



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

FEBRUARY 2020

NEWS

‘Love makes the wildest spirit tame, and the tamest spirit wild.’ ~Alexis Delp

A couple years ago, Mor-Gran-Sou members **Melissa Burghart** and Jeff Kaul bottle-fed a neighbor’s newborn bull calf that had become stranded during a storm. Enjoying the orphan as he grew, the couple purchased three heifers and started a small breeding operation. They welcomed their first calf last May. Melissa feeds the bison “range cake” as treats, and says they are safe to be around if you use common sense and treat them with respect.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

What’s inside:

- **Grant helps fund hands-on history lessons**
- **Consider serving as a board director for Mor-Gran-Sou**
- **Save the date: Annual Meeting, July 17**
- **Deadlines approaching for scholarships and coloring contest**
- **Meeting minutes and more**

Melissa and Jeff farm and ranch with Melissa’s father, Mor-Gran-Sou member Doug Kautzman, west of Mandan. Melissa also works as the executive assistant for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Thank you for welcoming us to your hobby farm and sharing your joy.



Operation Round Up grant helps fund hands-on history lesson at Carson Public School

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Barry Striegel, a Title 1 teacher and the N.D. Youth Entrepreneurship Education Program director, teaches students at Carson Public School about the Great Depression, using a traveling trunk exhibit provided by ND Studies and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

The third- and fourth-graders at Carson Public School recently learned about the Great Depression: the dust storms, the drought and the despair.

“There were six years of no crop. No money. It was a bad time in North Dakota — but your grandparents survived, and we are here,” Barry Striegel told them. Striegel is a Title 1 teacher, and the N.D. Youth Entrepreneurship Education Program director who brings ND Studies Trunks to the school each month. The January trunk featured photos and artifacts from the 1930s.

Barry asked the students about their closest neighbors. For some kids, that family or farmer lives miles away. He noted that Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative hadn’t yet built electric service to homes in rural areas; that wouldn’t happen until the late 1940s. Passing around the photos in the trunk, Barry asked the students how they thought the people in the pictures kept their food cool, houses warm, clothes clean and barns lit.

The students didn’t know. If they didn’t have electric service now, they said they would miss their televisions and tablets.

The traveling trunk and its contents are a hands-on history lesson that enriches the knowledge the students already learn in class. The trunks are assembled by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and rented by educators and groups across the state.

Funding to supply monthly trunks to Carson Public School were made possible by West River Telecommunications Cooperative and Mor-Gran-Sou, on behalf of the Operation Round Up program.

Operation Round Up is a program in which Mor-Gran-Sou members can choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies to the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc. The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in our local communities.

The school will rent eight trunks throughout the year, and topics range from Native Americans and archeology to the Great Depression and energy development. The cost of each trunk is \$25 plus shipping. Barry picks them up from the state museum every month, and trades the old for a new.

Barry partners with fourth-grade teacher Nancy Bolte to secure the trunks, set them up and discuss the contents. The students are welcome to handle the authentic antiques, like the old-time radio that was included in the Great Depression trunk. Barry says the value of the items included make it an incredible, affordable resource, and he thanks Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Trust for giving the Operation Round Up donation and making this exhibit possible.

“For the people who throw their spare change into this program, it adds up, and the benefits are beyond what you pay for the trunks,” he says. “These trunks bring the state museum to the classroom, and they have great impact. The contents are something the students can hold and touch, and the material adds depth to what the teachers are already doing. Your donation is really adding to the curriculum.”

The State Historical Society of North Dakota started the traveling trunks program several years ago. Originally known as SEND, or Suitcase Exhibits for North Dakota, the trunks have layers of foam that protect the artifacts, and a three-ringed binder with information for the educators.

Now known as the ND Studies Trunks, the thematic trunks provide hands-on experiences for learners of all ages. They can be rented by schools, libraries, historical societies, retirement homes and community groups. To request a trunk, visit <https://www.ndstudies.gov/curriculum/teacher-resources/nd-studies-trunks>. ■



Opt into Operation Round Up

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 Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc. The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in our local communities.

On average, participating members donate about \$6 a year. The most a member would contribute a month is 99 cents. The donation is be tax-deductible, and members who participate will receive a summary on



PHOTO COURTESY WPA

their last billing statement of the year. 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 service to the foundation.

If you have any questions, please

call the office at 663-0297, 597-3301 or 800-750-8212.

If you haven't already signed up, please opt into the program and support your friends and neighbors in area communities. Please fill out the form below and return it to the co-op. ■



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 mail to:
 Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 P.O. Box 297 / Flasher, ND 58535

 Signature

Apply for a grant

Do you have a specific need and could use a boost?

