



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Manager's message
- Look up and around
- Redesigned with you in mind

AUGUST
2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Edyth Hatlestad (pictured center) was among the Youth Tour delegates visiting Washington, D.C.

Hatlestad makes memories on Youth Tour

Each year in June, over 1,000 high school students travel to Washington, D.C., for an opportunity to learn more about electric cooperatives, meet state congressional delegates and make lifelong friends and memories.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative holds a contest annually for high school sophomore and junior students to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Students enter the contest by writing an essay in response to a question posed by the cooperative. This year's question had to do with American history.

Edyth Hatlestad, Mandan, joined other North Dakota youth sponsored by electric cooperatives and students from around the nation in Washington, D.C., for a week of learning and networking.

A solidifying experience

Fifteen North Dakota youth gathered before the trip at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives headquarters in Mandan for some team building before leaving for Washington, D.C. The group reviewed the itinerary and gathered T-shirts for the week. The youth left from North Dakota Sunday and returned late Friday. Each day included a new learning experience and sights to see.

Once the plane landed, the group was off to their first stop, the Holocaust Museum. Later that day, the Youth Tour students learned about co-ops and youth advocacy. The following days were busy. The group toured museums, national monuments and visited Arlington National Cemetery. They also

continued on next page



continued from previous page

attended other activities, such as a riverboat cruise, “The Lion King” musical and a Nationals baseball game. The group even got on the big screen during the Nationals game!


This wasn’t Hatlestad’s first trip to Washington, D.C., but her Youth Tour experience provided the opportunity to see the city through a different lens.

“The students, chaperones, sights and new information made it such a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” she said.

While in Washington, D.C., the Youth Tour group met with North Dakota’s Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and toured the U.S. Capitol. Congressman Kelly Armstrong joined the group for dinner at Founding Farmers and visited with the North Dakota students about issues ranging from energy to agriculture.

Hatlestad said her experience on the Youth Tour helped solidify her future path. She currently holds leadership positions and trips like this helped build leadership skills that she will carry with her into her future.

“No questions asked. It is a trip of a lifetime,” she said with excitement, when asked if she will encourage others to apply.

Stay tuned for the 2024 Youth Tour application in an upcoming issue of *North Dakota Living*. 



Julie Sarsland (Slope Electric Cooperative) and **Hatlestad** visit the Smithsonian National Zoological Park.



Tessa Zarak (Roughrider Electric Cooperative), **Hatlestad** and **Sarsland** (Slope Electric) visit the Smithsonian National Museum.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Affordable electricity powers quality of life



Jason Bentz

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, almost all the time. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning,

appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones and powering your computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.


Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and businesses, and in commercial sectors, such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically, when demand goes up, so does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the five-year national average of the cost of gasoline increased 6.1%, butter increased 6.1% and bread increased 5.5%. But the cost of electricity

only increased 4.6%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

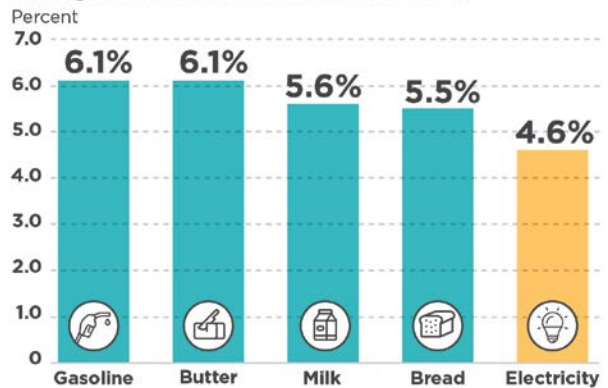
We care about you, the members we serve, and understand electricity is more than a commodity. It's a necessity. That's why Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably. 



ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



Safety Starts with ME: **Safe harvest**



Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by America’s farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous – even deadly – when farming near electrical equipment.

“Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages,” said Wayde Eckroth, a journeyman lineworker at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you’re preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- **Maintain safe distances.** Always be aware of the power poles and maintain a safe distance. Keep all machinery, including combines, tractors and other tall equipment, at least 10 feet away from power lines. Remember, some power lines may be lower than others, so it’s crucial to remain vigilant and make sure you are aware of their height.
- **Know the location of power lines.** Familiarize yourself with the locations of power lines and poles in the fields where you are working. Take note of any changes or new installations since the last harvest season. Stay updated and ensure all workers are aware of the potential hazards posed by power lines.
- **Be extra cautious with tall equipment.** When operating tall machinery, such as grain augers or portable elevators, always be mindful of the height and the proximity to power lines. Ensure these tools are carefully maneuvered, and their




movements are coordinated to avoid any contact with power lines.

