



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

AUGUST 2020

NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA FLECK

A perfect way to end a day

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Andrea and Aaron Fleck were moving equipment by a stock pond near Breien, and Andrea paused to snap a photo and appreciate the beautiful sunset. Thank you, members, for sharing this photo with Mor-Gran-Sou on Facebook and in our industry trade publication. We appreciate you being active and involved co-op members!

What's inside:

- **Farmers Union camp still giving kids ultimate summer experience**
- **Look up and around ... farm equipment is on the move**
- **Annual Meeting update**
- **Co-op members selected as finalists for conservation award**
- **Meeting minutes, and more**



PHOTOS COURTESY NDFU

Farmers Union Camp on Lake Tschida is still open this summer, with approval from the N.D. Department of Health. It is operating at half its normal capacity to separate kids into smaller groups due to the pandemic. NDFU is cooperative- and community-oriented. During youth camps, kids learn about cooperatives, teamwork, leadership, and the importance of giving back to their home towns. In return for their participation, the kids can earn awards and trips.

Farmers Union Camp at Lake Tschida still giving kids the ultimate summer experience

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Camp is the high point of summer for countless kids across the state who like to make projects, meet people and have fun. While COVID-19 forced the closure of many camps this year, Heart Butte Farmers Union Camp on Lake Tschida is still open, with approval from the N.D. Department of Health. The goal is to promote physical distancing and social interactions.

Kids still get to have the ultimate summer experience in a downsized environment. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is proud to provide electric service to the Lake Tschida area, and has been one of the camp's

community sponsors.

Founded in 1927, North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU) is the largest general farm organization in North Dakota. With more than 50,000 member-families, the cooperative provides a network of educational programs, services and events that benefit farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

One of those is summer camp. In past years, more than 1,000 youth have attended camps annually to advance their leadership skills and further their co-op education.

Nancy Nadvornik, the Hettinger County youth director from Mott, says now more than ever, it's

important for people to work together to keep rural communities and businesses going. Camp is one way to unite people and promote hope for the future.

"We need to keep our youth involved," she says. "They can still be social and talk to one another, and we can all keep moving forward."

Cooperatives and communities

Nadvornik grew up north of Mott in a family that strongly supported cooperatives and communities. Her father went to every Farmers Union convention, her mother was a youth



New to camp this year was a mud pit.

leader, and the children went to camp. Nadvornik says her dad passed away two days after camp one year, and she was glad he “hung on” until the camp was over.

For the past 30 years, Nadvornik has served as a mentor at Heart Butte camp, along with her sister Darlene. NDFU also holds camps at Wesley Acres near Dazey and Lakewood Park near Devils Lake; those were cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

When in session, some annual camp activities include swimming, using paddle boats and kayaks, making projects, attending dances, performing in talent shows, playing mini-golf and singing around a campfire. The kids also play ball, hold contests — and stay quite busy.

“We try not to give them too much free time so they don’t get homesick,” Nadvornik says.

One project the campers tackle every year is learning how to run a business that is cooperative-owned. On the first day, the kids learn about the cooperative business model of operating at-cost; one member, one vote.

They start a business, elect people to serve on the board, and choose who will run the store. At the end of camp, they close the business, figure out how much money the store

FAST FACT:

Every year NDFU camps end with a celebratory banquet. Last year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was invited as a thank-you for supplying safety kits as prizes.

made, and how they would split the proceeds among the members after expenses are paid.

This concept is similar to Mor-Gran-Sou awarding capital credits. Electric cooperatives operate on an at-cost basis. We periodically allocate any margin (profit) to members as capital credits (also called patronage dividends, patronage refunds, patronage capital or equity capital) based upon their purchase of electricity during the year.

Nadvornik shares that one year, the kids operated a popcorn cooperative. After the expenses were paid, the kids donated the leftover money back to the camp for repairs. In past years, they’ve donated funds to Ronald McDonald House Charities and similar organizations that help people with financial concerns related to health.

The project is one way NDFU teaches kids about cooperatives, teamwork, leadership, and the importance of giving back to area communities.

‘Keep kids involved to keep communities going’

The NDFU youth development program also offers classes and other opportunities for kids in grades K-12. Through an incentive program, they can earn awards and trips. In order to qualify, their family must have paid the \$30 annual NDFU membership fee.

Some of the small gifts come from area sponsors that are cooperatives. Last year, Mor-Gran-Sou donated

safety kits. Consolidated Telephone donated hot/cold compress packs, and Southwest Grain has also donated items for giveaway.

“It’s fun to see the community support, and to keep cooperatives in the area involved,” Nadvornik says.

As the kids get older, the prizes get bigger. Nadvornik shares students can earn scholarships and get jobs that range from a summer gig to a lifetime career.

Nadvornik recalls one nervous student who had to be convinced to attend camp. The girl overcame her shyness, and after attending camps year after year, is now working as one of the trained counselors.