Operation Round Up grants may be awarded to any non-profit corporation, organization or agency for charitable causes and crucial needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, emergency services and education. All of the money

raised by members stays in our local communities.

Any person or group in the Mor-Gran-Sou service area, or providing a service to the area, may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant. Funds are disbursed in the general service area of Mor-Gran-Sou solely for charitable, educational,

scientific, health or safety purposes.

To request an application, contact Jackie Miller or Julie Armijo by calling Mor-Gran-Sou at 663-0297, 597-3301 or 800-750-8212, or email jlmiller@morgransou.com or jarmijo@morgransou.com. If you have questions, you may also contact any of the foundation board members. ■



Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 17, 2020

Are you looking for a way to serve the people of central southwestern North Dakota? Look no further, as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative can help you fulfill that desire. Why not serve as a board director for the 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 Grant County position presently held by Casey Wells;
- The Mandan-Area position presently held by Robert Leingang; and
- The Sioux County position presently held by Lance Froelich.

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 25, 2020.

This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate's biographical information to be included with the notice of meeting sent to the members in June, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in person.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board and met for the first time on Jan. 13. The members of the Nominating Committee include Bryce Allen, Mandan; Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony; Jackie Buckley, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Alan Malm, Flasher; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Rodney Nelson, Almont; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; and Shari Striegel, Carson.

For a person to be nominated, the member vying for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou by 4 p.m. CT (3 p.m. MT) on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jackie Miller, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297. If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or

Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. You can also email Jackie at jlmiller@morgransou.com.

The Nominating Committee members or Jackie can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou's website at www.morgransou.com; click Home/Your Power in Membership/Forms and Applications/Declaration of Candidacy Form. Candidate qualifications can also be found at www.morgransou.com; click Your Cooperative/Articles and Bylaws/Board of Directors/402 Director Qualification or on the declaration of candidacy form.

If you have questions about the process, give Jackie a call. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou office by the March 10 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board. ■

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 17. 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 19, and/or they can be presented in-person at the following meeting of the Nominating Committee:

- March 19, 2020, 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 19. Thank you.



COOPERATIVE OFFERS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering scholarships to qualifying seniors. We are happy to continue our updated scholarship program of offering more scholarship opportunities to our graduating seniors. The applicants must be U.S. citizens and dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members. All scholarships will be awarded during the 2019-2020 school year.

The co-op will award nine, \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op. School representatives from Elgin-New Leipzig Public School, Flasher Public School, Glen Ullin Public School, Hebron Public School, Mandan Public School, New Salem-Almont Public School, Selfridge Public School, Standing Rock Community School, and Solen Public School will select one graduating senior to receive the funds. Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will then forward each recipient's name to Mor-Gran-Sou.

The co-op will also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area. Please contact our office if interested.

Mor-Gran-Sou continues to award a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

We award this scholarship to a student already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Recipients will be chosen on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average; activities, achievements and honors; work experience; a personal statement of career goals; an essay question centered on local cooperatives and how they serve the area; and an appraisal from a high school or college counselor or adviser, instructor or a work supervisor who knows the student well. All post-secondary students who have parents that are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are eligible to apply. Applications are available at area schools, in the Flasher or Mandan offices, or online at www.morgransou.com.

Mor-Gran-Sou is awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker. The scholarship will be awarded during the 2019-2020 school year. Applications are available at area schools, in the Flasher and Mandan offices, or online at www.morgransou.com.

Mor-Gran-Sou is also awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic. Applications are available at area schools, in the Flasher or Mandan offices, or online at www.morgransou.com.

Luck of the Draw scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 17. All high school seniors who are dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members **and have not previously been chosen for a Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship** are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting and be accompanied with at least one parent or guardian, and will be required to RSVP before the meeting.

**Applications are due no later than
4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on
Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.**

**Please deliver or mail all necessary
information to Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 297,
Flasher, ND 58535-0297.**

**If you have questions or would like
further information, please call Julie or
Jackie at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297
or 800-750-8212.**



Feel the love this Valentine's Day!

Sign up for SmartHub choosing ACH and receive a \$10 bill credit.

If you haven't already signed up for SmartHub, download the app and open an account in the month of February, choosing Automated Clearing House (ACH) as a payment preference. You will receive a \$10 bill credit from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative! ACH is an electronic payment that withdraws funds directly from your checking account.

Or, if you already have a SmartHub account and are paying with a credit card, switch to an electronic check as your ACH form of payment and you will also receive a \$10 bill credit.

Innovation is one of four Touchstone Energy® Cooperative values, and we are proud to offer this service to our members.



WHAT IS SMARTHUB?
SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.

