



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

DECEMBER 2020

NEWS

Merry Christmas, and have a safe, prosperous and happy New Year, from the board of directors, managers and staff at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.



**May your homes
— and hearts
— be filled with warmth
this holiday season.**

What's inside:

- Remembering former directors and employees who passed
- Consider serving on Mor-Gran-Sou's board of directors
- Student scholarships available
- Members, watch for your capital credit check in the mail!
- Meeting minutes and more



Remembering those before us

BY JACKIE MILLER

As we look forward to 2021, it is fitting to take time to look back on 2020, and pay tribute to those we lost who were part of the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative family. It is with great sadness that we learned of the following people who passed away.

Lyle Hoerauf, who passed away Jan. 11, served as a Mor-Gran-Sou Morton County director from 1967 to 1983. He attended Hebron High School and was a lifelong



Lyle Hoerauf

rancher and farmer. Hoerauf married his wife Lynda in 1954, and together they made their home on their farm southeast of Hebron and raised four children. Hoerauf was active in the community. In addition to serving on the Mor-Gran-Sou board, he served on the district Farm Credit Services board and St. John's Church council.

Arlene Wells, former Mor-Gran-Sou director from Grant County, had the privilege of serving with Hoerauf in the early 1980s. She says she held great respect for Lyle.

"He was a conservative man who showed great concern for his fellow board directors and the employees. Today, like those almost 40 years that have flown by, a director has great responsibilities to the membership. Lyle took that seriously," she says. "What I remember most about him is that he encouraged me to go out and do things. I was worried about a cooperative task I was responsible for, and he told me, 'Arlene, you can do anything.' I so appreciated that support in the board room."

This year we also said goodbye to former Mor-Gran-Sou employee

Mark Hoffman, who spent most of his career as a lineman. He passed away Feb. 4.



Mark Hoffman

Hoffman started working at an early age doing odd jobs while growing up in Mandan. He graduated from Mandan High School and decided to pursue line work as a career. He graduated from the lineworker program in April 1971.

Hoffman started working for Mor-Gran-Sou on June 22, 1971. He loved this part of the country, and while visiting his uncle in Carson, caught the first glimpse of his future wife, Lily. Married in June 1975, they made their home in Flasher, where they raised their son Rick. Hoffman also assisted with emergency medical services in Flasher for many years.

Employed as a journeyman lineman and promoted to crew chief in Flasher in 1983, Hoffman injured his hip and needed to change job duties. He began working in the office, where he tested meters, dispatched line crews, updated maps and fielded calls.

In his exit interview in 1998, Hoffman said he enjoyed working with his co-workers, and admitted he missed the thrill of chasing power outages. This makes us smile at Mor-Gran-Sou, because he remained curious about those outages.

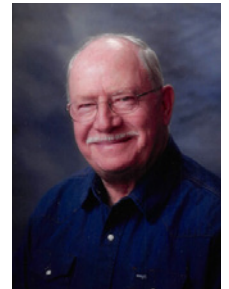
Last summer after a lightning storm, Mark called me and asked about the timeframe of a particular outage. He was fairly certain it was a switching scenario. Of course, we both knew our linemen were on the job and they would have the lights on in no time. After power was restored,

I told Mor-Gran-Sou Leadman Jason Jahner what Mark had suggested. Jahner said, 'Yup, Mark was on the right track!' I guess once a lineman ... always a lineman. You never lose the thrill of the chase.

Mor-Gran-Sou Manager of Operations Randy Ressler also shared this memory about Hoffman.

"Mark was a great guy; he was always willing to teach younger crew members," Ressler says.

Former Mor-Gran-Sou Grant County Director Wendal Dawson, who served on the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors from 1990 to 1999, passed away April 23.



Wendal Dawson

Born in Rolette on June 14, 1931, he married wife Naomi in December 1953. Together they lived on their family farm near Almont, where they raised two sons. He later married wife Shirley, and they combined families.

