



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Stay in the know
- Annual meeting July 21
- Meet your new director

MARCH
2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Members receive NDSU Harvest Bowl honor

BY RACHEL NEFF

March is National Agriculture Month, and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative salutes our farmers and ranchers who make agriculture one of North Dakota's top industries.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) also acknowledges the agricultural impact on the state by recognizing leading agriculturalists through the NDSU Harvest Bowl.

"The Harvest Bowl is a weekend event, where we are able to recognize agriculture and athletics, and the connection between," said Duane Hauck, NDSU Harvest Bowl chair.

The Harvest Bowl annually recognizes dedicated agriculturalists in all of North Dakota's 53 counties and 10 counties in western Minnesota with the naming of county agriculturalist honorees. The honorees are selected through the local NDSU Extension offices.

"Each county agent nominates an individual or couple based on active community leaders, people who are innovative and active in promoting the ag industry, and are highly respected individuals," Hauck said.

During this event, two Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members were recognized. We congratulate our members, Sidney and Melva Brenner and Roger and Vicki Griffin, on receiving the award.


Roger and Vicki Griffin, Morton County

Roger and Vicki Griffin have been farming for 50 years. On their farm in Morton County, they raise beef cattle, butcher hogs, grains, feed, alfalfa and corn. The couple utilizes artificial insemination technology and no-till farming practices.

"Roger and Vicki Griffin were chosen to be

the Harvest Bowl nominee for Morton County due to their involvement in agriculture and the local community. After nearly 50 years of being involved in agriculture, we are grateful to have the Griffin family represent Morton County at the upcoming Harvest Bowl," said Renae Gress, NDSU Extension agent for Morton County.

Roger is on the Morton County weed board and is a cemetery sexton. He was on the Morton County fair board and Morton County Ag Improvement and has been a 4-H leader and church treasurer. Vicki is active in their church and a retired paraeducator and tutor. She was a 4-H leader and served on the Morton County Extension Advisory Council.

The Griffins have three children and eight grandchildren. 



Roger and Vicki Griffin



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative journeyman lineworker **Wayde Eckroth** accepts a Safety Performance Award on behalf of the cooperative.


Lineworkers attend AT&S Conference

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) hosted its 59th annual Apprenticeship Training and Safety Conference Jan. 11-13 in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by NDAREC, with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.

The conference drew representatives of NDAREC member-cooperatives, students at the Bismarck State College lineworker program and the electric industry for classroom sessions, equipment evaluations and award ceremonies. Training topics included N.D. Department of Transportation updates, protective grounding,

lineworker safety and tool training, transformer connections, conducting a thorough accident investigation, and more.

"Participants increase their knowledge and skills of the trade by attending the Apprenticeship Training and Safety Conference and in turn, improve the safety, resilience and reliability of the electrical system, which directly impacts the quality of life for our members," said Christina Roemmich, NDAREC safety services director.

During the banquet, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric was presented with the safety performance award. 

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Stay in the know**



Travis Kupper

At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency, so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members (that's you!).


We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Emails and text messages are also used to notify registered members of any changes in co-op event details. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Mor-Gran-Sou Electric has accurate account information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize we will never share your contact information with any third parties. It is only used by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by calling our office at 800-750-8212, 701-597-3301, or 701-663-0297 or emailing info@morgransou.com. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op. 



SAVE THE DATE

JOIN MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC
FOR YOUR ANNUAL MEETING ON
FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023
PRAIRIE KNIGHTS CASINO & RESORT

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.





Safety Starts with ME: Julie Armijo

Power surges can be frustrating, but typically happen unexpectedly. To reduce the members' risk of damage, it is important to be knowledgeable and prepare ahead of time if and when a power surge does strike.

"A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines," said Julie Armijo, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's member services manager. "Regardless of the cause, a power surge can cause significant damage to electronic devices and equipment in your home."

Common causes

Electrical overload happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that cannot handle that amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged in at the same time through an extension cord. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric if you are experiencing recurring power surges or frequent interruptions in power.

Faulty wiring in a home is another cause of power surges. Signs of a faulty wire include visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers.

"If you notice these signs, it may be time for an electrical wiring repair or update," Armijo said.

