



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Scholarships awarded
- Make your voice heard
- Poster contest winners
- Electrical Safety Month

MAY
2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME: Ressler chosen for Youth Tour



Stray Ressler

Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative sponsors one student to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime experience in Washington, D.C., during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

A longstanding cooperative program, the Youth Tour immerses students in American history for a week. While in Washington, D.C.,

students learn more about electric cooperatives, visit national monuments and meet North Dakota's congressional delegation. Through this experience, students gain life skills, meet new people and make unforgettable memories.

Stray Ressler, the daughter of Scott and Shelia Ressler and a junior at Mandan High School, was chosen as this year's Youth Tour winner.

To apply for the Youth Tour, sophomores and juniors who are dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members may submit an application, which includes an essay question set forth by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. This year's essay question was: "Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?"

In her essay, Stray wrote about her personal experience of being involved in her community. She is active in National Honor Society, golf, basketball and track throughout the school year. During the summer, she shows cattle at county fairs through 4-H. She says she wouldn't have found the connections she has without being involved in activities such as these.

"I enjoy my history and government classes," Stray says, when asked what prompted her to apply for this opportunity. Her parents spoke highly of their visits to Washington, D.C., and she wants to experience it for herself, she says.



Stray is active in golf throughout the year.

During the Youth Tour in June, Stray will join hundreds of students representing electric cooperatives. To hear about her experience in Washington, D.C., check back in August for a recap of her trip.

Read Stray's winning essay:

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

There are many important skills a person can acquire when looking to be a successful leader, like communication, teamwork and public speaking. Getting involved within your community can help improve on these skills, leading you to be prepared for your future. Your community can offer you many opportunities, such as volunteer options, 4-H, sports or even clubs within your high school. Getting involved

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at a young age can ensure you'll be a successful leader later in life.

Throughout a school year, you can be involved in many different sports, such as golf, volleyball or football in the fall, along with soccer, track and baseball in the spring. Being involved in sports can give you the important skill of teamwork in addition to being coachable. Being able to work with others as a team is something a boss will look for when hiring someone. Having a good coach to look up to can show your important leadership skills.


If one has the opportunity to be a team captain of their sport, they will learn many leadership skills that will benefit them. Being the leader of your team now will only help you to be a leader of a business or organization in the future. Being coachable can allow you to listen and improve on things, only preparing you for a job with a boss in the future or yourself as a boss.

Public speaking is a skill one will use the rest of their life in job interviews, meetings, presentations or politics. 4-H is a club you can be a part of in your county to help prepare and improve your prepared speaking skills. 4-H allows you to present projects and speeches to judges at your local county fair or state fair. 4-H also can teach you how to take care of an animal, which will help prepare you on how to manage a farm or ranch, if that's what your future holds. 4-H is

a leadership club that is specifically for youth to learn to be exceptional leaders. Within your 4-H club or high school club, there are positions you can be responsible for, like president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. If you choose to take one of these positions, your leadership skills will improve, preparing you to become a small business owner someday.

Another way to be involved in your community is taking volunteer opportunities when they come about. Volunteer work can help you with problem-solving skills and show you how to manage and fix them. Often, the greatest leaders come from ones who can quickly solve a problem. Also volunteering is a way to help you learn to manage your time, which you will need in your future job. Volunteering shows you are willing to help impact your community in a positive way.

Getting involved within your community can give you essential skills, like communication and public speaking, teamwork and problem-solving skills to make you a great leader in the future. To help you with these skills, you can join clubs within your school or county like 4-H, join sports teams in your high school and volunteer within your community.

There are many different types of leaders, such as a business leader, business owner, farmer or rancher, and coaches. If you want to be a successful leader, get involved at a young age within your community. 

EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE: Co-op awards scholarships

Annually, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative fuels the future by awarding scholarships to high school seniors within our service area. This initiative embodies our cooperative's unwavering commitment to community growth and celebrates the achievements of local students. By recognizing these students' outstanding accomplishments, we honor their drive, resilience and passion for their future.

This year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric awarded 10 scholarships. Eight of those were given on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to area seniors, while two were in partnership with Basin Electric Power Cooperative and West Dakota Utility Services (WDUS). We are fortunate to have partners who also invest in the future of our cooperative.

Basin Electric/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric scholarship

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric recipient of the \$1,000 Basin Electric/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric scholarship is Raymond Holle, New Salem. He plans to attend the University of North Dakota in pursuit of a degree in biology. Raymond's parents are Charles and Catherine Holle.