- **Report damaged or downed lines.** If you encounter any damaged or downed power lines, never attempt to move them yourself. Immediately report the situation to the utility company or local authorities and keep a safe distance until help arrives. If your equipment makes contact with an energized line, contact 911 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is deenergized.

Safety Starts with ME (and YOU)

Each one of us has a responsibility to prioritize safety during the harvest season.


“By following these safety tips and encouraging others to do the same, we can create a safer work environment for everyone involved,” Eckroth said. “It’s important to remain vigilant, keep an eye out for potential hazards and report any unsafe conditions promptly.”

Remember, safety should never be compromised. The harvest season is a time to celebrate the fruits of our labor, but let’s ensure we celebrate it safely. By staying aware, informed and cautious around electricity and power poles, we can make this harvest season a successful and accident-free one. 

Look up and around

The fall is a busy time for agricultural producers across the state, with harvest getting started. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative wants to remind all those operating farm equipment to look up and around to familiarize yourself with the location of 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. Also, never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's attention, please call the office. Or send an email to info@morgransou.com with location information and a photo, if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all. 



Farm equipment is getting larger and the increased height can cause more contacts with powerlines.

Always look up before operating machinery or raising implements. And be extra cautious when moving tall equipment around the yard and exiting or entering fields from roadways.

Thank you for your service, John!

Congratulations to our meter technician, John Rath, on his retirement after 44 years of service to our membership. Thank you for your years of service.





Redesigned – with YOU in mind




Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's billing statements will soon be receiving a fresh, new look. This change is being implemented to meet a requirement from one of our valued vendors, and we believe it will enhance your overall experience with our services.

We understand change can sometimes be a little disorienting, but we want to assure you this change is a positive step forward. The new billing statements will be designed with simplicity and clarity in mind, making it even easier for you to understand and manage your payments. The layout will be more intuitive, allowing you to quickly locate and review the details of your transactions.

This change will be made before the end of the year. Rest assured, the modification will not affect the accuracy or reliability of your billing information in any way. If you have any questions or concerns, our dedicated member services team will be available to assist you every step of the way.

We are confident you will appreciate the improved billing statements once you receive them. We value your membership and strive to continuously enhance our services to better serve you.

We truly believe this change will positively contribute to your overall satisfaction and convenience.

To learn more and gain deeper insights into the latest electric bill updates, stay tuned to the upcoming issues of *North Dakota Living Magazine*, where additional information will be shared. 

CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION: Mor-Gran-Sou's commitment to members

Capital credits are a unique aspect of the cooperative business model. When you become a member of an electric cooperative, you contribute to its capital by purchasing electricity and utilizing its services. Instead of distributing profits to external shareholders, cooperatives allocate these margins, known as capital credits, back to their members based on their individual electricity usage.

The allocation process

Each year, the electric cooperative's board of directors reviews the financial health and stability of the organization. After considering various factors, including operational expenses, maintenance costs and long-term investments, the board determines the amount available for allocation.


Allocation means we assign your share of the margins to a holding account in your name. These amounts are not payable at this time and do not represent cash, but rather your equity in your cooperative. While the allocation does not represent cash in hand, it is a significant benefit of

being a member-owner of a cooperative. It ensures the cooperative operates on a not-for-profit basis, with any excess revenues allocated back to members.

2022 allocation

The capital credit allocation shown on your August billing statement is not the retirement of your capital credits, but the allocation of your share of the cooperative's profits for the year 2022. Retirement typically involves issuing checks or may be applied to the members active electric bill.

It is important to retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2022 capital credit allocation. This statement serves as an official record of your allocated equity in the cooperative, and future communications regarding the retirement or distribution of capital credits may refer to this information.

Please feel free to reach out to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative if you have any further questions or require additional information about your capital credit allocation. 

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 8, 2023

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

Toll-Free: 800-750-8212

SCAN ME





MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 28

- Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of directors met June 28 at the Mandan Service Center.
- The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the May 24 meeting.
- Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz presented the co-general managers' report.
- A report was presented to the board from WDUS and 3C Construction.
- Basin provided a report to the board.
- Alex Craigmile, CFO, presented a summary of the financial report.
- Gary Fitterer, manager of operations, and Julie Armijo, manager of member services, provided the board with an update.

In observance of



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

our office will be closed on Sept. 4.

Line crews will be available to respond to emergencies and power outages by calling 800-750-8212, 701-597-3301 and 701-663-0297.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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 Steve Tomac
 Vice Chair Chad Harrison
 Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger
 Directors Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
 Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
 Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO Travis Kupper
 Co-GM/CEO Jason Bentz

www.morgransou.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

