



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Help shape the future
- Scholarship applications available
- Apply for Youth Tour

DECEMBER
2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Andrew Roth and Ryan Roth with the New Leipzig Rural Fire Protection District receive a Rural Development Finance Corporation grant from Julie Armijo with Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. Read more on the next page.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: **Mor-Gran-Sou Electric sparks change with grant funds**

One of the core values of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is commitment to its service area, whether through sponsorships, grants or participation in events. The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) grant helps demonstrate the true meaning of commitment.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric received grant funding from RDFC to benefit its service area. The funds are allocated directly to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, and entities apply for the grant funds. The applications are then reviewed by the RDFC committee before funding is awarded. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric was able to assist two entities within its service area with the RDFC funds, including the New Leipzig Rural Fire Protection District and the Flasher Masonic Lodge No. 106.

New Leipzig Rural Fire Protection District

The New Leipzig Rural Fire Protection District needed assistance to cover expenses to help the fire district better serve the community by remodeling its fire hall.

“The RDFC grants helped us update the lighting and ceiling in our fire hall,” says Ryan Roth, the assistant fire chief. The department uses the meeting room for fire meetings, guest speakers and training. The department also offers the space to other local organizations, such as the New Leipzig Oktoberfest planning committee, to hold meetings.

“We are very grateful for the funds and what it allowed us to do,” Roth says.

Flasher Masonic Lodge No. 106

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric was able to assist the Flasher Masonic Lodge No. 106. The lodge discovered damage to its roof early in the year. In addition to community donations, the lodge also qualified for the RDFC grant, which allowed it to repair the damage. The lodge works closely with the Flasher community and gives back any way it can through high school scholarships, sponsorships and various other ways.

“We are a group who is used to helping others, so when we found out that roof needed repairs, it was quite the undertaking and we were the ones who needed assistance,” says Jerald Christenson,



Alan Malm and Jerald Christenson with the Flasher Masonic Lodge No. 106 receive a Rural Development Finance Corporation grant from Julie Armijo with Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

president of the Flasher Masonic Lodge No. 106. “We are grateful these funds were available through Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to help us complete the roofing project.”

RDFC is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota electric cooperatives, nine North Dakota telecommunications cooperatives, the Broadband Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. RDFC was founded in 1994 with a desire to invest in rural communities. Almost 30 years later, its mission remains the same. RDFC’s grant allotment included funds to member-cooperatives to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects. 

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: A look to 2024



Jason Benz

As we approach the most wonderful time of the year, we wanted to take a moment to extend our warmest holiday greetings to each and every one of you. The Christmas season is a time for reflection, gratitude and joy, and I hope you find the space to enjoy these moments with your loved ones.

This holiday season also marks the beginning of a new year, filled with fresh possibilities and exciting opportunities. As we embrace the festive spirit and bid farewell to this year, let's also look forward to the challenges and achievements awaiting us in the next.

In the coming year, we will have the chance to make a significant impact on our organization by selecting members for our board of directors. Our board plays a crucial role in shaping the direction of our cooperative, and I encourage you to consider taking on this important responsibility.


Serving on the board of directors is not only a great way to contribute to the growth and success of our organization, but it's also an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills,

broaden your horizons and work closely with a dedicated group of individuals who share your passion for our mission.

In the weeks ahead, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be sharing more information about the nomination and election process. I encourage you to reach out to current board members if you have any questions or would like to learn more about what it entails. Whether you decide to run for the board or support your fellow members in their pursuit, your engagement in this process is vital to our collective success.

As we celebrate the holiday season and prepare to welcome the new year, I want to express my gratitude to the current directors and our employees on their hard work, dedication and unwavering commitment to our cooperative. Your contributions are what make us a great team. I have no doubt we will continue to achieve remarkable things in the year ahead.

May this holiday season be filled with laughter and cherished moments, and may the coming year bring us all the success and growth for which we aim. We look forward to what lies ahead and the incredible journey we will embark on together.

Warmest wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! 



POWERING ON: MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC'S CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
LIHEAP APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW THROUGH MAY 31, 2024. SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



DEC. 11

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
MOR-GRAN-SOU FLASHER OFFICE
7 P.M. CENTRAL TIME



DEC. 22-25

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS.
THE LINE CREWS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.



JANUARY 2024

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC OFFICES CLOSED JAN. 1, IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S DAY.
THE LINE CREWS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.



JAN. 12

OPERATION ROUND UP DEADLINE



JAN. 19

YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE



FEB. 20

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
MOR-GRAN-SOU FLASHER OFFICE
7 P.M. CENTRAL TIME






SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Holiday lighting tips



4. Don't overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Safety Starts with ME (and YOU)!

Make this holiday season unforgettable with your lighting inside and out, while staying safe for you and your family and making memories all will cherish for years to come. During this holiday season, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric wants to thank you for being a part of our cooperative family and hope you and your loved ones have a merry Christmas and happy New Year! 

Amid the cheer that defines the holiday season, holiday lighting is one tradition bringing warmth and radiance to our homes. As we prepare to deck the halls and string those festive lights, it's vital to remember safety is the true star of the show.

"We know this is an exciting time for people to get ready for the holidays, but we want members to take a couple of things into account when decorating, including safety and light selection," says Patty Kluge, member services representative II at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

Most holiday decorations involve some installation at heights, so it is important to keep the following in mind while decorating indoors and outside:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decoration, which is an invaluable part of safety and to keep you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
3. Don't overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate the ladder.