A quick surge of electricity may also occur after Mor-Gran-Sou Electric restores the power after an outage. In the case of a power outage, it is important to unplug any sensitive devices around your home, then wait to plug them back in after power is restored.


Protect electronics in your home

There are two other ways in which you can save the longevity of devices in your home.

Point-of-use surge protection devices can protect your devices during most power surges. Not all power strips, however, include surge protection. So, before buying a power strip, read the packaging and do not overload the power strip with too many devices.

Whole-home surge protection can protect your home from more powerful power surges. These are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses



and notification capabilities to inform when a device has been impacted by a surge. The price of this device varies and should be connected by a licensed electrician. 

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. **Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures.**

Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 21

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 board director for the cooperative?

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, the following three board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Casey Wells (currently serving his fifth three-year term)
- The Mandan area position presently held by Bob Leingang (currently serving his fifth three-year term)
- The Sioux County position presently held by Rodney Froelich (currently serving his first three-year term)

Under the bylaws and due to the use of 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 March 29. This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate's biographical information to be included with the notice of meeting sent to the members in June, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual


meeting in person.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board and met for the first time on Jan. 10. The members of the Nominating Committee include Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony; Jackie Buckley, Mandan; Rosie Erhardt, Mandan; Glenda Cross, Selfridge; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Toby Olin, New Salem; Donald D. Roth, New Leipzig; and Yvonne Seidler, New Leipzig.

For a person to be nominated, the member vying for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou by 4 p.m. CT (3 p.m. MT) on Thursday, March 16. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Julie Armijo, P.O. Box 1090, Mandan, ND 58554-7090.

If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or Julie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. You can also email Julie at jarmijo@morgransou.com.

The Nominating Committee members can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou's website, www.morgransou.com/forms-and-applications. If you have questions about the process, give Julie a call.


All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou office by the March 16 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board. 

Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting scheduled for July 21. 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 March 20, and/or they can be

presented in person at the following in-person meeting of the Nominating Committee:

- March 20, in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT or virtually

If you do wish to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, please forward it to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 20. Thank you. 



Need help with your energy bills? **LIHEAP is here to help**

While the winter weather continues, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members will be faced with colder temperatures. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety, as they wonder how to make ends meet.

Thankfully, there are programs to help members.

The Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, can help Mor-Gran-Sou's low-income and eligible individuals with assistance when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Through the North Dakota Department of

Human Services, human service zone offices and Community Options, individuals can be helped with a variety of services when it comes to heating assistance.

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curb the costs of your heating and cooling bill, but it also helps households with weatherization, which helps make homes more energy efficient.

"For example, if someone lives

in a 100-year-old home, with outdated windows, we might be able to help them with the costs of installing new windows, therefore making the home more energy efficient and reducing their electricity bill," said Shannon Rolandson, outreach specialist at Community Options.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and cost-reduction devices.

It is important to remember this program is not only for homeowners, Rolandson said.

"This program not only helps low-income homeowners with energy costs, but renters as well," she said.


Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 to May 31.

"Some individuals can be referred to the program, but anyone is welcomed," Rolandson said. Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will go into your home and assist you in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent into the state for review and the results will be provided back within a week or two.

"I wish more people knew the program was available," Rolandson said. "We often hear, 'This won't apply to me' or 'I will just get denied.' But if you need help, please contact us and we will work with you. It doesn't hurt to apply."

"Last year, we processed a total of 548 applications, and 433 were approved for LIHEAP," Rolandson said. If you or someone you know would like to apply, visit your local human service office for more information," Rolandson said.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services. Applications will be accepted from Oct. 1 to May 31 and can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options office. 



MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTOR: **Mark Doll**



Mark Doll

In 2022, the membership elected two new directors. Last month, we learned a little bit about Ryan Petrick. Now, let's get to know Mark Doll!

Q: Where do you currently live?

A: Northeast of New Salem on County Road 84.

Q: Tell us about yourself and your family.

A: I graduated from New Salem High School in 1976 and attended North Dakota State University (NDSU) from 1976 to 1980, graduating with a degree in animal science. I met my wife, Krisiti, at NDSU and we have been married since 1980. We have four children and two grandchildren.

Q: What is your current occupation?

