



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Remembering those who served
- Protect yourself from utility scams
- Join North Dakota Career Tour
- Annual meeting June 12

FEBRUARY
2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
FEB. 14**

Visit our website at
morgransou.com or call our
office with questions.





Remembering past directors and employee

As we look forward to 2025, it's fitting to take time to look back on 2024 and pay tribute to those we lost who were part of the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative family. With great sadness, we learned Vern Frederick and David Schmidt, past directors, and Sharon Port Curtiss, a past employee, died in 2024.



Curtiss

Sharon Port Curtiss

Sharon Port Curtiss of Mandan died Feb. 23, 2024. Curtiss had a strong faith, a giving spirit and a willingness to serve. She is described as being a doting grandmother who would consistently go the extra mile for those she loved and anyone in need of help. Curtiss was an active

volunteer and was famous for sewing hooded bath towels for baby gifts.

During her college years, Curtiss worked as a bookkeeper at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric from 1978 to 1982. During this time, she was also working toward her Bachelor of Science in accounting from Minnesota State University Moorhead. While at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, she worked with payroll and member accounts.

shown through his long standing dedication to his community through being an active member and board director. Throughout this life, Frederick was a 50 year member of the Lion's Club and served 25 years on the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of directors. Throughout his years on the board, he enjoyed staying up to date on all the happenings in fossil fuels across the state.



Schmidt

David Schmidt

David (Dave) Schmidt of Solen died Jan. 28, 2024. Schmidt raised cattle and sheep and enjoyed learning and serving others. He was often found spending time with his grandchildren at auctions or other adventures. Between ranching, spending time with his family and being a caretaker of the land,

Schmidt was also an active part of building a better community. He is described as having a servant heart and was active in many community organizations and programs, including the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of directors. Schmidt served on the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of directors from 1989 to 1998.

To their family and friends, please know how much we appreciated their shared time and talents as they served the members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. The board of directors and staff express our heartfelt condolences. They will be deeply missed.



Frederick

Vernard Frederick

Vernard (Vern) Frederick of Flasher died Nov. 9, 2024. Frederick enjoyed farming, ranching and traveling. He also was an avid fan of his grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's events and was often found spending time with his family.

Frederick was active in many community organizations and served on various boards. He had a passion to serve others which is

LINE PATROL CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Our line crews have begun line patrol. Crews will be patrolling the north part of Morton County.

Depending on weather and road conditions, you may see lineworkers patrolling line in a cooperative-marked truck, all-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 OR 701-663-0297.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Protecting yourself from utility scams



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

Consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

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, attempts in today's connected world are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, a phone call or text.

or by text, do not click any links. Instead, delete it and block the sender if possible. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend yourself

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

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 or by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, 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, contact us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301, info@morgransou.com or use SmartHub to check the status of your account. Remember, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. The scammers make it sound easy by stating 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, scammers can drain your account and use personal information, such as a Social Security number, for identity theft.

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




*Congratulations to our operations manager, **Gary Fitterer** on graduating from NRECA's Management Internship Program (MIP) training. MIP is one of the most exclusive management development programs in the nation for electric cooperatives.*



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: North Dakota Career Tour



Julie Armijo

Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager

As a member services manager, I'm excited to personally invite you to a unique opportunity that could ignite your future. Our two-day North Dakota Career Tour is set to offer a deep dive into the fascinating world of energy careers right here in our state.

Why should you join us?

If you've ever been curious about what powers your world, this is your chance to explore.

From coal mines and power plants to wind turbines and electric cooperatives, you'll get hands-on experiences and hear directly from the experts who drive North Dakota's energy sector.

This tour is more than just an exploration. It's a gateway to understanding how diverse career paths and cutting-edge technologies shape our industry. You'll meet professionals who are passionate about their work and discover how you could be a part of this exciting field.

Event details

When: Aug. 5-6


Who can attend:

- 2025-26 high school seniors, juniors and sophomores who are interested in exploring careers in energy.
- Students who are curious about the wide range of opportunities in North Dakota's energy sector.

How to register:

We have a limited number of spots available. Our cooperative is joining forces with our sister cooperatives within Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, with each selecting 10 students, totaling 40 participants from across the state.

This is your chance to gain a new perspective and start envisioning your future in energy. To secure your spot and find out more, visit www.morghransou.com or get in touch with us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

I look forward to seeing you on this exciting journey and helping you light the way to your future career! 



Mor-Gran-Sou announces annual 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. All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative logo. 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. 28.

RULES:

- Posters must be on white, 8.5x11-inch paper.

