



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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Jason Helgeson

AUGUST
2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Landeis experiences Washington, D.C., on Youth Tour

BY RACHEL NEFF



Wyatt Landeis stands outside the White House during the Youth Tour.

When Wyatt Landeis, who will be a senior at Mandan High School, read about the 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, he decided to apply for the opportunity. Little did he know that a simple essay would lead to a trip of a lifetime.

Getting to Washington, D.C.

His knowledge, research and time spent writing an essay won Landeis an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to see our nation's capital during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour June 19 to 24. In his essay, Landeis touched on the topic of increasing youth attendance at the cooperative's annual meeting.

Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative holds a contest to select one local sophomore or junior to attend the NRECA Youth Tour. The winner travels with other North Dakota teens and joins 1,400 students from across the nation during the Youth Tour. Participants learn about cooperatives, visit with legislators at the Capitol, see the national monuments and make memories to last a lifetime.

The trip of a lifetime

A group of 14 North Dakota teenagers from different North Dakota electric cooperatives, along with Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, set out on Sunday, June 19, to Washington, D.C., to learn about their co-ops and their country on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The next five days were packed full of sightseeing, educational sessions and experiencing history in a way they have never experienced before.

Once arriving in the nation's capital, the North Dakota Youth Tour winners loaded a bus and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KRISTA RAUCH, NDARECA

Rep. **Kelly Armstrong** visits with North Dakota teens attending the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

headed straight to the first stop of the day – the Holocaust Museum.

The following day, the group ventured all over Washington, D.C., to visit a variety of monuments and museums. For Landeis, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was especially moving to witness.

“It was neat to see how the government respects those that have fought for our country, because that is what they deserve,” Landeis said. “The sacrifice these people have made for our freedom is unbelievable.”

“We visited monuments dedicated to the men and women that sacrificed so much for the freedoms we have today,” said Armijo, one of the trip’s advisers. “To know I was walking where George Washington and Abraham Lincoln once walked was very humbling.”

In addition to the rich history Washington, D.C., has to offer, Landeis especially cherished the friendships he made with fellow members on the Youth Tour.

“It was so cool to meet all these people from different cooperatives and make those connections,” Landeis said. “The trip as a whole

was so educational and fun, and the people made it even better.”


The Youth Tour participants were also able to visit with Senator John Hoeven as well as Rep. Kelly Armstrong, who touched on a variety of different topics, including the importance of smaller governments, North Dakota’s role in energy production and community involvement.

“He voices North Dakota opinions so well,” Landeis said. “Hearing him speak was really educational and I think he represents the state of North Dakota well.”

Other sites Landeis and his fellow Youth Tour candidates saw included the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Fort McHenry and the White House.

This year’s annual Youth Tour was the first one since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and surely was not one to forget.

“This opportunity will never happen again,” Landeis recalled. “If someone were to debate trying it out, just go for it.”

Stay tuned for the 2023 Youth Tour application in an upcoming issue of *North Dakota Living*. 



MOR-GRAN-SOU

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

New look, new logo, same service for members


The launch of a new logo was announced at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting! Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting theme, "Power for Generations," got us thinking about who we are, and what we want to be for our members.

Mor-Gran-Sou has grown and evolved over the past 75 years, and felt it was time for a change to better reflect who we are today, and to symbolize our future. After careful consideration, we chose a new logo that reflects a more modern look, yet represents the cooperative.

This logo has three squares, as a nod to the three counties served by Mor-Gran-Sou. The logo can be interpreted as rolling hills with a river,

symbolizing energy and power. The river was designed to also look like a lightning bolt, once again to symbolize the energy and power we have provided for generations, and generations to come.

Mor-Gran-Sou continues to use the color of green, which is the color of energy, growth, nature and togetherness. The gray shows intellect and is associated with wisdom.

Over the coming months, you will start to see Mor-Gran-Sou transition from our past logo to the current logo. Mor-Gran-Sou employees are excited to announce and embrace the new logo, as we continue to serve our membership. 

Website updated to better serve YOU, our members!

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has updated our website to better serve our members. Not only is the new site more user-friendly, but we have added features, including an outage map! Check it out at www.morgransou.com.





MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Know the signs of a scam**

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics, as consumers have become more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce. Scammers have noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.



Travis Kupper

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone call or text.

Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate action, so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. Our phone numbers can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, www.morgransou.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us or use the SmartHub app to check the status of your account. Remember, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will never call you and demand immediate payment.


Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to

provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information, such as a Social Security number, to steal your identity.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and, if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will automatically apply the overpayment to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

We want to help protect our members against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us, so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim. 

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5.

Line crews will be available to respond to emergencies and power outages by calling 800-750-8212. Please do not contact Mor-Gran-Sou on Facebook with outage information; it is not monitored 24/7. Call the 800 number to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.

Stay safe on the farm

Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity to hardworking farmers and ranchers, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. Fall can be a busy time for farmers, but safety, especially around electrical hazards, should always be a priority. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.

Follow these other tips:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment. Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.
- Be aware of increased heights of equipment, especially new equipment with higher antennas.
- Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.

Be aware

Farmers and their equipment should always be 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air. Practice extreme caution and use a spotter to make sure you stay far away from power lines when you use tall equipment.

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year.


Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself.

Look up and around!

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 Electric's attention, please call the co-op. Or, send an email to safety@morgransou.com with location information and a photo, if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all. 



Safety Starts with ME: Jason Helgeson

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job. It ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, safety is top priority for all – our employees and our members.

“Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it’s easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations,” said Jason Helgeson, senior engineering technician.

Grain bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

“Whether you are purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor,” Helgeson said. It is very important that grain bins are a safe distance from power lines to help ensure the safety of all farm workers. We want to make sure they go home after a hard day’s work to be with their family!

Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- **Safe clearance.** The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires, and an 18-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly and consult your electric cooperative.
- **Filling grain bins.** High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it’s important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.
- **Moving equipment near grain bins.** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you happen to contact an overhead line when moving a grain auger, please stay in



your equipment if possible. Call Mor-Gran-Sou for assistance. Don’t assume the power is off, until someone from our line crew shows up to ground it out.

“If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin’s site, please contact Mor-Gran-Sou and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family,” Helgeson said.

Please, LOOK UP. Thank you for being SAFE!




Capital credit allocation

The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 3 contains a line item indicating your 2021 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 2021 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2021 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 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. Allocation means 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. 

OPERATION ROUND UP

TURN YOUR

COINS *into* CHANGE

Operation Round Up is a program of voluntary contributions through rounding up electric bills to the next dollar.

Funds are disbursed in the general service area of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to nonprofit organizations for charitable causes.



How do I apply?

Applications can be completed by individuals, non-profit organizations or charity groups. If you know of someone in need, have them apply by calling Mor-Gran-Sou.



Receive an application by calling Mor-Gran-Sou

DEADLINE: September 10, 2022

Mandan: 701-663-0297 | Flasher: 701-597-3301

Toll-Free: 800-750-8212

SCAN ME





BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 29

- Approved the May 25 board meeting minutes
- Approved capital credit retirement applications for estates
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Reviewed the monthly directors' financial report
- Reviewed the Mor-Gran-Sou (MGS) Electric Cooperative May financial report
- Reviewed update on Mandan building remodel and costs to date
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update and report on meetings attended
- Reviewed senior staff reports
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative and subsidiaries minutes and associated information
- Reviewed reports from 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services
- Heard report on Southwest Power Pool
- Heard reports of meetings directors attended
- Heard report on recent safety meeting from board's assigned safety director
- Reviewed Region 6 candidate request for Federated Rural Electric Insurance board
- Accepted recommendation of 2022 overhead percentage for billing
- Completed the RESCO ballot for the board position of North Dakota director
- Approved director to serve as first alternate for Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative boards, tabled assigning second alternate until July board meeting
- Approved contract for services between MGS and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative

- Approved attendance, voting delegate and alternate for the upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region 6 meeting
- Reviewed the working agenda for the 2022 annual meeting and approved administrative details
- Set a date for new director orientation
- Discussed details for 2022 MGS strategic planning
- Reviewed Western Area Power Administration letter regarding proposed rates for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program
- Held executive session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- Aug. 24, 9:30 a.m. CT/8:30 a.m. MT, J&L Building, Bismarck
- Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m. CT/8:30 a.m. MT, J&L Building, Bismarck

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. As plans may change, please call the office at 800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting status if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Casey Wells or Co-General Manager/CEO 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.morghransou.com or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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@morghransou.com

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, Rodney Froelich,
 Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
 Kathy Tokach, Steve Tomach



MANAGEMENT

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

www.morghransou.com

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