NDFU camps helped Farmers Union Agent Brad Greff make the decision to become an agent in the Mott-Regent area. All of Brad’s kids went on to attend all of NDFU’s day schools and summer camps. Now, Brad’s grandkids have continued the tradition.

Josh Kramer, executive vice president and general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, met his wife, Sarah, while attending a Farmers Union camp.

Nadvornik says it’s rewarding to see the campers grow and change, as they keep coming back year after year.

“It amazes us to see the enthusiasm of the kids, and the determination of what they want to do,” she says.

“We have to keep these kids involved to keep our communities going. They are our future,” she concludes. “What we want for our



future, we have to keep these kids on track so we can have a future, too.”

Due to COVID-19, camp numbers have been reduced in half and all Heart Butte camps are full. To be added to a waiting list or to ask questions, contact Heidi Sagaser at 701-952-0102. For information on the camps, visit <https://ndfu.org/> and click “youth” and “camps.” ■

Nancy Nadvornik, center, shopping with camp staff prior to COVID-19. Nadvornik has been mentoring kids at Farmers Union camps for 30 years. Once a camper herself, she still enjoys the experience of seeing kids learn, play and have fun. She'd like to thank her sister, Darlene, for working with her over the years; Brad Greff for all his help and support; and Bree Sorenson, the educational director at N.D. Farmers Union.

My N.D. Farmers Union camp experience

BY JOSH KRAMER



Josh Kramer and Sarah Huber met at NDFU camp; they both started attending in the third grade. They went from camp newbies to the pinnacle, becoming Torchbearers – NDFU’s most prestigious youth honor. They also participated in the State and National Youth Advisory Committees. In August 2003, they were both working as counselors when Josh proposed to Sarah at camp.

I grew up going to Farmers Union camp each summer for 10 years. At first, going to camp was a great way to get off the farm and out of having to milk cows for a week. I quickly realized how much I enjoyed meeting kids from other towns and building lasting friendships. Many of the friends I made as a kid are still good friends today.

I spent three summers as a camp

counselor. It was one of the best jobs I ever had; it was fulfilling, a heck of a lot of fun, and I was able to spend most of the summer on beautiful Lake Tschida. How can you beat that?

What I learned about cooperatives and civic responsibility at Farmers Union camp sparked my interest, leading to a passion for rural America, cooperatives, agriculture and people. Beginning as camper, I learned about the cooperative values and principles. A few years later as a camp counselor, I was able to share and teach others much of what I learned during my years as a camper. That opportunity was fulfilling, humbling, and something I am most proud of. Still today, I often run into former campers who are now adults; I enjoy each visit, the chance to catch up, share camp memories and learn more about their lives.

It is worth noting that I owe more than most to the Farmers Union camp and to Lake Tschida. You see, it was at camp that I met Sarah, a girl from the neighboring town, who later became my wife. Sarah and I attended camp together as youth and also spent three

summers together as camp counselors. In fact, in our final year as camp counselors, at the final camp for the season, I proposed to Sarah, and we were married one year later.

Today, we have five children, and the oldest are also attending Farmers Union camp. We often joke that who knows? They might be going to camp with their future husband or wife! ■



Josh and Sarah Kramer's children will be the next generation of NDFU campers, including **Sophia, Brody, Carter**, and twins **Claire and Olivia**.



Lights. Comfort.
Connection.

Annual
Meeting

RESCHEDULED FOR VIRTUAL CONNECTION

AUG. 20 ON BEK TV

Watch for information in the coming weeks to learn how you can vote by mail-in ballot for the open board of director positions.

Annual Meeting rescheduled for Aug. 20, 2 p.m. CT on BEK TV

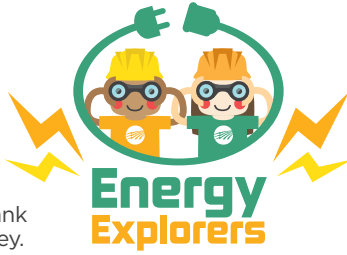
As you may know, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors has decided for the safety of our members to reschedule the 2020 Annual Meeting as a virtual meeting. Although the meeting is virtual, your voice is important to us.

Five Mor-Gran-Sou members are vying virtually for one of three board director positions up for re-election. This year, the three board positions sought include: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan-Area position, and one for the Sioux County position. The approved list of candidates includes:

- Grant County:** Casey Wells, Carson
 - Mandan Area:** Stan Boehm, Mandan; Bob J. Leingang, Mandan
 - Sioux County:** Rodney Froelich, Selfridge; Randal J. White Sr., Selfridge
- We look forward to your participation in this historic first-ever virtual annual meeting. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate this time of continuous change, and focus on safety. ■

