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JULY 2022

NEWS

Rossow attends Honor Flight



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Clifford Rossow stands in front of the United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial) during his trip on the Honor Flight.



Rossow attends Honor Flight

BY ANNE HANSEN



The North Dakota Honor Flight veterans visit the National Archives.

Mail call. Those two simple words brought Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member Clifford Rossow back to his early days of service, and the joy of hearing his name announced as a recipient of mail. Back to the present day, and mail packets this time around were filled with notes from brothers, sisters, spouses, children and grandchildren as a thank you to the veterans on the trip home from their Honor Flight.

This simple gesture was one of many that made the Western North Dakota Honor Flight a grand experience for Rossow, who served in the U.S. Army from Jan. 9, 1962, to Dec. 23, 1964.

The Western North Dakota Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. It transports our heroes to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at their memorials for two days.

A group of 93 veterans – including Rossow – took the Honor Flight beginning the morning of April 10 and returning home the evening of April 11. The group of veterans, geared up in their new shirts, coats and hats, onboarded in Bismarck. The flight full of our nation's heroes was welcomed in Baltimore, Md.

“When our plane landed, we were welcomed with a water cannon salute and then when we got off the plane, we were welcomed by North Dakota National Guard members,” Rossow noted.

Soon after, the veterans split onto four chartered buses and arrived at their first historic site, the Arlington National Cemetery, which included the Changing of the Guard Ceremony.

“The most solemn, but memorable place, we visited was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,” Rossow said.

Next stop on the tour was the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, followed by a banquet and a social hour, where veterans were able to enjoy the camaraderie of one another and share the memories of their time in the service.

“During the trip, there was a lot of reminiscing with everyone,” Rossow said.

The second day of the Honor Flight included stops at the National Archives, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and World War II Memorial before their trip home.

“Another stop that I really enjoyed was the Lincoln Memorial,” Rossow said. “I recall seeing a picture of my father near it when I was a kid, and it always interested me.”

In addition, Rossow was impacted by the Vietnam Memorial, as he searched for two names on the memorial wall.

On the flight home, the surprise mail call just added to the grand welcome home party.

“When you are in the service, there is one time per day that would be mail call and you wouldn't want to miss it,” Rossow said.

Upon entering the Bismarck airport, local dignitaries, family, friends and a local band cheered on the North Dakota veterans.

“It felt very patriotic,” Rossow said.

Rossow also thanked the sponsors, who made the trip available free of charge to North Dakota veterans. ■



See you at the 75th annual meeting

Members: Join Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative on Friday, July 15, for the 75th annual meeting in the pavilion at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort near Fort Yates. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

In an effort to deliver the results of the election to the membership before the close of the annual meeting, Mor-Gran-Sou follows this meeting format:

- **3:30-5:30 p.m. CT** – Registration
- **5:30 p.m.** – Business meeting call to order; election of candidates
- **6 p.m.** – Business meeting recessed; annual meeting banquet served
- **7 p.m.** – Business meeting reconvenes

Mor-Gran-Sou will host a delicious meal for you to enjoy, plus members will have a chance to hear co-op updates and meet this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and scholarship recipients. Again, this year, we will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships

to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 15. All high school graduated seniors, who are dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members and have not previously been chosen for a Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship, are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend the annual meeting and be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian and will be required to RSVP before the meeting. The RSVP form can be found in the Annual Report. Look for the registration booth the night of the annual meeting to complete a registration form for the scholarship drawing.

This year, members who vote in-person at the annual meeting or vote by mail-in ballot have a chance to win one of 20 \$25 bill credits. If you are one of the lucky winners, Mor-Gran-Sou will automatically apply this prize to your electric bill; however, you must cast your ballot for an opportunity to win.

Consult your annual meeting packet, which was sent early June, for more information. ■

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

See you at the annual meeting

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is right around the corner, and we cannot wait to see you there – in person! As many of you know, the purpose of an annual meeting is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters, such as bylaw changes, and win some great door prizes!

Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting is a community gathering, where neighbors can meet new neighbors, or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the "errands of life" and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Few organizations are uniquely positioned like Mor-Gran-Sou to bring together all members of our local communities.

Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. Mor-Gran-Sou exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of



Travis Kupper

our service area. This is where you can help. As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable, and we invite you to share it with the co-op.

The annual meeting is also the time to vote for board members who will represent you, the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Perhaps you feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Mor-Gran-Sou wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for power for generations.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op members. Mor-Gran-Sou is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting. ■



Safety Starts with ME: Jason Jahner

“Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers,” said Jason Jahner, Mandan area foreman. “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.

