



**MOR-GRAN-SOU**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

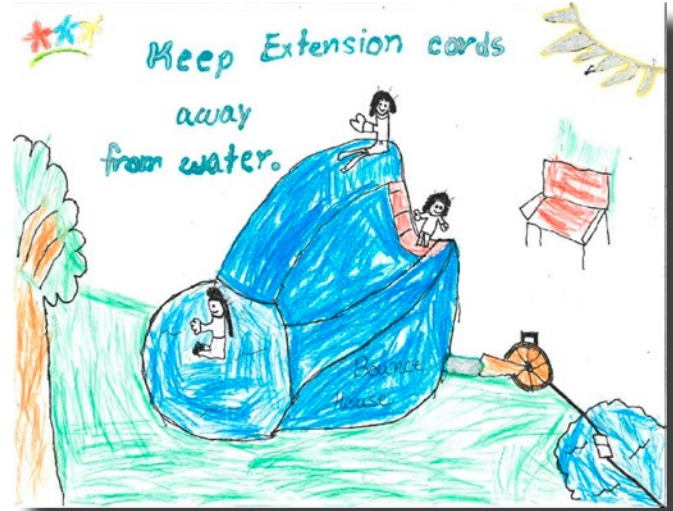
Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

**THIS ISSUE:**

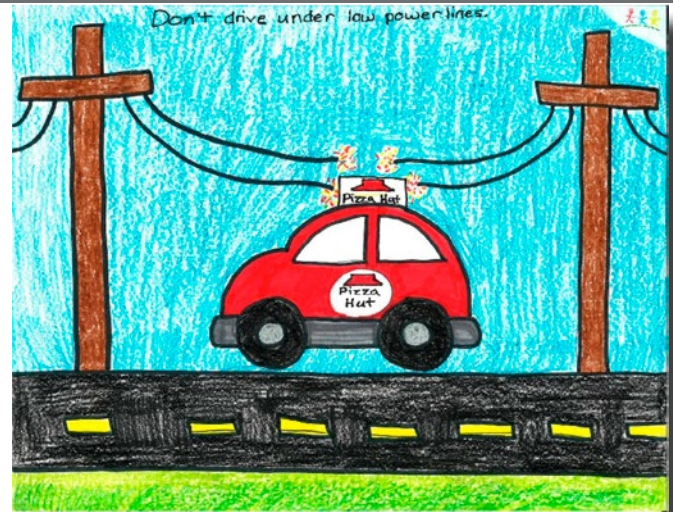
- Scholarships available
- Help shape co-op's future
- Projects for 2025
- Winter preparation

**JANUARY**  
2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's  
**annual safety poster contest is back!**





## GET CREATIVE FOR SAFETY: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's annual poster contest is back

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is excited to announce its annual safety poster contest is back, and this year we are celebrating over 20 years! For over two decades the safety poster contest has been a beloved tradition, bringing our members together to promote the importance of safety in a creative, unique way.

The poster contest also serves as a seed to a bigger conversation for students at Flasher Public School.

"Each year, elementary school wide, we participate in the safety poster contest," says Jill Eckroth, fifth grade teacher at Flasher Public School. "The safety poster gives us a starting point in a lesson on power and safety, so we mix a bit of science into the project."

Eckroth says this project helps bring awareness to students about electricity and an opportunity to share what Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is and does for the community.

Students are given the rules and the safety topic, and they take it from there. Eckroth says students draw what they have heard about or seen. She notes that they often draw about the stories Mor-Gran-Sou Electric lineworkers have told when they come to visit the classroom. The contest is more than drawing a poster. It is the beginning of awareness of safety around electricity in school, around the farm and home.

As your rural electric cooperative, we care about your safety and wellbeing and this contest has become a powerful reminder keeping our communities safe. This year, join us in continuing the safety poster contest by spreading the message of safety to members across our service area. We are excited to see the creative talent and essential message that is shown through the posters this year!

### DIVISIONS

- Preschool to kindergarten
- First grade to third grade
- Fourth grade to sixth grade

### DEADLINE

Posters must be received at the Flasher or Mandan 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, "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?"