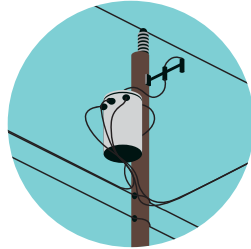
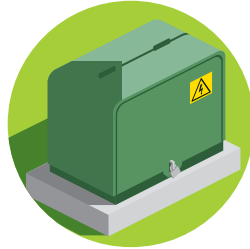
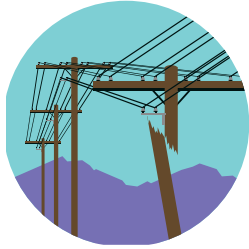
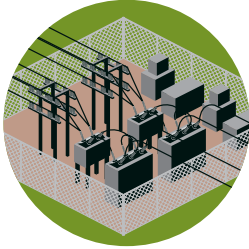
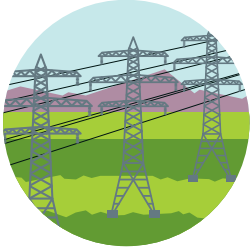
POWER RESTORATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about the steps of power restoration. Use the word bank if you need help, and check your work in the answer key.



Word Bank:

distribution	pads
transformer	substations
transmission	



1. High-voltage _____ lines are the large towers and cables that supply power to the greatest number of consumer-members. They rarely fail, but if they do, they have to be repaired first.
2. Next, crews inspect distribution _____ for damage. They determine if the problem stems from the lines feeding into the equipment itself, or if the problem is further down the line.
3. If the problem still can't be pinpointed, _____ power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.
4. If the power outage persists, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on poles or placed on _____ for underground electric service.
5. If your home remains without power, the service line between the _____ and your home may need repairs.

Answer Key: 1) transmission 2) substations 3) distribution 4) pads 5) transformer



Look up and look around ... Farm equipment is on the move



While farmers focus on the ground when sowing and harvesting, looking up is just as important – especially when operating farm equipment near power lines.

For your safety, make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between power lines and your combines, grain augers, pickers, balers and front-end loaders.

Keep in mind that uneven ground and shifting soil conditions can put you in harm’s way.

Look up and look around when operating equipment. Power lines and poles may be closer than you think.

If you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou’s attention, please call the co-op at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212. Or, send an email to safety@morgransou.com with location information and a photo, if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all.



Cody Graetz



Jason Jahner



Kale Ohlauer



**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Finalists selected for N.D. Leopold Conservation Award

Courtesy, in part, of the N.D. Grazing Lands Coalition

Three finalists have been selected for the 2020 N.D. Leopold Conservation Award®, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Daniel and Tresa Paul from Carson.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the N.D. Leopold Conservation Award recognizes private landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife resources in their care.

In North Dakota, the \$10,000 award is presented in partnership with the N.D. Grazing Lands Coalition, N.D. Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the N.D. Stockmen's Association.

The finalists are:

- Kerry and Brenda Dockter of Dockter-Jensen Ranch, Denhoff, in Sheridan County;

- Ansell Johnson of Little Eden Ranch, Wolford, in Pierce County; and
- Daniel and Tresa Paul of Paul Ranch, Carson, in Grant County.

The Pauls have created habitat for wildlife and migratory birds with a variety of conservation, grazing and livestock management practices. By partnering with wildlife groups, the cattle ranchers have created ponds and stock dams, and preserved native grassland and woody vegetation in riparian areas. Replacing woven wire fencing with wildlife-friendly fencing has enhanced hunting opportunities. Conservation has allowed the Pauls to expand their operation without additional land.

“It is an honor to present the finalists for this esteemed award. Each operation has shown outstanding

achievement in implementation of voluntary conservation, inspiration of other landowners by example, and outreach on the role private landowners play in conservation,” said Jerry Doan, president of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition.

The award will be presented in November at the N.D. Association of Soil Conservation Districts' annual convention in Bismarck.

One of many sponsors of the Leopold Conservation Award Program in North Dakota, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates the Pauls for their work in becoming a finalist for this esteemed award.

For information on the award, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org. ■

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.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says 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.

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 Electric 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@morgransou.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 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: June 24, 2020

- Approved the May 20, 2020 Regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Approved a work order inventory
- Approved the capital credit refund applications to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed the monthly director's financial report
- Confirmed Board review of the financial report for May
- Reviewed delinquent summary report
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard planning status update for MGS's 2020 virtual Annual Meeting
- Heard legal counsel report
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on meetings
- Heard director report from virtual meeting attended
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Heard update on Cooperative's ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic
- Set the proposed location for the July Board meeting
- Approved revised load forecast
- Approved allocation of 2019 capital credits
- Approved 2020 overhead percentage charge
- Approved amendment to property purchase agreement
- Reviewed CoBank director election information
- Viewed CFC candidate information

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Aug. 26;
location tentatively set for Mandan

Members may be welcome to attend board meetings. Due to COVID-19, plans can change quickly. Please call the office at 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting status.

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.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 4 contains a line item indicating your 2019 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 2019 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2019 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 your cooperative.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: MONDAY, SEPT. 7

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7. Line crews will be available to respond to emergencies and power outages by calling 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212. Please call any of these numbers to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.



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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

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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

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