



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Annual meeting July 21
- Q&A on electric vehicles
- Join us at a Larks game!

JUNE
2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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.





MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Get involved! Join us at the annual meeting



Jason Bentz

Our biggest event of the year is coming up, when Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event, because it's a great opportunity for me and our employees to talk with our members and hear what's on their minds.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting,


which will take place July 21 in Fort Yates. For those who are unable to attend in person, we also offer a virtual option, which can be found on our website. Whether you attend in person or online, we thank you in advance for getting involved, because your participation means so much to us.

During the annual meeting, we'll share a few brief business updates and have a lot of fun, too. We'll have tasty food and prizes!

Spending time with you and hearing your take on

our community's energy future is so important to us. In fact, it's essential, because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members.

Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you're actually investing in your local area, because all the money stays here. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting on July 21. We look forward to seeing you! 



JUNE 18

**Happy
Father's Day**



**In observance of
Independence
Day,
our office will be
closed on July 4.**

Safety Starts with ME: Down and dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it, creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.


"While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal," said CJ Pesicka, a journeyman lineworker for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

After an accident, stay in the car and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident or see downed power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away, as a downed power line energizes the ground up to 35 feet away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

If you're in an accident, the safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire, and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with



your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly.

If Pesicka could give members one piece of advice it would be, "Always stay away from downed power lines, as they can be very dangerous." 

Luck-of-the-draw scholarship

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 21 in Fort Yates. All high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and have not previously been chosen for a Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship are eligible. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent/guardian and are required to RSVP for the meeting.



Q&A on electric vehicles

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all of their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

As we receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members, we thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue of *North Dakota Living*.

Q: Why is Mor-Gran-Sou Electric communicating about electric vehicles?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is providing information about EVs so our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?


A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce

cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I plan to purchase an EV?

A: If you plan to purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more members look to purchase an EV, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric must ensure we have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs, without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses.

As your local energy provider, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future.

Please reach out to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric before purchasing a charger, as it could have a large impact on your electric bill and may not be supported by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's existing infrastructure. 

BISMARCK LARKS

GROUP OUTING

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OUT AT THE BALLPARK

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 28TH

TIME: 7:05 PM (GATES OPEN AT 6:05 PM)

LOCATION: BISMARCK MUNICIPAL BALLPARK



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

TICKET OPTIONS

Ticket options are on a first come, first serve basis. Secure your ticket today!



BLEACHER SEAT

+



LARKS HAT

**YOUR TICKET IS \$5 AS A
THANK YOU FOR BEING A
TOUCHSTONE MEMBER!**

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Scan the QR code to the right to claim your \$5 ticket!



FRIDAY, JULY 28TH

Get ready to hit the jackpot with your group outing. Come out to the Larks game and enjoy a night of baseball, entertainment and FUN!

The Larks will host the Rochester Honkers on July 28th... This game will be jammed packed with so much FUN, you won't want to miss it.

YOUR VIEW!



(701) 557 - 7600 | LARKSBASEBALL.COM | 201 W FRONT AVE. BISMARCK, ND



Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking director positions

Three Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members are up for reelection in July. In 2023, the three board positions sought include one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan Area position and one Sioux County position.

The board of directors set the March 16 deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 20. At that meeting, the committee declared the

candidates' names they received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 29, the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

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

Proposed bylaw amendments

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members are being asked to consider the following changes to Section **304 (Quorum)**, **Section 306 (Proxies and Voting by Mail)**, and Section **404 (Tenure)** of the bylaws. Adopting the proposed amendments will align establishing quorum with state law, clarify the method of voting permitted, and allow Directors to be elected by acclamation in the event there are no contested directorships in a specific year. The Board of Directors are recommending that the proposed bylaw amendments be adopted.

304 Quorum

~~As long as~~ If the total number of members does not exceed five hundred (500), ten (10) ~~per cent percent~~ of the total members, present in person ~~or voting by mail~~ shall constitute a quorum. ~~In case~~ If the total number of members ~~shall exceed exceeds~~ five hundred (500), fifty (50) members, present in person ~~or voting by mail~~ shall constitute a quorum ~~for purposes of those matters voted on by mail. Members represented by a signed vote, whether by mail or by electronic means, shall be counted in computing a quorum on matters as to which the signed vote was taken.~~ Before a matter can be voted on by only the members at a meeting, fifty (50) members must be present in person. If less than a quorum exists for any meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice, provided, that the secretary shall notify any absent members of the time and place of the rescheduled meeting.

306 Proxies and Voting by Mail or Electronic Means

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Members absent from a meeting shall be permitted to vote by mail or by electronic means for directors as provided under Section 404 and on such other matters as ~~ordered authorized~~ by the Board of Directors, ~~provided that members are given notice in writing if members have been previously notified in writing of the exact motion or resolution upon which the vote is taken.~~ The rules governing voting by mail and voting by electronic means shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

404 Tenure

Each Board of Directors member shall hold three (3)-year terms, with three (3) or less directors elected each year, unless there are additional vacancies to be filled by the members under Section 407 of these Bylaws. Directors shall be elected by all Cooperative members at the annual meeting ~~either in person or by mail vote. Members may submit their ballot at the meeting in person, or by mail or electronic means in advance of the meeting. However, if only one nominee for each director position subject to election in a specific year emerges from the nomination process set forth in Section 403, election by ballot will not be required and the nominees may be elected by acclamation.~~

Upon their election, directors shall, subject to Section 406 on the removal of directors, serve until the annual meeting of the members of the year in which their term expires or until their successors shall have been elected, qualified and begun their term of office.