WDUS and 3C Construction scholarships

Two \$500 scholarships were available on behalf of WDUS and 3C Construction to applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. Case Roethlisberger of Huff was awarded the WDUS scholarship. He plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science in pursuit of a degree in diesel technology. Case's parents are Doug and



Holle



Roethlisberger



Raab



Rossow



Shafer



Opp



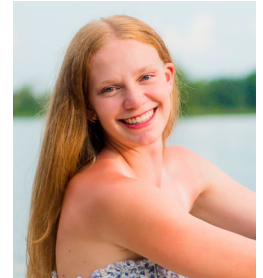
Ressler



Thompson



Eagle



Hatlestad

Kayla Roethlisberger.

No applications were received for the 3C Construction scholarship.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric offered one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area.


- **Elgin-New Leipzig Public School** – JaLyn Raab plans to attend Alexandria Technical and Community College in pursuit of an interior design degree. JaLyn's parent/member is Jason Raab of Carson.
- **Flasher Public School** – Tyler Rossow plans to attend Bismarck State College (BSC) in pursuit of an agronomy degree. Tyler's parents/members are Travis and Jessica Rossow of Flasher.
- **Glen Ullin Public School** – Caleb Shafer plans on attending Arkansas State University-Beebe in pursuit of an agriculture equipment technology degree. Caleb's parent/member is Brian Shafer of Glen Ullin.
- **Hebron Public School** – Wyatt Opp plans to attend BSC in pursuit of a welding degree. Wyatt's parent/member is Joel Opp of Richardton.
- **Mandan Public School** – Leighton Ressler plans to attend BSC in pursuit of a radiologic technology degree. Leighton's parents/members are Rachel and Shawn Ressler of Mandan.
- **New Salem-Almont Public School** – Madison Thompson plans to attend BSC in pursuit of a dental

hygiene degree. Madison's parents/members are Bridget and Justin Thompson of Almont.

- **Standing Rock Community School** – Alex Eagle plans to attend United Tribes Technical College in pursuit of a general studies degree. Alex's parent/member is Bridget Eagle of Fort Yates.
- **Homeschool or outside of our service territory** – Elizabeth Hatlestad plans to attend Gustavus Adolphus College in pursuit of a biology degree. Elizabeth's parents/members are Melissa and D.J. Hatlestad of Mandan.
- No applicants were received from Selfridge Public School or Solen Public School.

Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients and the class of 2025. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Additionally, if you are a graduating high school senior who is a dependent of a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric member and you were not chosen for a scholarship this year, we invite you to join us at the Annual Meeting for additional scholarship opportunities.

At the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Annual Meeting in Mandan June 12, two \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw scholarships will be drawn. Students must pre-register for the Luck-of-the-Draw scholarship by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. To be eligible for a Luck-of-the-Draw scholarship, students must attend our annual meeting with a parent or guardian. 





MOR-GRAN-SOU
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MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Make your voice heard at your Annual Meeting



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/CEO

Each year, we look forward to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting. You, the members we serve, always bring value to the meeting, and I know our co-op team is energized by these interactions.

If you've never attended the Annual Meeting, I encourage you to participate. Why? Because input from members like you matters and helps drive the direction of the co-op.

At the Annual Meeting, we report on current initiatives and discuss the co-op's financial health and priorities for the coming years. This year's items under consideration will include director elections and department reports. And equally important, this is an opportunity for us to hear from you.

You have the power

This is also a time to vote for new directors who will represent you and our communities' interests in the co-op. As a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, you have the power to help shape our communities' energy future.

Electric co-ops are democratically controlled by the members we serve, which means you have a say in who governs our co-op. By voting in the annual director election, you can weigh in on the leaders who will make important decisions about the future of the cooperative and our local energy needs.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's directors are community-minded individuals with different skillsets. We rely on them to help us make more informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. We have nine directors who live in the co-op's service area. We consider them the eyes and ears of the community, because they provide their unique perspective on various local issues.

2025 Director Candidates

The following Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members are candidates for the 2025 director election. The names are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

Grant County:

Ryan Petrick – Elgin

Mandan Area:

Pam Geiger – Mandan

Rocky Schlosser – Mandan

Tess Schmidt – Mandan

Morton County:

Mark Doll – New Salem

For further information on the candidates, you can view their video on our website, morgransou.com.