A: I am a livestock and grain farmer with my son.

Q: How long have you been a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative?

A: I have been a member for 40-plus years.

Q: Why did you want to join the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors?

A: Having served on other boards before Mor-Gran-Sou, I like the ability to work with different members with different opinions to make the best decision possible. There are a lot of options to discuss at the table to do what is best for Mor-Gran-Sou and its members.

Q: What do you enjoy most about the experience so far?

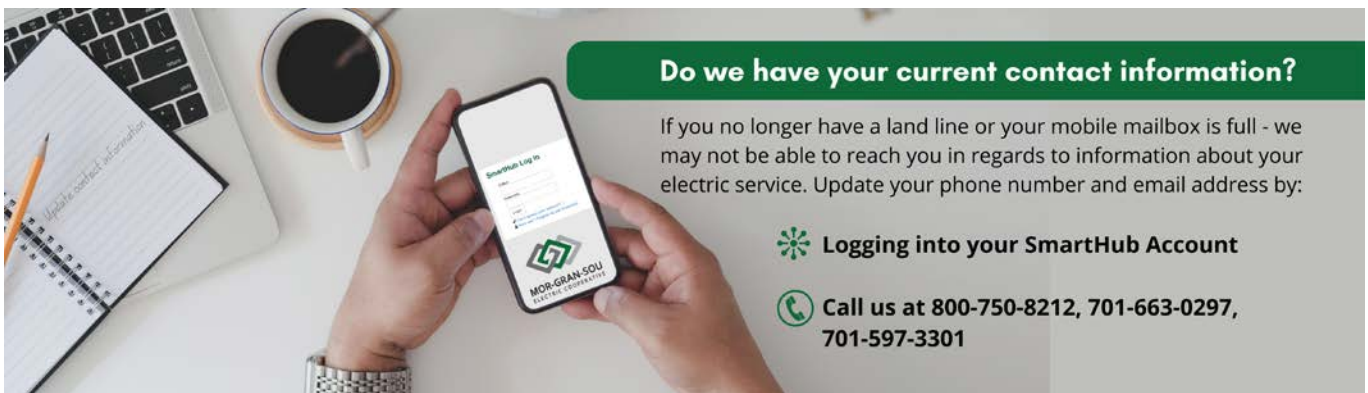
A: I enjoy working with the board and management and the formation of an idea.

Q: What do you wish members knew about the process of running for election/being on the board of directors?

A: There are a lot of different issues that come to the board and the board takes time and commitment



Q: What are you looking forward to in your role on the board?

A: I look forward to keeping Mor-Gran-Sou looking forward and making the best decisions for the future of the co-op and its members. 



Do we have your current contact information?

If you no longer have a land line or your mobile mailbox is full - we may not be able to reach you in regards to information about your electric service. Update your phone number and email address by:

-  **Logging into your SmartHub Account**
-  **Call us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301**



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

RDFC announces 2023 allotment



Rural Development
Finance Corporation
GROWING COMMUNITIES

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota electric cooperatives, nine of the North Dakota telecommunications cooperatives and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

The RDFC has approved a 2023 grant allotment of \$3,000 per member-cooperative to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

Eligible projects include: community-owned businesses (café, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center); or community-based projects (school/youth projects, other) that benefit rural areas and lead to community betterment.

Please note RDFC does not provide funds for medical fundraisers or general operating costs.

Matching fund requirements are \$4 of other funds to every \$1 of RDFC funds. The member-cooperative is responsible for verifying the

matching funds. The matching funds DO NOT need to come from the utility cooperative. RDFC will not require documentation.

The minimum grant amount is \$500; the maximum is \$3,000. The limit is \$3,000 per member-cooperative for 2023.

Contact the cooperative for more information and application instructions. Please return applications to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

BOARD REPORT

- Approved the Nov. 16 board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Approved Rural Utilities Service loan
- Approved recognition of 2022 revenue deferral
- Approved construction work plan amendment
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update
- Heard directors' recap on meetings attended
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- March 29, 10 a.m. CT/9 a.m. MT

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. As plans may change, please call the office at 800-750-8212 or 701-597-3301 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 Flasher office to request a copy.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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 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

www.morgransou.com

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