- Posters must display the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative logo.
- Print the child's name, address, age, grade 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): first-place prizes of \$15; second-place prizes of \$10; and third-place prizes of \$5.

### WINNERS

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



# 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

**DEADLINE: FEB. 14**

## 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**

Owned in part by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, WDUS employs various mechanic positions. 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 12. 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 download the applications from our website, [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com), or call the office. Applications can be filled out online and emailed to [bkroh@morgransou.com](mailto:bkroh@morgransou.com), or printed and mailed to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Beth Kroh, P.O. Box 1090, Mandan, ND 58554-7090.



**MOR-GRAN-SOU**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: What does it take to be a director?



**Travis Kupper**  
Co-General Manager/CEO

As we ring in the new year, we often look at the year ahead and the potential the future holds. Simultaneously, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative opens the doors each year to new and returning directors.

As we approach upcoming director elections, we thought it would be a good reminder to our members to consider the significant role directors play in shaping the future of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

Serving as a director is more than just a title. It's a commitment to our members and communities. Our board of directors is central to our cooperative, because it enables members to advocate for their community's interests, aligning decisions with local needs and values.

Board members provide critical oversight of operations and finances, shaping the cooperative's strategic direction and fostering transparency. Overall, active participation in governance is key to maintaining a responsive and effective cooperative.

Here are some key qualities that make an effective director.

- **Commitment to service:** Directors should have a passion for serving our members, always striving to enhance their quality of life.

- **Strategic thinking:** A strong director must think critically, making informed decisions that align with our cooperative's long-term goals.
- **Community engagement:** Active involvement in the community is vital. Understanding and responding to the needs of our members is crucial for effective leadership.
- **Collaboration:** Directors must work well with fellow board members and staff, fostering a culture of teamwork and transparency.
- **Adaptability:** The energy landscape is ever-changing. A successful director must embrace change and navigate challenges.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking this vital role, consider the impact you can make on our cooperative and the communities we serve. You can learn more about what it takes to be a director by visiting [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) or calling our office at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212. Your voice matters in shaping a brighter future for all.

**ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA**  
**JUNE 15-21, 2025**  
**Application deadline: Jan. 17**

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And all expenses are paid by your local electric cooperative!

*Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.*

**HONORING HEROES @ WWII MEMORIAL**

Learn more at [ndyouthtour.com](http://ndyouthtour.com)

## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: Help shape co-op's future



**Julie Armijo**

Chief of Staff/Member  
Services Manager

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 director for the cooperative?

### Director elections

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 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)

Under the bylaws and due to 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 Feb. 26. This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate's biographical information to be included with the meeting notice sent to the members in May, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in-person.

### Director nominations

The Nominating Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. CT Feb. 20.

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 Feb. 13. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed the forms required by the deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

### Bylaws and resolutions

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting scheduled for June 12. 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 Feb. 13, and/or they can be presented in-person at one of the Nominating Committee meetings. 

### NOMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony  
Jackie Buckley, Mandan  
Rosie Erhardt, Mandan  
Garek Murphy, Fort Yates  
Jim Neubauer, Mandan  
Toby Olin, New Salem  
Donald D. Roth, New Leipzig  
Jeff Striegel, Carson  
Kathy Tokach (board representative), St. Anthony  
Katie Wirt, Selfridge

### 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](mailto:jarmijo@morgransou.com).

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



## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Projects for 2025



**Gary Fitterer**

*Manager of Operations*

As we look ahead to 2025, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is excited to share upcoming projects that will help shape the future of our cooperative, bringing more reliability and safety to our system. A team of engineers and operations employees from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric have thoughtfully planned to ensure seamless execution of the upcoming projects.


A few projects include pole changeouts and overhead power line conversions as well as general maintenance.