- Posters must depict the theme of how to play and work safely around electricity and display the Touchstone Energy Cooperative logo. **Be creative!**
- Print the child's name, grade, address, age and parents' names on the back of the posters.
- Only dependents of current Mor-Gran-Sou Electric 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 Electric's local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine.

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING: Upcoming dates and deadlines

We are excited to announce we will be hosting our annual meeting in Mandan again this year! We will have more information coming soon about the annual meeting. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative currently has director elections open as well as bylaw and resolutions proposals being accepted.

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.

At the annual meeting June 12, the following three board positions will be elected:

- **Grant County** – Ryan Petrick (currently serving his first three-year term)
- **Mandan Area** – Pam Geiger (currently serving her second three-year term)
- **Morton County** – Mark Doll (currently serving his first three-year term)


Floor nominations are not accepted at the annual meeting, according to the bylaws.

Instead, the Nominating Committee 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. 26.

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. 13. The Nominating Committee will meet for the final time at 6:30 p.m. CT Feb. 20 at the Flasher office.

Bylaws and resolution proposals

Any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions need to be presented to the members in writing before the annual meeting on June 12. Please submit any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions in writing or present them in person by the Feb. 20 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. 

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING DATES AND DEADLINES

Feb. 13 – 4 p.m. CT, deadline for declaration of candidacy, bylaw amendments and resolutions. Forms must be submitted to the Flasher or Mandan office.

Feb. 20 – 6:30 p.m. CT, final Nominating Committee meeting, Flasher

June 12 – Mor-Gran-Sou Electric annual meeting, Mandan

Contact info

For board nominations, bylaw amendments or resolutions, contact a member of 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.

SAVE THE DATE
MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 12 | MANDAN

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMING MONTHS.





MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: What to know about power restoration



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

We often get questions from members about power outages and why it can take time to restore power. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it. As we continue through the cold winter, we thought it would be a good time to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes.

What you may not know about power restoration:

- **We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a smaller section of our service area. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Report outages by calling our office at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.
- **It's a team effort.** Every one of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's employees is working to restore power as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, operations staff are surveying damage and organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- **We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need

and develop a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

- **Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can restore in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services, such as hospitals. Then, we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
- **Flickering lights are good.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important, because they indicate our equipment has worked properly and prevented a possible outage likely caused by weather, an animal or stray tree limbs on the lines. If the line continues to blink, please call the office so we can isolate the section of line to address the members impacted. Line crews may be dispatched to patrol that section of line looking for any issues that may be causing the blinks.
- **Sometimes, it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, our team at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

If you experience an outage, please call the office at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301 or report it on SmartHub.

Members, if you have received a capital credit retirement check, please cash it as soon as possible.

**Call out office with any questions
800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.**



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Snow removal around electrical equipment

It is that time of year when we break out our shovels and snowblowers a bit more than we would like. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative may have electrical equipment, such as pad-mounted transformers or even overhead lines, near areas where you have to clear snow, so we remind members to proceed with caution.

“We want members to be aware of where pad-mounted transformers – also known as the green box – or other electrical equipment is located on their property,” says Layton Kasper, a journeyman lineworker. “Ensuring members know where equipment is located helps alleviate accidents and keeps everyone safe and informed.”


Here are a few tips to keep in mind this winter as you are removing snow.

- **Know where electrical equipment is located:** Before a heavy snowfall, mark the location of electrical equipment with flags to easily see it when removing snow.
- **Be gentle when clearing snow:** Always use a shovel to clear snow around electrical equipment. Never use a snowblower or plow directly against it.
- **Maintain clearance:** Ensure a safe distance is maintained around electrical equipment, typically at least 10 feet in front and 3 feet on the sides.
- **Be aware of overhead lines:** Be mindful of overhead power lines, especially when removing snow from roofs.
- **Report damage:** If you notice any damage to electrical equipment due to snow removal, contact



LAYTON
JOURNEYMAN LINEWORKER

our office as soon as possible. Do not try and fix the damage yourself.

Keeping these tips in mind will help Mor-Gran-Sou Electric ensure safe and reliable electrical services continue to power your homes and local businesses. If you notice any damage to electrical equipment, contact our office as soon as possible at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. 

Nondiscrimination statement

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the

responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Nov. 20, 2024

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on Nov. 20, 2024, at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: Amendments to the agenda were presented. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic agenda: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, with updates on the various meetings, including a statewide Safety Committee meeting. Several Basin Electric Power Cooperative, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C

Construction reports were available for review.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which included updates on the 2024 construction season. Armijo provided a member services report on various upcoming meetings and programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Fergel provided a general counsel report on projects.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed the 2025 budget and other items.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is 10 a.m. Feb. 26 in Mandan.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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/CEOTravis Kupper
Co-GM/CEO Jason Bentz

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