



CURRENT NEWS



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**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Flasher, N.D. 58535-0297
Phone: 701-597-3301
701-663-0297
Toll-free: 1-800-750-8212
Fax: 701-597-3915

Email: 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

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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.

TOGETHERWE SAVE.COM



*Mor-Gran-Sou Leadman **Gary Fitterer** (second from right) accepted the Safety Award from NDAREC safety instructors (from left) **James Neether**, **Steve Homes** and **Jeff Tweten**.*

Safety Award earned eight years in a row

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives hosted the 54th annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference in January in Bismarck. Training topics included trenching and shoring, rubber-glove testing, underground cable splicing and safety, communication and leadership.

At the awards banquet, Mor-Gran-Sou was one of five distribution cooperatives in North Dakota, as well as 3C Construction, LLC, to be presented with a Safety Award. They were recognized for having zero OSHA-recordable injuries for one year, between the dates of Dec. 1, 2016, to Nov. 30, 2017.

Operations outlook by Manager of Operations Randy Ressler

Our linemen are working to keep the electric system in as good of condition as possible. A few of the jobs they take on as part of this mission are replacing sections of aging, faulting underground cable, converting some overhead line to underground, and replacing poles that have been tested out as rejects.

Last year, Mor-Gran-Sou hired RAM Utilities to test transmission poles. Inspection and maintenance are important steps in maintaining system reliability. About 4,500 poles were tested and 100 replaced.

This year, a line contractor will continue with transmission system inspection and maintenance. They will climb every transmission structure on our system to look for loose or broken parts, and make repairs as needed.

RAM Utilities will also inspect about one-fifth of our distribution system.

As always, we will continue to install new services as requested, and perform regular system-wide maintenance that will help prevent power outages and ultimately strengthen the system.

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.

For information on how you can add your name to the ballot, call Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212. **All names must be received by March. 7**

Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee will review and advise the board of directors of any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions. 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.

Also in the MARCH issue of North Dakota Living:

- Employees receive promotions
- Member Lori Flaten makes history
- Board meeting minutes & more

Holiday closing: Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed on Friday, March 30, to observe Easter.

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 March 26 to 29, and possibly April 2. If you receive a call from Odney Advertising at 701-892-7420 on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou, please take time to answer the 10-minute questionnaire. By participating, 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 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. The board will disburse the funds 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 program, and we are excited to get started. Members, if you have any questions, please call the office at 663-0297, 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