“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” Jahner explained. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

If you’re preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment comes into contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 911 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is deenergized. In case of smoke or fire,



exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, please remember these safety tips. ■

Explore it, adore it and save!



In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is once again making excursions to Medora more affordable for families.

This summer, our members are eligible for a 15% discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

To make your reservations and claim your savings, call **1-800-MEDORA-1** and provide the discount code: **Touch2022**.

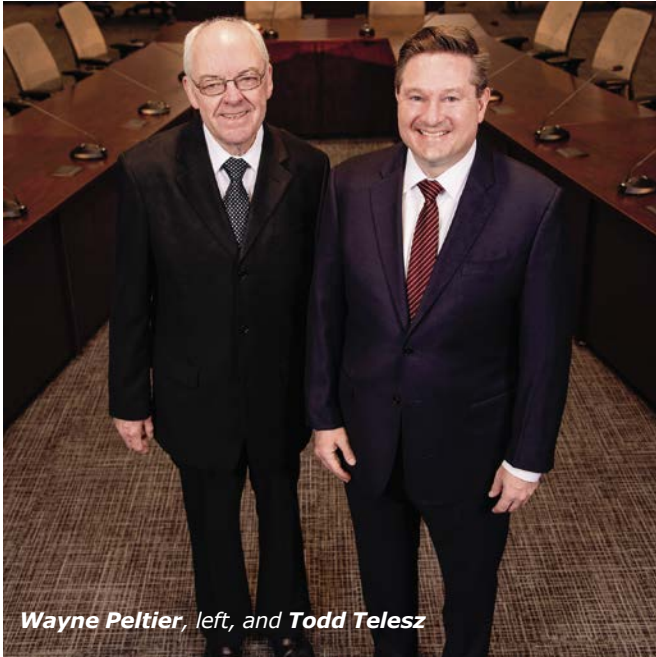
Win yourself two free Medora Musical tickets!

Email info@morgransou.com or call Jackie or Julie at 701-597-3301 with your favorite Mor-Gran-Sou memory as we celebrate our 75th annual meeting!



Basin Electric Power Cooperative report

FROM WAYNE PELTIER, BASIN ELECTRIC PRESIDENT,
AND TODD TELESZ, BASIN ELECTRIC CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER



Wayne Peltier, left, and Todd Telesz

The cooperative business model has served Basin Electric Power Cooperative and our members well for over 60 years.

The service we provide rural America is essential – reliable, affordable, responsible electricity. Together, we work hard every day, delivering on the commitment to our members. We are driven by technology and a fuel-diverse generation portfolio. We meet expectations for how we will serve our growing membership, and we have solid credit ratings from the three rating agencies.

That said, the value we provide our members as an electric cooperative lies beyond the work we do to power the membership. Our history is full of relationships built and maintained, communities boosted and supported, and people who knit a colorful tapestry to hold our family together.

Each month, Basin Electric's directors come together around the boardroom table to discuss the challenges and opportunities that impact every member in our service territory. Their perspective on how this cooperative can serve our communities is local and homegrown; every one of our directors is an end-use consumer, elected by fellow members. Very intentionally, this governance creates a line from the end-use consumers turning on their light switch to making decisions about the wholesale generation and transmission side of the business.

Basin Electric's governance structure and the cooperative business model have guided us since our founding. It is central to the cooperative's very existence and drives the unique value we bring to the people we serve.

In this way, our governance has proven itself pure and effective. Our directors meet monthly, spending the time needed to understand the issues and decisions that come before them, and forming the trust that is helpful in having spirited discussions. They meet just as often with their member cooperative boards. They live in the same communities they are elected to represent and are personally invested in the decisions they make, because they know they will be affected right alongside their neighbors. They are accountable to and reside among the people who make up our membership of 3 million consumer-owners.

The Basin Electric team keeps the lights on for our consumer-owners, and products shipping out of the Great Plains Synfuels Plant across rural America make our board of directors proud.

Our team of employees understands the members we serve are priority. Every decision we make is framed through the lens of the best interest of our members: the farmer in eastern Montana who needs reliable irrigation for his barley crop, the single mom in western South Dakota who needs affordable electricity to keep her family safe and secure, and the industrial facilities throughout our service territory that power their local economies. We're driven to serve all with a dedication to responsible energy sources.