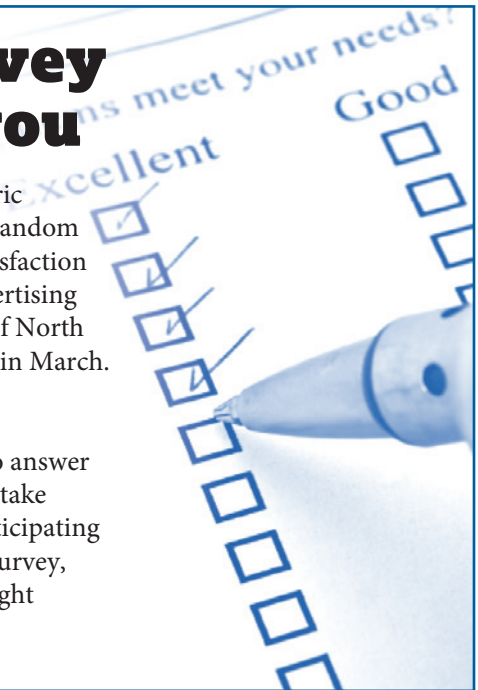
-  Manage Your Account
-  View and Pay Your Bill
-  Monitor Usage 24/7
-  Report Service Issues
-  Receive Important Updates



A phone survey may await you

Members: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be completing a random residential telephone Member Satisfaction Survey. Performed by Odney Advertising and conducted by the University of North Dakota, this survey will take place in March.

If you receive a call from Odney Advertising or UND on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou, please take time to answer the questionnaire. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. By participating in the 2020 Member Satisfaction Survey, Mor-Gran-Sou receives better insight into how we can better serve you, the member-owner.





MOR-GRAN-SOU ANNOUNCES annual safety poster contest

Grab your art supplies and draw a poster that tells our readers how you play and work safely around electricity. This poster should display a clear, creative picture of this year's theme: "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative logo on their entries. No matter what you draw, have fun! We can't wait to hear from you. Cash prizes will be awarded in each division.

DIVISIONS:

- Preschool to kindergarten
- First grade to third grade
- Fourth grade to sixth grade

DEADLINE:

Posters must be received at the Flasher office no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.

RULES:

- Posters must be on white, 8.5- by 11-inch paper.
- Posters must depict the theme, "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" and display the Touchstone Energy Cooperative logo. Be creative!

- Print the child's name, address, age and parent's names on the back of the posters.
- Only dependents of current Mor-Gran-Sou members are eligible for this contest.

PRIZES:

Each division will be awarded three prizes (nine prizes total): three first-place prizes of \$15; three, second place prizes of \$10; and three third-place prizes of \$5.

WINNERS:

Winning poster will be featured in the Mor-Gran-Sou local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine.

SAFETY@MORGRANSOU.COM

Mor-Gran-Sou is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou's attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@morgransou.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *board meeting highlights*



Meeting date: Dec. 18, 2019

- Approved the Nov. 20, 2019, Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Approved two work order inventories
- Reviewed and accepted the director and attorney expense reports
- Reviewed and accepted the financial report for November
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on meetings they had attended
- Heard reports from various meetings and events the directors had attended
- Confirmed director attendance at upcoming meetings
- Appointed voting delegates and alternates for upcoming meetings
- Elected a director to serve three-year terms on the Boards of Director for Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) Cooperative and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC)
- Elected first and second alternates for the IEA and MSC Boards
- Authorized voting delegate and alternates for the IEA and MSC Annual Meetings
- Approved 2019 bad debt write-off
- Discussed proposed Bylaw amendments for 2020
- Per governance policy, performed the annual Legal Counsel evaluation
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Feb. 26, 2020,
at Mor-Gran-Sou in Flasher

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Casey Wells or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund at 701-597-3301 at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at www.morgransou.com, or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.

2-1-1 HELPLINE

FirstLink's **2-1-1 helpline** is a free phone service available 24/7 to the public. Call specialists offer supportive, non-judgmental listening ears and information about community programs statewide.

Text your zipcode to 898-211 or **Dial 2-1-1** or **701-235-7335** to get connected to help & hope.

MYFIRSTLINK.ORG



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

202 6th Ave. W. - PO Box 297
Flasher, ND 58535-0297
Phone: 701- 597-3301 Flasher
701- 663-0297 Mandan

Toll-free: 800-750-8212 Fax: 701-597-3915

Email us: info@morgransou.com
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Casey Wells
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Lance Froelich
Directors Mark Doll, Vernard Frederick,
Pam Geiger, Jay Larson,
Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Holiday closing for Presidents Day: Monday, Feb. 17



In observance of Presidents Day, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Feb 17. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.