



CURRENT NEWS

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**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Toll-free: 1-800-750-8212
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Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland “Judge” Barth
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer.....Bonnie Tomac

Directors:

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

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, employer and lender.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Mor-Gran-Sou Board Member Mark Doll, third from right, says the alliance provides specialized employees and resources in a shared relationship that continues to reduce costs and gain efficiencies.

Alliance celebrates decade of service and savings

On Jan. 1, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative celebrated 10 years of being a helping hand to electric cooperative members. Established in 2007 with neighboring cooperatives Roughrider Electric and Slope Electric, the alliance was created to share management services with the intention of reducing costs and allowing the respective boards of directors to retain local control. KEM Electric Cooperative joined the alliance in 2012.

In the cooperative spirit of working together for the greater good, the concept of sharing resources to streamline processes and add efficiencies gained momentum. The alliance expanded, adding key positions that were necessary at each of the cooperatives and could be shared.

Don Franklund has worked as co-general manager/chief executive officer of the alliance since its inception. He says it’s important that members continue to identify Mor-Gran-Sou and its 20 employees as their home cooperative. Alliance employees are a secondary layer of employees who assist with larger or specialized projects.

“The alliance is a helping branch to your cooperative. We’re here for support,” Franklund says.

In the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*, learn about the inception of the alliance and how it is structured — and how this partnership continues to benefit Mor-Gran-Sou members through gained efficiencies and savings.

Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting scheduled for July 20. The board of directors has charged the Nominating Committee with reviewing and advising the board of any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions. Therefore, any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions should be submitted in writing no later than March 14, and/or they can be presented in-person at the following in-person meeting of the Nominating Committee:

✓ March 14 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT

To submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, send to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 14. Thank you.

Annual Meeting: July 20, 2018 Serve your electric co-op as a director

Consider serving as a board director for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric 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 At-Large position presently held by Mark Doll;
- The Morton County position presently held by Bonnie Tomac; and
- The Sioux County position presently held by Chad Harrison.

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 21.

The Nominating Committee was appointed by the board and met for the first time on Jan. 10. The members include Leslie Dirk, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Kathy Hoff, Leith; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Rhonda Leingang, Solen; Alan Malm, Flasher; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

For more information, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*, contact a Nominating Committee member, or call Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212.

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

- Youth opportunity deadlines approaching on scholarships and coloring contest
- Dial the 211 HelpLine
- Holiday closing
- Board meeting minutes & more

A phone survey may await you

Mor-Gran-Sou will be completing a random residential telephone Member Satisfaction Survey. Performed by Odney Advertising, it will take place in March.

If you receive a call from Odney Advertising on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou, please take time to answer the questionnaire. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. By participating in the Member Satisfaction Survey, Mor-Gran-Sou receives better insight into how we can better serve you, the member-owner.

Opt into the Operation Round Up program today

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is now offering Operation Round Up to its members. 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 newly formed Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc.



The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou members, include: Linda Mindt, Linda Urlacher, Serena Weinhandl, Chad Wild and Cherie Zenker. They will meet throughout the year and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in their respective local communities. Mor-Gran-Sou is making this request on behalf of the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, and all funds gathered will be donated to the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc., which will be the sole beneficiary of the funds and which the 501(c)(3) status has been approved. The board will disburse the fund equitably throughout the Mor-Gran-Sou service area as practical.

On average, participating members donate about \$6 a year. For example, if a member wishes to participate in Operation Round Up and his or her monthly electric bill is \$89.64, the amount would be "rounded up" to the next whole dollar, \$90. In this example, the member would contribute an extra 36 cents to Operation Round Up. The most a member would ever contribute a month is 99 cents. The donation will be tax-deductible, and members who participate will receive a summary on their last billing statement of the year.

Mor-Gran-Sou does not receive monetary or in-kind reimbursement from the Operation Round Up Charitable Foundation. All rounded-up funds flow directly into the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc., and are overseen by the board of directors. Mor-Gran-Sou personnel will administer the program as a complimentary service to the foundation.

It will take time to grow this charitable fund, and we are excited to get started. Members, if you have any questions, please call the office at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212. To opt in, fill out the form below and return to the co-op. Every member's small donation adds up to make a big difference.

I wish to participate in Operation Round Up at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.

- Yes, I agree that Mor-Gran-Sou, through the Operation Round Up program, has my permission to round up my monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. I understand I have the option to opt out with a 30-day written notice to the co-op.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account #(s): _____

Email the form to jarmijo@morgransou.com or jmiller@morgransou.com; or mail to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. / P.O. Box 297 / Flasher, ND 58535

Signature