



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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JULY
2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Join us at the annual meeting July 21



Mark your calendars for the annual meeting on July 21 at the scenic Prairie Knights Casino. This is an incredible opportunity to gather as a community, discuss important matters and shape the future of our cooperative. We encourage all members to attend and actively participate in this essential event.

Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by a delicious meal at 5:30 p.m. The meeting itself will commence promptly at 6:30 p.m., when we will address vital issues and introduce three candidates up for reelection to the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors.

Directors running include:

- Casey Wells, Carson – Grant County
- Robert J. Leingang, Mandan – Mandan Area
- Rodney Froelich, Selfridge – Sioux County


These board positions play a significant role in guiding the cooperative and ensuring its continued success. We urge you to familiarize yourself with the candidates and exercise your right to vote during the meeting.

In addition to the elections, Mor-Gran-Sou has proposed amendments to our bylaws that warrant your consideration. The amendments include changes to Section 304 (Quorum), Section 306 (Proxies and Voting by Mail) and Section 404 (Tenure) of the bylaws. The proposed

amendments align our quorum requirements with state law, clarify voting methods and allow for uncontested elections by acclamation. The board of directors strongly recommends adopting these amendments, as they will streamline our processes and improve overall efficiency.

Mor-Gran-Sou will also award two \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors who haven't already received a Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship and whose parents/guardians are cooperative members. To be eligible, students must attend the annual meeting with at least one parent/guardian and RSVP for the event. The scholarship winners will be drawn during the meeting, adding an exciting element to the proceedings.

To ensure maximum participation, we have made voting as convenient as possible. You can cast your vote online, through the mail or in person during the meeting. We encourage you to explore these options and make your voice heard.

Together, let's shape the future of Mor-Gran-Sou. Join us on July 21 at Prairie Knights Casino for an evening of community engagement, informative discussions and the opportunity to win scholarships. Your presence and active involvement are vital to our continued success. 



MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **We're ready for storm season. Are you?**



Travis Kupper

Now that summer is in full swing, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather, like many of you. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities, like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for

dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the following items as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.


- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as diapers and toiletries.
- Confirm you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. Do leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's Facebook page or website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advanced planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric recommends you act today, because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer. 

Building bridges to a clean energy future

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



Lloyd Linke

As we enter the second quarter of 2023, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is looking ahead to a sustainable energy future. In its 45th year, WAPA has developed a new strategic plan, Power Forward 2030, to light the way. The plan outlines three overarching strategic goals: to safeguard a sustainable energy future, modernize the grid and

invest in its employees.

WAPA engaged with employees, customers and other stakeholders throughout the planning process, incorporating their feedback into the final plan. The focus for 2023 is on collaboration – with each other, customers, the U.S. Department of Energy, generating agencies and other stakeholders – to create opportunities through partnerships that strengthen the resilience of our energy infrastructure and improve our operational readiness by working on common issues with customers. In that spirit, our theme this year is “Building Bridges.”

The decisions and actions we take today will help define where we will arrive in our future, long after most of us have retired. As we implement this plan, we remain committed to supporting a clean energy future for future generations.

One of the most significant challenges we face in achieving a sustainable energy future is the ongoing drought in the western states, including the Upper Great Plains region. Enduring drought is straining power rates at the same time as replacement power costs are increasing. We understand the challenges this brings to our communities and know that you are concerned about the pressure on rates and want to see WAPA create solutions to preserve the value and longevity of hydropower.

WAPA continues to build connections with customers and generating agencies to address drought and other operational challenges, such as cybersecurity and markets. Both the Upper Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions are implementing drought adders to help keep drought deficits from escalating as quickly, lower interest expenses due to drought deficits, demonstrate responsible deficit management and

provide prompt drought deficit repayments.

WAPA recognizes the importance of investing in our energy infrastructure to withstand challenges like the ongoing drought. In addition to collaborating with customers, WAPA is also investing in research and development to modernize the grid and strengthen its resilience.