Once the ground thaws and line crews can dig, underground cable preparation will begin. There are a handful of conversion projects within our work plan that will be addressed throughout the service territory in 2025. The North Almost substation will have two miles of new underground distribution cable installed, replacing the existing two miles of overhead line. Also, at the North Almost substation there will be just over a mile of new underground which will allow us to retire out three miles of overhead line. At the Grant

substation, near Carson, over five miles of overhead single-phase conductor will be converted to single-phase underground cable. Making the switch from overhead to underground cable near the Carson area will help reduce outages, improve voltage issues and increase load capabilities with the Cedar substation south of Elgin. The Solen substation will have seven miles of three-phase overhead replaced with seven miles of three-phase underground cable. This conversion will also help reduce the number of outages on the existing overhead line that is exposed to summer winds and heavily loaded ice on the lines during the winter months.

A transmission line project is planned between our Cannon substation and Grant substation south of Carson. This will help ensure grid reliability within our transmission system.

As we continue into the winter season, we would like to remind you to report outages by calling the office at 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 or 701-663-0297. This information helps us to assess potential areas that may need maintenance down the road and provide a safe, efficient, reliable service to our members.

We look forward to working and visiting with you in the new year. 

**Cody Graetz**, lead lineworker collaborates with crew members during a transformer upgrade project.



## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

# Winter storm preparation and safety


Once winter weather conditions are upon us, we often wonder when a snowstorm will hit and what the impact will be. Although Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative hopes storms will have little to no impact, we are always prepared and ready to act when called.

“When an outage occurs, our team is ready to take calls and get a crew out as soon as possible,” says Deb Haugen, member services representative II. “When the forecast calls for storm weather, we plan ahead in the office and the shop to ensure we are all ready to assist members the best we can.”

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is prepared for winter storms and we want to help you be prepared for them as well. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when it comes to winter storm outages.

- **Always report an outage.** Do not assume someone else has already called about an outage. We aim to keep members up-to-date on social media, but it is not monitored 24/7, so we advise not to report outages through our social media messages. If you have a medical need, such as requiring oxygen, please notify our member service team when reporting an outage.
- **Have a backup plan for you and your family.** We suggest having items, such as water, nonperishable food sources, blankets, batteries, flashlights and a charging bank, although these items vary depending on your family's needs.
- **Do not plug generators into household wiring, unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.** If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and harm lineworkers making repairs.



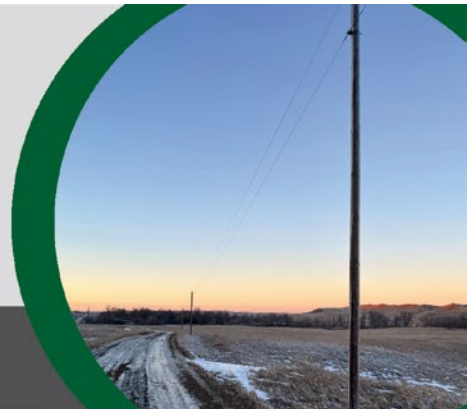
We know storm outages can be unsettling, but we want to assure you our team is working behind the scenes to ensure your power returns. Safety is our No. 1 priority, so if weather conditions are too dangerous, crews may not be able to work until it becomes clear. All of us at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are committed to ensuring safe, reliable electric services for you. We appreciate your patience during uncertain times like these, but urge you to give us a call with any questions regarding an outage. 

## REPORT EVERY OUTAGE

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE, CALL US AT

- 1-800-750-8212
- 701-663-0297
- 701-597-3301

*Please keep in mind, our social media pages and emails are not connected to our dispatch center. Call one of the numbers above to ensure your outage is reported.*





## MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Oct. 30

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 30, 2024, at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Vice Chair Chad Harrison called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.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:** The consent agenda was approved as presented.

**Strategic agenda:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the Rural Utilities Service environmental review, 2025 load forecast update, wildfire mitigation plan and more. 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 annual meeting information and deadlines. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Fergel provided a general counsel report on his projects.

**Discussion/general information:** The board conducted an annual review of board policies and discussed strategic planning as well as 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 at 10 a.m. Jan. 29 in Mandan.

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3. Visit the participating location, scan the provided barcode at the checkout and pay your bill with a cash payment which is posted to your account immediately.



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- Dollar General
- CVS Pharmacy
- Walmart
- Holiday Stations
- Stamart



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@morgransou.com  
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES  
800-795-0555 OR 811

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair.....Steve Tomach  
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](http://www.morgransou.com)

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