Basin Electric has operated as a consumer-owned-and-controlled organization for more than half a century and has done so successfully by keeping a laser-focus on the member at the end of the line. Our history of stewardship, innovation and adaptability is recorded not only in history books, but also in the lives our members have helped to change.

As we look toward our future, we know the foundation first set 60 years ago will continue to serve us. Basin Electric was built through good fortune and the grit found in necessity. Our geographical diversity, combined with the operational scale of our generation portfolio and transmission infrastructure and our financial strength, has positioned us well to successfully navigate the challenges and opportunities to come. ■



Western Area Power Administration report

BY LLOYD LINKE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER



Lloyd Linke

As we enter a new normal following two years of historic events, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) strives to rekindle and strengthen our relationships with customers, define a successful and relevant future and inspire a workforce ready to serve like our lights depend on it, all while addressing some of the new questions before us as a

federal organization and electric utility.

Today, the energy industry may feel, at times, chaotic, which is a feeling we are starting to get used to what has been considered a steady and reliable profession. These changes bring new opportunities for WAPA to leverage additional benefits for our customers and continue ensuring reliable, affordable, renewable and clean hydropower and transmission services.

It is an exciting time to take the helm at Upper Great Plains (UGP) after nearly 40 years in the electrical power industry. I was raised in Bismarck, and obtained a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronics engineering at North Dakota State University. I began my federal career at WAPA in 1983, holding several positions in maintenance, construction, power billing, marketing, and power and generation operations at UGP and the Alaska Power Administration. In September 1995, I accepted the administrator position at the Alaska Power Administration before returning to WAPA in May 1996 as the UGP maintenance engineering manager. Most recently, I was the UGP vice president of power operations in Watertown, S.D., before being selected as regional manager in July 2021.

At WAPA, we remain committed to our mission and vision in an evolving industry in partnership with our customers. Our organizational theme for 2022, "Reflect, Recharge and Resolve," illustrates our commitment to honor our legacy – including our 45th anniversary in December – renew our strategy, and our connections, and move forward resolutely during this time of rapid industry change.

This year, we are focusing on critical issues, such as drought and increasingly severe weather conditions, grid reliability and resilience, and workforce and strategic planning.

Delivering renewable, reliable and affordable hydropower to rural America is our core mission, and we face existential questions posed to us not only by systemic drought, but also by market volatility, security concerns and adverse weather conditions, like polar vortices, extreme heat events, wildfires and increasingly severe storms. Without appropriate planning and mitigation actions, an ongoing drought could cause pressure on our power rates and may also impact reliable balancing authority operations, as hydropower is a critical contributor to grid stability.

We experienced a second consecutive dry and warm winter along much of the Missouri River Basin. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' April hydrology update, reservoir inflows are well below average, with seasonal runoff expected to be about 17.8 million-acre feet, or 69% of average. Coupled with low snowpack and a bad water year last year, the Corps anticipates that the seven mainstem dams will generate 7.2 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) this year compared to the long-term average of 9.5 billion kWh. The hydrologic forecast also projects poor water conditions for potentially the next five years.

WAPA and UGP are not new to prolonged drought conditions in the Missouri River Basin, having experienced a decade-long drought at the beginning of the 21st century. We recognize now there will be less power available for surplus sales beyond our contractual obligations and will get a head start with customers on drought planning to stabilize our rates and costs, including adding a possible drought-adder component to our rate starting next year.

We are also beginning a formal rate process to implement new rates before the current ones expire Dec. 31. The new rates will be put into effect for a five-year period following a public process anticipated to begin in late spring or early summer.

This year, we will also focus on reliability and system resilience, continuing to mature our asset management, security, reliability-centered maintenance and aviation programs to effectively and efficiently maintain, secure and modernize the grid. Part of this objective also includes seeking new partnerships and leveraging existing ones to explore implementing new protective technologies and hardening the system.

Another key priority is improving our organizational resilience. We will develop the workforce of the future, cultivating our upcoming leaders and ensuring the crucial core values and tenets of this organization remain intact during a time of employee transition and change. We are



going to advance our safety-focused organizational culture, embracing inclusion, diversity, human performance improvement and just culture.

Many WAPA employees continued to report to the office throughout the pandemic, including the employees who maintain and operate the grid and their support staff. In April, we completed reentry for staff whose work can and has been done from home since March 2020. In this transition, we initiated a pilot program that permits eligible employees more telework options than before, increasing our ability to recruit and retain valuable staff while safeguarding our traditional high levels of customer service. We are excited to reopen our doors to visitors and return in person to the communities we serve.