In November 2022, WAPA installed a neutral blocking device (NBD) at White Substation in South Dakota. The NBD, developed to block geomagnetically induced currents (GICs) during solar storms, uses three paths to ensure the transformer neutral maintains its ground connection, providing an effectively grounded system in all operating modes. The NBD is the first commercially developed device installed in the United States, and the second device of its type to become operational. It serves as a national pilot program to install, test and evaluate technology designed to mitigate the effects of GICs in transformers. GICs resulting from severe geomagnetic disturbances can saturate transformers and cause negative impacts, including reactive power absorption, voltage drops, electrical harmonics injected into the power system and overheated transformers.

The NBD, installed at strategic locations in the power system, may reduce and eliminate these negative effects. Following a GIC mitigation pilot program report from the Electric Power Research Institute, WAPA experts performed two system studies to identify and analyze preferred locations for the NBD within the organization’s transmission system. The NBD was installed at the White Substation, which is well positioned to serve numerous customers and sites and was chosen because it connects to three or more adjacent substations with large, bulk electric system transformers. In late February, a moderate, double-coronal mass ejection accompanied by solar flares erupted from the sun, pointing at the Earth’s orbital position, giving rise to a strong geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) event. The NBD functioned well during this first major test.

WAPA is also investing in its employees to build a strong and resilient workforce. As part of the Power Forward 2030 strategic plan, WAPA is focused on attracting, retaining and developing top talent to ensure we have the skills and expertise necessary

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to meet future challenges. This includes investing in employee development programs, mentoring and coaching programs, and other initiatives to support employee growth and development.

Finally, WAPA is committed to working with stakeholders in the energy industry to achieve a clean energy future. This includes collaborating with utilities, generating agencies, policymakers and other stakeholders to promote the adoption

of renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions and improve the reliability and resilience of the grid.

Looking to the future, WAPA is well positioned to continue its leadership role in the energy industry. With a clear strategic plan, a commitment to collaboration and innovation, and a talented and dedicated workforce, WAPA remains focused on delivering reliable, affordable and sustainable power to our customers. 

Safety Starts with ME: Protecting yourself from utility scams

In today's digital age, where technology connects us in more ways than ever before, it's crucial to remain vigilant and protect ourselves from scams.

Utility scams come in various forms, but they typically involve impostors posing as utility company representatives seeking payment or personal information.

"These scammers may use threatening language, urgency or even offer special discounts to deceive unsuspecting individuals," said Deb Haugen, member services representative II. "It's important to remember that Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will never demand immediate payment or personal information over the phone or email."


To protect yourself from utility scams, follow these essential tips:

- **Be cautious.** Maintain a healthy skepticism when receiving unexpected calls or emails. Verify the caller's identity by asking for their name, department and contact information.
- **Never share personal information.** Avoid providing sensitive information such as social security numbers, credit card details or account numbers to unsolicited callers or suspicious emails.
- **Hang up, don't engage.** If a caller becomes aggressive, threatening or insists on immediate payment, hang up immediately. Legitimate utility companies will provide options for secure payment and will not pressure you into immediate action.
- **Verify before paying.** If you receive a payment request, independently verify its authenticity by contacting the utility company directly through their official customer service channels. Do not use the contact information provided by the suspicious caller or email.



- **Report suspicious activities.** If you suspect you have encountered a utility scam, report it to your local cooperative. By reporting these incidents, you help protect others in your community.

"At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, your safety is paramount," Haugen said. "By familiarizing yourself with the signs of utility scams and implementing preventative measures, you can protect yourself from falling victim to fraudulent activities."

Remember, safety starts with each individual. Stay informed, be cautious and report any suspicious activities. 

Avoid stacking hay bales under power lines

As rural farmers and ranchers, members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric play a vital role in our community's agricultural landscape.

However, it's crucial for members to be aware of potential hazards and prioritize safety in all aspects of their work, including where to stack their hay.

