



**MOR-GRAN-SOU**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

## THIS ISSUE:

- Scholarships awarded
- Annual meeting July 21
- Poster contest winners announced

MAY  
2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Mor-Gran-Sou announces Youth Tour winner

For many teens, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is full of “firsts.” It may be the first time they left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation’s capital or have been away from their family for an extended period of time. Even more are seeing and experiencing the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through another perspective.



**Edyth Hatlestad**

The Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion by former Sen. Lyndon Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington, D.C., to see firsthand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience. From this idea, the Youth Tour evolved. High school sophomores and juniors selected by their electric co-ops participate in a weeklong trip to the nation’s capital. The program has grown exponentially since its inception. This year, more than 1,800 high school students will participate from co-ops in 44 states.

North Dakota sends a delegation of 15 students. These students are selected by their cooperative and chosen through an essay writing contest. This year’s question was, “What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?”

Through this contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has selected Edyth Hatlestad.

## Meet Edyth

A junior at Shiloh Christian High School, Edyth’s love for our nation’s capital motivated her to apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

She visited the capital when she was younger, and really enjoyed the experience.

“I am looking forward to going with a group of my peers to Washington. I have always enjoyed history and I am looking forward to doing so much within the five days we will be there,” she said.

Edyth is the daughter of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members Melissa and Davin “D.J.” Hatlestad. Her dad is one of the people who encouraged her to apply.

“I had first heard about the Youth Tour from my high school chemistry teacher, who had previously taken the trip. A few days later, my dad mentioned the opportunity and encouraged me – as well as my younger sister – to apply,” Edyth said.

## Winning essay

If I were allowed to go back in time to a part of U.S. history, I would go back to the aftermath of the American Revolution. This period in time is incredibly important to the rest of our history as a nation. It was a time of growth that set a precedent for the lasting generations. After the American Revolution was a time in which the United States began to develop its own form of government. The times were changing and to me that is incredibly fascinating. Our country was just beginning in a world where most countries had already been long established. While there were many examples of how to run a country, we as a nation, alongside our founding



fathers, decided we wanted something different, something new.


Going back to the time of the newly formed United States is something that has always been fascinating to me. When I think of this period and the things I would've changed, there are so many. I feel I could have made an impact in many different ways. Times have changed since then and looking back on history has shown me many things I would do differently. History truly does teach the best lessons and I think there are many things to be learned from history. The years after the Revolutionary War are years we can take many lessons from, and use as learning examples.

In considering the time after the Revolutionary War, there are three main areas in which I could contribute. The first area I would try to make an impact on is preventing the division of two political parties. Political parties have since divided our nation and have been a big factor contributing to national division. I think of a quote from George Washington's farewell address in which he references political parties by saying, "It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity against each other." Political parties have truly been a sore spot in our country's political world and if I could contribute to the beginning of our nation before they were formed, I would try and prevent them.

The next area I would try and contribute to is changing how our government documents are written. I give credit to our founding fathers and how they established this nation. They had many good ideas, but there are some things I would try and change. Our founding fathers started with a document called the Articles of Confederation. This document was weak. It did not give the federal government any power, did not state the people's rights, and was not a good first attempt at an official government. While this was a good idea, I think I would change how they wrote it and how they initially established our government. It would have saved us a lot of trouble down the road. Because the Articles of Confederation did not work, it would later be replaced by the U.S. Constitution and its first 10 amendments, the Bill of Rights.

The final area of this time I would contribute to is the division of men from women and people

of color, which is a time in our history that many people want to cover up. While it was not the time of the Civil War yet, women and people of color were denied rights and freedoms. Our country's original government documents counted slaves as three-fifths of a person for representation purposes and women were not allowed to vote. While it was accepted and just a part of the time, it is something I would want to change. Our history would look a lot different if we truly held to what the Declaration of Independence says, and that is, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Written in our history is that all men are created equal. It wasn't until the 15th amendment that slaves or people of color were given the right to vote, and the 19th amendment that women were given the right to vote. I would love to make an impact on how our country defined all men as being created equal and hopefully change the rest of the history of our nation.

History is something we can never change. The only thing we can do is to impact our world for the better moving forward. Nonetheless, studying the history of our nation and thinking about the things we could each change if we were given the opportunity is important. If I were given the opportunity to go back in time and contribute to a part of our nation's history, I would go back to the aftermath of the American Revolution and the beginning of the United States of America. 



# Mor-Gran-Sou awards scholarships to graduates

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2022-23 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

## Basin Electric/ Mor-Gran Sou scholarship

The winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative scholarship award is **Anna Bendish** of Mandan. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2023. Anna is the daughter of Debra Ova. She plans to attend the University of Mary in pursuit of a degree in radiological technology.

## WDUS/3C Construction scholarships

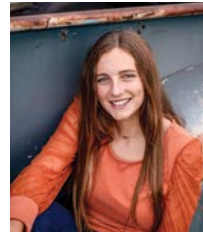
Two \$500 scholarships were made available, on behalf of West Dakota Utility Services (WDUS) and 3C Construction, to applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. **Luke Maier** was awarded a \$500 WDUS scholarship. Luke is the son of Saul and Sheri Maier. He plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) in pursuit of a degree in diesel technology.

There was no applicant for the 3C Construction scholarship.