All directors shall be limited to six (6) consecutive three (3) year terms after which time they shall not be eligible for another term of office as a director until one (1) year has elapsed, at which time the director shall be eligible to serve another six (6) consecutive three (3) year terms.

President and general manager's message

By Basin Electric Power Cooperative Board President Wayne Peltier
and Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Todd Telesz



Basin Electric Power Cooperative's story in 2022 is one of incredible financial performance and the opportunity as stewards of our members' assets to create an even more stable and sustainable foundation for success.

Basin Electric enjoyed margins far beyond what was budgeted, largely the result of the cooperation between our marketing and operations teams. The marketing team's insights and strategies created value by optimizing our members' assets – generation, transmission and DC ties. This was coupled with our all-of-the-above generation fleet, which performed extremely well in 2022, particularly during times of high market stress.

These factors were amplified by a series of record-setting demand levels from our membership. Despite high inflation and volatile markets, our cooperative was able to remain steady, forecasting stable rates for the next decade, a testament to our operational excellence and disciplined risk management practices.

Dakota Gasification Company, our for-profit subsidiary, benefited from high commodity prices and strong operational performance at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, where systems operated at near-record capacity levels. This meant Dakota Gas was able to repay more than \$250 million to Basin Electric on a revolver the subsidiary had used to fund operating expenses over the last several years.


We know it will be difficult to replicate, sustain or scale this financial success going forward. As we plan for future years, we are focusing our time, energy and efforts on key strategic initiatives that will provide us the leverage to deliver incremental value and absorb more risk for our membership.

The Basin Electric board of directors and management plans to allocate our member capital through investing in assets and people, de-risking Basin Electric and returning value to the membership.

The good fortune of 2022, in part, was returned to our members through patronage and bill credits, and the board authorized a 1 mill rate decrease that took effect in 2023. To protect members from rate volatility, Basin Electric also further built up our rate stabilization fund, which serves as a shock-absorber for market disruptions that have become increasingly more commonplace. Also, Basin Electric has accelerated the depreciation of our oldest coal generation units to ensure the member at the end of the line will not be forced to pay for the same kilowatt-hour twice.

Regarding investment, nearly \$1.5 billion in construction projects has been authorized by our board to add more generation to our fleet and miles to our high-voltage transmission lines. As rural America grows and the criticality of reliable electricity is on the minds of many, the Basin Electric membership is building assets to ensure demand is met and reliability is maintained.

This year was remarkable for all the reasons we mention above, but we know our work never ends. As we strive every day to provide reliable, affordable and responsible electricity for our members produced safely by our employees, we recognize the importance of electric cooperatives to the communities and people of our service territory.

Access to reliable and affordable electricity creates immense opportunities. We are proud of the work we do and know the good fortune we realized over the last year must be deployed and invested with steady shoulders. Deliberative conversations and an adherence to decision-making driven by data, rigorous analytics, and collaborative debate will enable us to make the best decisions for our membership. Above all, we will keep a laser focus on our members at the end of the line to remember why and how what we do matters for success in rural America. 



Highway 21 Treasure Hunt June 16-17

Discover some treasures and have some fun during North Dakota's 100-mile rummage sale, the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt, June 16-17. The Highway 21 Treasure Hunt will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Friday and Saturday, June 16-17.

"With approximately 100 rummage sales along the 100-mile route, this is the most unique rummage sale event in North Dakota," says Luann Dart, who coordinates the event.

Communities along Highway 21 in southwestern North Dakota host citywide rummage sales during the event. Participating communities include Flasher, Carson, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England. Rural residents host sales, too, so watch for signs along the route for additional sales.

Anyone who enjoys rummage sales will love this event," Dart says. "It's fun to travel the route

during this unique event and discover lots of treasures."

Listings for each community's sales will be available at certain locations in that community, such as restaurants or gas stations, as well as on the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt Facebook page. A small group of volunteers from each community spearheads the event each year, with advertising expenses covered with donations from local, civic-minded organizations.

"Hundreds of people have discovered the treasures along Highway 21 during the annual Highway 21 Treasure Hunt," Dart says. "We encourage everyone to plan to attend the 2023 event."

For more information, contact Brianna Ricks at 701-426-7937.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the March 29 board meeting minutes
- Heard update on GRIP Project
- Heard strategic planning update
- Heard directors' recap on meetings attended
- Reviewed co-general manager/CEOs update
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- June 28, 2023, Mandan Service Center, Mandan

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. As 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 Steve Tomac or Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper or Jason Bentz 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 office to request a copy.



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/CEO Travis Kupper
 Co-GM/CEO Jason Bentz

www.morgransou.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