Electrical hazards

Stacking hay bales beneath power lines increases the risk of coming into contact with overhead electrical wires. This poses a significant danger to individuals working in close proximity to the stacked bales, as well as anyone nearby. Accidental contact with power lines can lead to electric shocks, injuries or even fatalities.

Fire hazards


Dry hay is highly combustible, and if it comes into contact with overhead power lines, it can potentially ignite a fire. This puts not only the stacked bales at risk but also the surrounding agricultural fields, buildings and equipment. The consequences of a hay fire can be devastating, causing substantial property damage and endangering lives.

Equipment interference

Stacking hay bales too close to power lines can interfere with the safe operation of agricultural machinery and equipment. The height of the stacked bales can create clearance issues and limit maneuverability, increasing the risk of accidents and damage to both the equipment and the power lines.

To ensure the safety of themselves, their workers, and the community, Mor-Gran-Sou members should adopt the following practices:

- **Keep a safe distance.** Maintain a minimum distance of 20 feet between stacked hay bales and overhead power lines. This ensures an adequate safety buffer and reduces the risk of accidents.
- **Plan storage locations carefully.** When selecting storage locations for hay bales, consider the proximity to power lines. Choose areas that are far away from overhead electrical infrastructure to minimize the risks associated with accidental contact or fire hazards.
- **Consult with Mor-Gran-Sou.** If there are any doubts or questions regarding power line clearance or safety guidelines, reach out to

Mor-Gran-Sou. We have the expertise and resources to provide valuable guidance and ensure safe practices on the farm. 



Don't stack hay bales under power line poles.




Ensure seamless communication and optimize your experience

In our ever-evolving world, staying connected is vital, and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is committed to providing you with exceptional service. To serve you better and keep you informed about important updates, we kindly request all members to take a moment to review and update their contact information. By keeping your details current, you ensure a seamless and efficient communication channel between you and your cooperative.

At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we understand that accurate contact information is key to delivering timely notifications, outage updates and other

vital communications. By updating your contact information, you allow us to reach you through your preferred means of communication, whether it's phone calls, text messages or email.

To update your contact information, simply log in to your SmartHub account on our website or contact our friendly member services team who will be more than happy to assist you. Remember, by providing us with the most up-to-date information, you're enabling us to serve you better, tailor our communications to your preferences, and ensure that you receive the vital information you need when you need it. 



Mark your calendar for Co-op Day at the state fair!

Experience KX/Co-op Day at the highly anticipated state fair on July 26 in Minot. As a valued member, we are pleased to extend exclusive benefits to enhance your experience.

By attending the North Dakota State Fair on July 26, you gain access to a special offer on gate admission, where you can save \$1 off the regular price. Additionally, maximize the thrills of the carnival rides with a \$5 discount on daily unlimited-ride wristbands and \$1 off admission to the Ranch Rodeo.

You're also invited to join us for a free breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and at the KX/Co-op tent for a complimentary ice cream social at 2 p.m., creating an opportunity to connect with fellow fairgoers and savor a sweet treat.

To secure your tickets and take advantage of these offers, simply reach out to our dedicated team at the office. Give us a call today and allow us to facilitate a memorable experience for you at the state fair.



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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 on the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Gospel Brunch tickets
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Old Town Theater shows
- Lodging at the Badlands Motel, Elkhorn Quarters, Rough Riders Hotel and Medora Campground

Touchstone Energy® members can use the code, TOUCH2023, for the discount. The code is good for reservations by phone, website or in person.



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Happy Independence Day!

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

Line technicians will be available in case of an emergency outage.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MAY 24

- Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors met May 24 at the Mandan office.
- The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 26 meeting.
- Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz presented the co-general managers' report.
- An April report was presented to the board from WDUS and 3C Construction.
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative provided a report to the board.
- Alex Craigmile, CFO, presented a summary of the financial report.
- Gary Fitterer, operations manager, and Julie Armijo, member services manager, provided the board with an update.
- Next meeting will be held July 26.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
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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/CEOJason Bentz

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