## Area high school scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric offered one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area, for a total of seven \$500 scholarships awarded. This year's recipients receiving \$500 in the fall of 2023 are:

- *Elgin-New Leipzig Public School* – **Anna Schatz** plans to attend North Dakota State University (NDSU) in pursuit of a degree in crop and weed science. Parents/members are Amber and Brian Schatz.
- *Flasher Public School* – **Jayden Miller** plans to attend Bismarck State College (BSC) in pursuit of a degree in nursing. Parents/members are Todd and Carmel Miller.
- *Glen Ullin Public School* – **Gabrielle Kuhn** plans to attend NDSCS in pursuit of a dental hygiene degree. Parents/members are Matthew and Theresa Kuhn.
- *Mandan Public School* – **Kylie Thompson** plans to attend BSC in pursuit of a degree in the medical field. Parents/members are Eric and Susie Thompson.



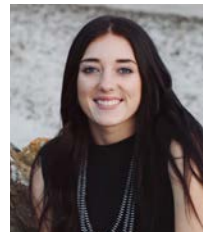
**Bendish**



**Maier**



**Schatz**



**Miller**



**Kuhn**



**Thompson**



**Becker**




**Morse**



**Ottmar**

- *New Salem-Almont Public School* – **Levi Becker** plans to attend the University of Mary in pursuit of an accounting degree. Parents/members are Darcy and Darla Becker.
- *Selfridge Public School* – **Mali Morse** plans to attend NDSU in pursuit of an education degree. Guardians/members are Videll and Victor Krosch.
- *Home School or outside service territory* – **Caitlin Ottmar** plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, in pursuit of a science degree. Parents/members are Renee and Desmond Ottmar. No applications were received from Hebron, Solen or Standing Rock Community/Fort Yates schools.

Two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarship awards will be drawn during the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric annual meeting. Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply, and congratulations to this year's winners! Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is proud to play a small role in supporting your educations and careers. 





## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

# Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home



**Jason Bentz**

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cellphones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability. When we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, which is a great time to look around

your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

### Ground-fault circuit interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently and be sure to contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

### Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

### Surge protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment, like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components, from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in

joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.


Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

### Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the services you get from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs. 

# Safety Starts with ME: Make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.


"If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work," said Gary Fitterer, operations manager at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. "We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that."

As the North Dakota move-over law notes, if you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask you to slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask you to move into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask you to follow the



same procedures to help keep these crews safe.

"There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways," Fitterer said. 



**AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES ARE POWERED BY  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, LIKE YOU.**

**HELP PROTECT THEM TODAY.**





## Attend Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting

It's that time of year again; Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2023 annual meeting, which will be held July 21 at Fort Yates.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new board members. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative.

Your annual meeting is also the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

At this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast (and maybe win a prize!), but you will feel good knowing you had a voice in an important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources, electricity.

### Board director candidates announced

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members vying for three board director positions 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 for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 16 as the 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, 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

### Ways to vote

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will continue to offer the opportunity to vote by mail-in ballot, online or to vote in person at the annual meeting. If a member casts a timely vote prior to the meeting by mail or online, the member will not receive a ballot at the annual meeting.

Online or electronic voting will be offered through SmartHub. For those of you who have not used SmartHub and wish to use this free resource, please visit [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) and click on SmartHub Login to register to use SmartHub. Voting instructions will be included in the member packet.

Members will receive a voting packet around or after June 26 with voting instructions for all three options. Please keep an eye out for it and vote by mail or online, unless you know you will be attending the annual meeting. 



## Preschool to kindergarten



Kingston Hepper



August Deichert



Callee Meyer

## Grade 1-3



Clare Petersen



Bernard Petersen



Maggie McHugh

## Grade 4-6



Brynn Janisse



Colton Schaff



Cason Fuchs

# Annual poster contest winners announced

Children in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative area grabbed their art supplies and displayed how they stay safe at home or on the farm when around electricity. Over 40 posters were submitted.

“Each year, we are in awe of the artistic abilities and thoughtfulness of the posters submitted by some of our youngest members,” said Julie Armijo, Manager of Member Services. “Thank you to everyone who submitted theirs – and congratulations to those who were awarded.”

The posters were judged by employees, and the winners include:

### Preschool to kindergarten

**First – Kingston Hepper,**  
child of Tasha and Ryan Hepper

**Second – August Deichert,**  
child of Jessica and Andrew Deichert

**Third – Callee Meyer,**  
child of Kelsey and Casey Meyer

### Grade 1-3

**First – Clare Petersen,**  
child of Andrew and Hayle Petersen

**Second – Bernard Petersen,**  
child of Andrew and Hayle Petersen

**Third – Maggie McHugh,**  
child of Mike and Mary McHugh

### Grade 4-6

**First – Brynn Janisse,**  
child of Briony and Justin Janisse

**Second – Colton Schaff,**  
child of Casey and Kari Schaff

**Third – Cason Fuchs,**  
child of Dylan and Mandi Fuchs



MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the March 2 board meeting minutes
- Approved authorization of signors at banking institutions
- Approved RUS Form 674 and RUS Form 675
- Reviewed RDFC Grant program
- Heard directors' recap on meetings attended
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports

### Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- May 24, 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](http://www.morgransou.com) or contact the office to request a copy.



MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

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