



# CURRENT NEWS



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**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Email: [info@morgransou.com](mailto:info@morgransou.com)

**Underground Line Locates**

**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](http://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.

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## Evolving to serve you better in 2018

*By Don Franklund, Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer*

Our work plan, challenges and achievements vary from year to year, but our New Year's resolution is always the same: To listen, observe and evolve, to meet the changing needs of our membership.

This month, I'd like to reflect on a significant change that was driven by you, the member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou.

Since we implemented SmartHub, an easy-to-use online payment system, you have more control: in checking real-time updates on energy use, having the knowledge to make lifestyle changes that can ultimately lower your utility bill, paying your bill at your convenience and more.

Mor-Gran-Sou members are using [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) or downloading the SmartHub app to conduct routine business. These mobile services are new ways of connecting with people, and an extension of the customer service and quality services you expect us to provide.

Our shared goal is to help find ways to better control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about the energy industry and ways we can work together to reduce some of those costs.

One way is through a member satisfaction survey that we conduct every couple years, to help us learn your needs and how we can better serve you. We plan to do another survey sometime this spring. If you receive a call, please take the time to visit and share your thoughts. This gives us an opportunity to listen, observe, and evolve to meet the changing needs of our membership.

We wish you a healthy and happy 2018.

*This is a condensed version of the manager's column. To learn more details on how Mor-Gran-Sou is serving you, read the January local pages of North Dakota Living.*



*Don Franklund*

## 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 one of the following in-person meetings of the Nominating Committee:

- ✓ Jan. 10 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT
- ✓ March 14 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT

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

## Serve your electric co-op as a director

### Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 20, 2018

It's time to 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 has been appointed by the board and will meet for the first time, set for 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.

To learn the process and procedure to be nominated as a board member, read Mor-Gran-Sou's January local pages in the *North Dakota Living* magazine. Or, contact one of the Nominating Committee members or call Jackie Miller at Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301 or email Jackie at [jlmliller@morgransou.com](mailto:jlmliller@morgransou.com).

## Mor-Gran-Sou welcomes Travis Kupper as co-general manager/ chief executive officer

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has added a co-general manager/ chief executive officer to partner with Don Franklund. Travis Kupper, current chief financial officer for Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, is filling the position vacated by Chris Baumgartner, who resigned after five years of service to work for Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Kupper will start his new duties on Jan. 1, 2018.

The alliance is a professional management and services company that provides support for four electric cooperatives in North Dakota including Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider, Slope and KEM Electric Cooperatives, as well as the West Dakota Holdings LLC family including 3C Construction, West Dakota Utilities Service and other subsidiaries.

Kupper has 19 years of cooperative experience. He started in October 1998 doing accounting software installations and support for National Information Solutions Cooperative in Mandan. He transitioned to Slope Electric Cooperative in New England in 2007, to work as chief financial officer. In the cooperative spirit of working together to share employees and resources, streamline processes, gain efficiencies and ultimately save the members money, Kupper was hired by Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative in August 2010 as chief financial officer.



Travis Kupper

### Statement of Non-Discrimination

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) email:  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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### DEADLINES APPROACHING ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES!

For details, read the January local pages of *North Dakota Living* or call Jackie or Julie at 597-3301, 663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

**Electric Cooperative Youth Tour essays due Jan. 31**  
**Scholarship applications due Feb. 16 / Safety posters due Feb. 28**