Finally, we are embarking on an effort to develop a new strategic plan that will guide WAPA through 2030.

Late last year, we conducted environmental surveys with customers, employees and other stakeholders, requesting them to identify internal and external opportunities and challenges. With this information, we are developing strategic themes and desired long-term results through 2030. We anticipate these themes and results to be shared in May for customer input and feedback.

WAPA and customers started this incredible journey to serve the West with federal hydropower, and we will continue to travel this road together into the future, through a new strategic plan and refocused priorities. In my tenure as UGP regional manager, I look forward to working with employees, customers and communities to strengthen these relationships for a valuable and relevant future. ■



Protect your livelihood – and your life!

Stacking hay under electrical lines can be dangerous, potentially deadly and could send your cattle's feed up in smoke.

When stacking hay, it is best practice not to do so under a power line. If you must, be sure there is over 10 feet of clearance between the neutral line and the top of your hay bales. Due to the warmer weather, lines are more likely to sag, making it more likely to come into contact.

If you back your equipment into a guy wire and a pole bends or breaks, or if you hit an overhead line with the loader, the line could fall on the hay and ignite. The hay you need to feed your cattle – and the provisions you made to feed your family – just went up in smoke.

And that could be the best-case scenario. If you or your equipment comes into contact with a power line, you could receive an electric shock that could cause injury and even death. Not to mention that having hay too close to a

power line could be dangerous if children are climbing on top of the bales.

Protect your livelihood and your life and stay away from power lines and poles. If you do make contact with a power line, call 911. Remain seated, warn others to stay away and wait for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative lineworkers to deenergize the lines. Do not move from the equipment.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301 or email safety@morgransou.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 25

- Approved April 27 board meeting minutes
- Approved capital credit retirement applications for estates and those age 80 and over
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Reviewed the monthly director's financial report
- Reviewed the MGS financial report for April
- Reviewed update on Mandan building remodel and costs to date
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update and report on meetings attended
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports
- Reviewed Basin Electric minutes and summary
- Heard reports from 3C Construction and WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Heard SPP report
- Reviewed candidate requests for CFC and CoBank boards
- Reviewed NRECA resolutions process
- Discussed Mandan property
- Discussed power load for data centers
- Accepted withdrawal of a 2022 candidate from the MGS board of directors election
- Approved the RUS loan application
- Approved 2021 margin allocation
- Elected MGS director to WDUS Holdings, LLC board of directors

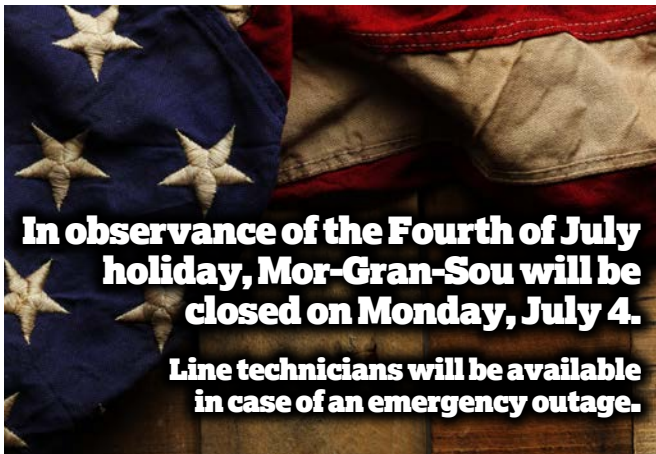
- Approved participation in Western States Power Corporation
- Reviewed annual meeting invitations from some North Dakota electric co-ops
- Discussed 2022 MGS strategic planning
- Confirmed attendance for Basin/District 9 joint board meeting in July
- Reviewed unapproved minutes of MSC and IEA board meetings
- Held executive session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

July 27 reorganization - 9:30 a.m. CT/8:30 a.m. MT - J&L Building, Bismarck

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

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Due to COVID-19, 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.morgransou.com or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.



KX/CO-OP DAY at the N.D. State Fair July 27 in Minot

If you plan to attend the North Dakota State Fair on July 27, you are eligible to receive reduced-price tickets for \$1 off gate admission, \$5 off daily unlimited-ride wristbands for carnival rides, and \$1 off Ranch Rodeo admission and a free ice cream social at 2 p.m. at the KX/co-op tent. Give us a call at the office at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212, and we will hook you up with tickets!



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Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors Vernard Frederick,
Rodney Froelich, Jay Larson,
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