**LIGHT UP SOMEONE'S
HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**Need a bright idea for a holiday gift this
year? Energy gift certificates are
available at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.**

**Call Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or
800-750-8212 and talk to the billing department!**

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Are you looking for a way to serve the people of western North Dakota? Look no further, as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative can help you fulfill that desire with director positions.

Bylaws amendments and resolutions are also now being accepted for the annual meeting scheduled for June 13, 2024.

Board of director elections

A Mor-Gran-Sou Electric director term is a three-year commitment. Directors are limited to serving six consecutive three-year terms. A director then is not eligible for another six consecutive three-year terms until one year has elapsed. The following board positions will be elected at the upcoming annual meeting:

- The At-Large director position presently held by Steve Tomac
- The Morton County director position presently held by Kathy Tokach
- The Sioux County director position presently held by Chad Harrison

No nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting, according to the bylaws. Instead, the board of directors appoints a Nominating Committee of five to nine members to 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 Feb. 28, 2024.

Nominating Committee


The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board. The members of the Nominating Committee include Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony; Jackie Buckley, Mandan; Rosie Erhardt, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Toby Olin, New Salem; Donald D. Roth, New Leipzig; and Yvonne Seidler, New Leipzig. The Nominating Committee will meet for the first time at 7 p.m. CT Dec. 11 and another meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. CT Feb. 20, 2024.

For a person to be nominated, the member running for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric by 4 p.m. CT on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024. All qualified and willing candidates who

have completed and forwarded the declaration of candidacy form will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions need to be presented to the member in writing before the annual meeting on June 13, 2024. Please submit any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions in writing or present them in person by the February 20, 2024, deadline to the Nominating Committee to be considered at the annual meeting.

If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated for a board position or to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution, please refer to the information below for deadlines and further information. 

Deadlines

Dec. 11, 2023 – Initial Nominating Committee meeting, 7 p.m. CT, Flasher

Feb. 15, 2024 – Declaration of candidacy deadline, submitted by 4 p.m. CT to the Flasher or Mandan office

Feb. 20, 2024 – Final Nominating Committee meeting, 7 p.m. CT, Flasher

June 13, 2024 – Mor-Gran-Sou Electric annual meeting, Mandan

Contact info

For board nominations, contact the Nominating Committee or Julie Armijo at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

Completed board declaration forms, bylaws and resolutions can be mailed to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297 or P.O. Box 1090, Mandan, ND, 58554-7090. Forms can also be emailed to Julie at jarmijo@morgransou.com.

For additional information or questions, call Julie at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.



2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: FEB. 9, 2024

Download Application



Area high school scholarship

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will award nine \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants. School representatives from Elgin-New Leipzig, Flasher, Glen Ullin, Hebron, Mandan, New Salem-Almont, Selfridge, Solen Public Schools and Standing Rock Community School will select one graduating senior. Contact your school counselor for more information. 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.

\$500 lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction

Owned in part by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, 3C Construction employs lineworkers who travel, plowing cable and assisting with projects as needed. 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.

\$500 mechanic scholarship from 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.

Luck-of-the-draw scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting June 13, 2024. All high school seniors who are dependents of members and have not previously been chosen for a co-op scholarship are eligible and must RSVP and attend the annual meeting with a parent or guardian.

\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a student who is already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school.

Students can get the applications from our website, www.morgransou.com, or call the office. Applications can be filled out online and emailed to bkroh@morgransou.com, or printed and mailed to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Beth Kroh, P.O. Box 1090, Mandan, ND 58554-7090.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

All applicants must have a parent or guardian who is a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric member.

Stay connected wherever you go!

Planning to soak in the sun this winter? Be sure to sign up for SmartHub and complete the notification section to receive important cooperative updates, like planned power outages, while you are away!

You will receive a notification of important information related to your electric service. If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to www.morgransou.com and select the SmartHub link in the top right corner. From there, you will be able to sign up as a new user.

Now is a good time to also make sure Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has your current contact information. To verify your telephone number or email address, or request an update, call 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. Members can also login to their SmartHub account to update your information.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric also has a Facebook page. Please like and follow to learn timely

cooperative and community news. Members, thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed. 



APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- Email entries to Julie Armijo at jarmijo@morgransou.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297.
- Questions? Call Julie at 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 or 701-663-0297 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.**

ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

LEARN MORE AT
NDYOUTHTOUR.COM



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS: Sept. 27, 2023

The September meeting of the board of directors of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held Sept. 27 at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Connie Hill, executive assistant, was designated as the recording secretary. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Gary Fitterer, Manager of Member Services Julie Armijo and Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation led by Tomac.

Consent agenda: There was an addition to the consent agenda. The agenda was approved as amended. The Aug. 23 meeting minutes were also approved.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included an update from the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association Region 5-6 meeting and a Basin Electric Power Cooperative update.

Action items: The board reviewed and approved the 2024 capital budget and the annual financial items.

Department reports: Craigmile reviewed the August financial report. Fitterer provided a report with details on maintenance activities and service upgrades. Armijo presented a report with details on the 2024 annual meeting and member appreciation events for 2024. The board reviewed Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar's report. Fergel provided a general counsel report.

Discussion and general information: Upcoming meetings and events were shared.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment and Mor-Gran-Sou Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting date was set for Oct. 25 at the Mandan Service Center.



Mor-Gran- Sou Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Dec. 22 and 25 in observance of Christmas and Jan. 1, 2024, in observance of New Year's Day

The line crew will be available in case of an emergency. To report a power outage, call 800-750-8212, 701-597-3301 or 701-663-0297.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Flasher, ND 58535-0297

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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

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