We want to make voting as convenient as possible for our members, so we offer a variety of ways for you to participate. We hope you'll join us at the Annual Meeting on June 12 in Mandan, where you can cast your vote in person. If you're unable to attend, you can vote by mailing your ballot ahead of time or casting your vote online.

If you've never been to an annual meeting or it's been a while since you attended, we hope you'll stop by. Join us for food, fun, door prizes and more. All members who attend the event will receive a "thank you" gift and will be registered for a chance to win Medora Musical tickets, bill credits and more.

Your Mor-Gran-Sou Electric team will be ready to answer any energy-related questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you at your Annual Meeting on June 12 in Mandan at our Mandan Service Center.



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR ANNUAL REPORT PACKET!

The Annual Report packet will arrive to your mailbox soon. Inside the packet, you will find the following Mor-Gran-Sou Electric information:

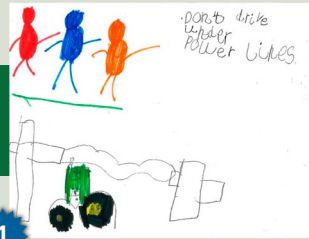
- 2024 Annual Report,
- 2025 Ballot, voting information,
- Annual Meeting details and more.





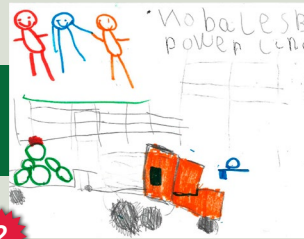
MOR-GRAN-SOU
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Preschool to kindergarten



1

Cecelia Deichert



2

Brooks Hoff



3

Weston Frank

Grades 1-3



1

Cannon Schaff



2

Bernard Petersen



3

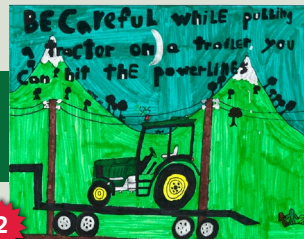
August Deichert

Grades 4-6



1

Tate Eckroth



2

Tucker Isbell




3

Fallyn Bohl

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: Safety poster contest winners

Children in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative area grabbed their art supplies and blew us away with how they displayed staying safe at home or on the farm around electricity.

Around 80 posters were submitted and judged by our employees. Each year, we look forward to

seeing the entries we receive for the safety poster contest. No poster is quite like the other, and they all demonstrate the variety of artistic abilities of some of our youngest members. Thank you to everyone who submitted a poster and congratulations to those who were awarded. 

Preschool to kindergarten

First – Cecelia Deichert, child of Andy and Jessica Deichert

Second – Brooks Hoff, child of Duric and Kaitlyn Hoff

Third – Weston Frank, child of Damon and Micah Frank

First to third grade

First – Cannon Schaff, child of Casey and Kari Schaff

Second – Bernard Petersen, child of Andrew and Hayle Petersen

Third – August Deichert, child of Jessica and Andy Deichert

Fourth to sixth grade

First – Tate Eckroth, child of Travis and Jill Eckroth

Second – Tucker Isbell, child of Jerid and Melissa Isbell

Third – Fallyn Bohl, child of Robert and Tasha Bohl

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Lineworkers participate in rescue training

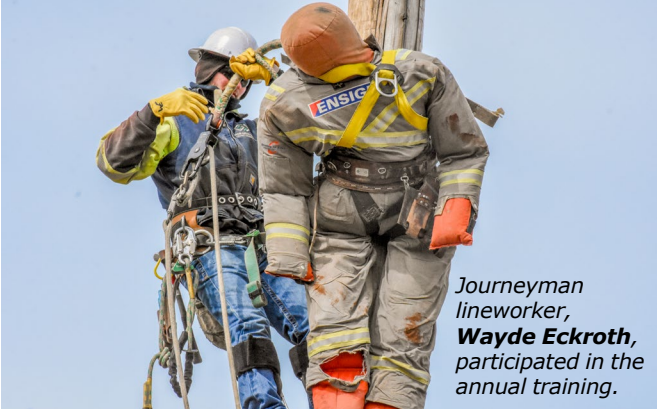


Gary Fitterer
Manager of Operations

As an electric cooperative, safety is our top priority for our staff and members. Each year, staff engages in a variety of safety training opportunities to promote safety across all facets of our operations. Earlier this spring, our crews gathered for annual pole-top/bucket truck rescue training facilitated by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. Pole-top/bucket truck rescue training is one of the essential

safety strategies in which lineworkers participate annually. In the rare event a lineworker becomes unconscious or unresponsive while working atop a pole and is unable to descend on their own, a crew member can feel prepared to use the maneuvers taught during this training to assist in the case of an emergency. The training helps ensure lineworkers have the vital skills to quickly and safely respond while out in the field.


