services organization known as Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative. The alliance cooperatives share employees and resources to save time and money — and benefit the memberships. In addition, Baumgartner and Franklund co-manage the West Dakota Holdings LLC family, including 3C Construction, West Dakota Utilities Service and subsidiaries.

“Cooperation among cooperatives’ is one of our founding principles. That hasn’t changed and it won’t change — and the work will continue after my departure,” he says.

In the August local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, learn why Manager Baumgartner says he’s never lost sight of who he serves and why — and how he’ll take his dedication to the member-owners with him to Basin Electric.



ATTENTION MEMBERS: The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 4 contains a line item indicating your 2016 capital credit allocation. The information shown on that billing statement is not the retirement, but the allocation. This is the only statement you will receive concerning your 2016 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2016 allocation.

What is a capital credit allocation?

This information is provided each year as an official record of your capital credits. Since Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative, at the end of each year we allocate all our profits (the money left over after all expenses are paid) to you, our member-owners, based on how much energy you bought during the year. These allocations are called capital credits. By allocation, we mean that we assign your share of the margins to a holding account in your name. Capital credits are used by your cooperative for operating funds, and at some later date, paid back to members as the financial condition of the cooperative permits. These amounts are not payable at this time and do not represent cash, but rather your equity in our cooperative.



Thank you, members.

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors, management staff and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending the 70th annual meeting of the membership held July 21. We appreciate the interest you continue to show in your electric cooperative!

This year, Mor-Gran-Sou members were asked to vote for three board directors: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan Area position, and one for the Sioux County position. Incumbents Casey Wells, Carson; Bob J. Leingang, Mandan; and Lance Froelich, Selfridge; retained their positions on the board. Wells is the Grant County representative, Leingang is the Mandan area representative and Froelich is the Sioux County representative. We thank Thomas Anseth, Mandan, for campaigning to serve his electric cooperative, and for being an active and involved cooperative member.

To learn about Mor-Gran-Sou’s annual meeting, read a complete summary in the September local pages of *North Dakota Living*.



Also in the AUGUST issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Former Miss Indian World inspires, mentors youth
- Marcellus Red Tomahawk: The face of N.D.’s state highway markers
- Board meeting minutes & more

Don’t put safety on autopilot

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field. But while GPS can help the driver plant straight rows and maximize potential, it can also give a false sense of security. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative reminds our members not to put safety on autopilot.

When farmers enter the field using GPS, they do an outside round and set the borders and boundaries of the field. Then, they set the angle and straight line, so they know the direction the GPS will take.

If there is a slough, rock pile, fence post or power pole in the middle of the field, they still need to manually drive around the hazard and set a boundary for it, if the system allows. Once set, less focus may be needed on steering — but drivers still need to be aware of navigation issues and human error.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says Mor-Gran-Sou Manager of Operations Randy Ressler. “Once the GPS control system is activated, the tractor drives itself and depending on the type of system used, it might not have the ability to autonomously avoid obstacles such as utility poles,” he says.

“It’s been said that people say they didn’t see the power pole because they were playing a game on their smart phone or reading the newspaper,” Ressler continues. “These GPS systems, while they’re a great benefit to the farmer, might be creating a hazard for them, as well. It’s too easy to get comfortable with these things and before you know it, we have another broken pole and a potentially life-threatening situation.”

Ressler encourages members to evaluate their fields regularly, looking for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field and driving back to the farm.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for Mor-Gran-Sou linemen to de-energize the line.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at 1-800-750-8212 or email safety@morgransouelectric.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! *Mor-Gran-Sou thanks member Darrick Frank for helping us convey this important message with a powerful photo.*



**HOLIDAY CLOSING:
MONDAY, SEPT. 4**

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4. Members, line crews will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.