Dawson was active in the community. He also served on the Carson School Board, the Carson Rural Fire District, and as a Grant County Commissioner. Vern Frederick, current Mor-Gran-Sou director from Grant County, served with Dawson in the 1990s.

He warmly recalls, "Together, Wendal and I learned to navigate the co-op world and serve the membership. He was a very kind and trusting person who was concerned about everyone. We started our tenure under the leadership of John Sims. Then Wendal and I, and our fellow directors, played a role in hiring General Manager Don Franklund."



Frederick ended with a laugh as he remembered his friend. “Wendal also had quite a humorous side to him and loved to have fun. I remember some of his antics, and it makes me smile.”

Albert Lenerville, former office manager for Mor-Gran-Sou, passed away Aug. 6.

Lenerville graduated from McIntosh High School in 1949 and entered the U.S. Air Force. Stationed in Guam, he worked with cryptographic operations until his honorable discharge in 1953.



Albert Lenerville

Lenerville studied at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D., before he married Alvina on Oct. 6, 1958. Together they raised three children.

Lenerville worked as office manager for various employers in South Dakota, and in 1965 found his way to Flasher where he served as office manager for Mor-Gran-Sou until April 1975. He then moved on to Tipmount REMC in Indiana, and finally retired in Spearfish, S.D.

Connie Rossow, retired assistant general manager for Mor-Gran-Sou, fondly remembers Lenerville.

“He hired me,” says Rossow. “He had a pleasing personality and was good to work with. Al was

instrumental in the efforts of Mor-Gran-Sou being one of the first cooperatives to join North Central Data Cooperation (now National Information Solutions Cooperative, or NISC). I spent many a Saturday at work completing this project, and he was there alongside us employees to make this happen.”

We also learned that John L. Sims, former general manager of Mor-Gran-Sou, passed away Aug. 18.

Born in Colorado Springs, Colo., Sims joined the U.S. Navy and served two tours in Vietnam. Upon his return, Sims attended Colorado State University and graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

Sims was hired as general manager of Mor-Gran-Sou following the retirement of John Allen in 1989. Manager Sims worked alongside the cooperative directors and staff with great leadership and loyalty, as he focused on serving local communities.

Sims resigned on March 4, 1994, to take a chief executive officer position at Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC) in Robstown, Texas. Among his accomplishment, Sims led NEC through the development of a U.S.



John Sims

Department of Labor journey line technician apprenticeship program and other successful projects during his career.

With more than 38 years of experience in the electric utility industry, Sims served as manager of three electric cooperatives including Mor-Gran-Sou.

Cindy Ternes, Mor-Gran-Sou manager of administrative services, worked directly for Manager Sims and offered this insight.

“John Sims was a good manager to work with. He always had time to listen to your comments, suggestions and ideas, and offer candid feedback. He would often express appreciation for work being done. His open-door policy let employees know they were valued for their contribution to Mor-Gran-Sou, and they could visit with him at any time,” she says.

In their own unique way, Lyle, Mark, Wendal, Albert and John went about their day unassumingly: working hard, raising their families and contributing to their communities. Mor-Gran-Sou has been blessed to be a part of their lifetime journeys.

They will be deeply missed.

To their family and friends, please know how much we appreciated their shared time and talents, and that the board of directors and staff express our heartfelt condolences. ■

Place your tree at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct or fireplace.



3 Ft.





Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 16, 2021

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 At-Large position presently held by Mark Doll;
- The Morton County position presently held by Kathy Tokach; 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 24, 2021. 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 will meet for the first time, set for Jan. 14, 2021. The members of the Nominating Committee include Bryce Allen, Mandan; Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony;

Jackie Buckley, Mandan; Curtis Feland, Almont; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Donald D. Roth, New Leipzig; 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 Thursday, March 11, 2021. 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 jlmliller@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; to download the form electronically, visit our website at www.morgransou.com and click Home/Your Power in Membership/Forms and Applications/Declaration of Candidacy Form. Candidate qualifications can be found at www.morgransou.com and 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 11 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 16, 2021. 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 18, 2021, and/or they can be presented in-person at one of the following in-person meetings of the Nominating Committee:

- Jan. 14, 2021, in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT or virtually
- March 18, 2021, in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT or virtually

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 18. 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. With this in mind, we are happy to continue offering our program and supporting graduating seniors in our service area. The applicants must be U.S. citizens and dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members. All scholarships will be awarded during the 2020-2021 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 Electric continues to award a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

We award these 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, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at www.morgransou.com.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric 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 2020-2021 school year. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, 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, co-op headquarters in Flasher, 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 16. 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. 12, 2021.

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 Beth at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.



Members, look for your check in the mail!



At the Oct. 28 regular board meeting, your Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors analyzed the current financial strength of the cooperative, and at its discretion, decided to proceed with a general retirement of capital credits for 2020.

That means YOU get a check!

A cooperative's members are the people it serves. Capital credits reflect the ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

Members, watch for your check to arrive around the middle of this month.

Merry Christmas to you and yours, from Mor-Gran-Sou! ■



Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations.



Youth Tour update

Due to circumstances surrounding the pandemic, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour essay-writing contest and trip has been sidelined for 2021. Safety is the culture of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, and while we are disappointed at this turn of events, we know better years are ahead for our students and our chaperones. Members, thank you for your understanding as we navigate these ever-changing times.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ANNOUNCES annual safety poster contest

Kids, we need your help!



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 Friday, Feb. 19, 2021.

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

TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	<p>NEVER operate a generator INSIDE your home or in other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including GARAGES.</p>		<p>Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).</p>		<p>Install battery-operated CO ALARMS or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.</p>
	<p>A generator is a TEMPORARY power source and should NEVER be used as a permanent solution.</p>		<p>Use only extension cords that have a THREE-PRONGED plug and are rated for the intended load.</p>		<p>Do NOT OVERLOAD the generator.</p>
	<p>NEVER connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a TRANSFER SWITCH. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.</p>		<p>Your home generator should be installed by a QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.</p>		<p>The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least 20 FEET from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.</p>

ESFi For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit www.esfi.org

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Sept. 23, 2020

- Approved the Sept. 23, 2020, Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment and two work order inventories
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates
- Reviewed the monthly director's financial report
- Confirmed Board review of the financial report for September
- Reviewed delinquent summary report
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard legal counsel report
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Reviewed update on WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Reviewed the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and heard reports on meetings they attended
- Heard reports from various meetings and events the directors had attended
- Confirmed director attendance at upcoming meetings
- Set the 2021 Budget maximum amount for capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and approved IRS Form 990
- Approved the IBEW-Mor-Gran-Sou Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Approved update of signatories on banking accounts
- Approved a general membership capital credit refund for 2020
- Selected several members to serve on the Nominating Committee to fill expired terms
- Set due date for Declaration of Candidacy 2021
- Per the Bylaws, approved dates for the Nominating Committee to review and submit accepted candidates, and any proposed Bylaw revisions or resolutions, to the Board of Directors

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Dec. 16 to be held via conference call

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 you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Co-General Manager/CEO Donald Franklund at 701-597-3301 or Chair Casey Wells 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.

Holiday closings

Our entire organization wishes our member-owners a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year! In observance of the holidays in December and January,

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will be closed:

**Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25,
for Christmas**

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, for New Year's Day

Line crews will be available in case of an emergency or power outage.

The holidays are just around the corner

Gift certificates are available at Mor-Gran-Sou.

Light up someone's holiday season!

How long is your Christmas list? If a certain someone on your list is a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and you need a bright idea on what to buy for Christmas ... why not wrap up a gift certificate he or she can use toward an electric bill?

Call Mor-Gran-Sou
at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297
or 800-750-8212
and ask for Julie or Jackie.

We can help you "lighten" up the holidays.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Casey Wells
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors Mark Doll, Vernard Frederick,
Rodney Froelich, 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