During this rescue training, a real-life scenario is simulated by mounting a 210 pound rescue dummy on a utility pole. The training begins with a lineworker climbing the pole, securely harnessing the rescue dummy with proper equipment and lowering it to the



Journeyman
lineworker,
Wayde Eckroth,
participated in the
annual training.

ground. Once lowered, the crew assesses the rescue dummy and evaluates if further response, such as CRP, first aid or further emergency personnel, is needed.

Beyond the proper use of rescue equipment and procedures, this training is an opportunity for crew members to ensure they are communicating efficiently in times of distress.

We believe equipping our team with the expertise needed to respond swiftly and effectively during emergencies allows them to be prepared for various critical situations. Our lineworkers are trained to handle any challenge that comes their way, and the pole-top/bucket truck rescue training further strengthens their skills and abilities. 

Idle services to be retired

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to retire idle services throughout the co-op's service area.

What does Mor-Gran-Sou consider to be an idle electrical service?

It is a service that does not make any payment to the cooperative, but continues to receive regular maintenance. Your cooperative's procedure is to post a detailed list in our communications material to keep members informed of the idle services that will be retired. This is the first notice of this group of idle services to be retired.

Prior to this detailed listing, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric personnel have already contacted or tried to contact the property owner and affected property owners based on the information available. If someone comes forward and is willing to pay the line retention fee, we no longer consider it an idle service. However, if no

one comes forward, the line is then put on a list to be retired. The following idle services will be retired at the cooperative's convenience:

Morton County			
T134	R84	Section 3	NW 1/4
Sioux County			
T131	R80	Section 27	SW 1/4
T131	R80	Section 29	SW 1/4
T130	R80	Section 10	SE 1/4
T134	R79	Section 27	NE 1/4
T134	R79	Section 27	NW 1/4
T134	R79	Section 35	SW 1/4
T133	R79	Section 13	NW 1/4
T133	R79	Section 14	NE 1/4
T130	R80	Section 13	NE 1/4
T130	R80	Section 13	NE 1/4

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Electrical Safety Month

May is recognized as Electrical Safety Month, but we know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our cooperative crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

“As a cooperative team, safety is a top priority, from the office to the field and even at home,” says Jesse Kuhn, staking technician. “Keeping our members safe is just as important to us as keeping each other safe.”


Here are a few practical safety tips to use around the home, office, shop or school.

- **Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.** Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.
- **Avoid overloading circuits.** Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle by having too many devices on one circuit.
- **Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.** Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.
- **Use extension cords properly.** Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don’t exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as



permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

Our top priority is providing reliable electrical service to power homes, schools and businesses in our community year-round. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

If you see something that looks unsafe on a power line or around a substation, give us a call so we can evaluate the situation. 

JOIN US FOR TOUCHSTONE ENERGY MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY AT THE BISMARCK LARKS!



DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 14

TIME: 6:35 PM (GATES OPEN AT 5:35 PM)

LOCATION: BISMARCK MUNICIPAL BALLPARK

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

SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT TO CLAIM YOUR \$5 TICKET!


Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®





MOR-GRAN-SOU
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MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Feb. 26

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on Feb. 26 at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill. Guests included Ellen Huber and Brian Gion with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic agenda: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on Basin Electric Power Cooperative's winter managers meeting, Public Service Commission meeting, North Dakota managers group and others. Reports from Basin Electric, West


Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which included an update on line patrol, line maintenance projects and safety training. Armijo provided a member services report on upcoming member meetings, annual meeting information and cooperative programs. Fergel provided a general counsel report on projects. Huber and Gion provided a Rural Development Center update.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board reviewed the fire mitigation plan and other items.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. CT May 28 in Mandan. 



Our next Operation Round Up application deadline is quickly approaching!

Visit our website at www.morgransou.com or call our office for more information and to apply. The next application deadline is May 9.



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/CEOTravis Kupper
Co-GM/CEOJason Bentz

www.morgransou.com

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