



# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

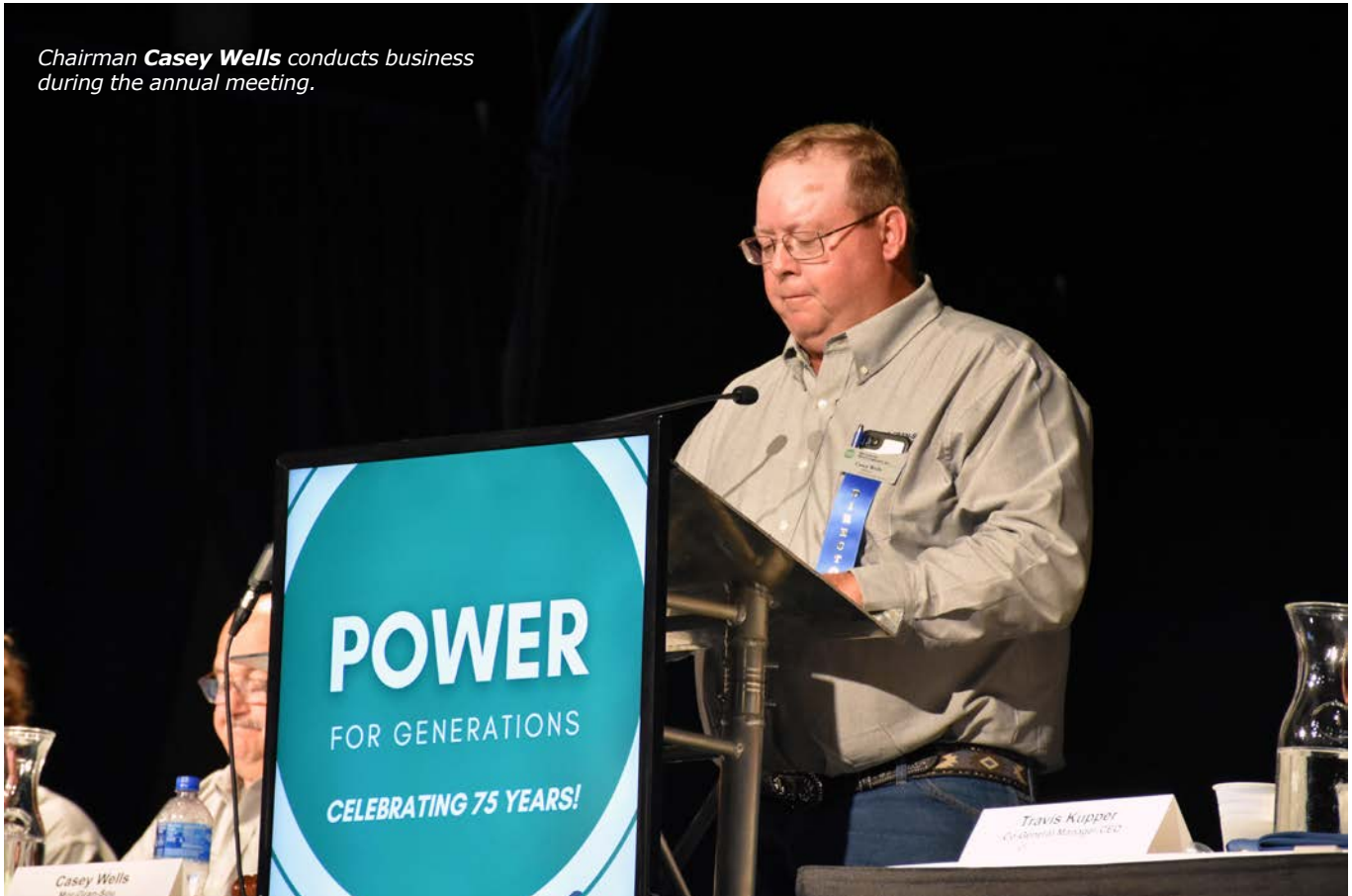
## THIS ISSUE:

- Manager's message:  
Be prepared
- Safety Starts with ME:  
Beth Kroh
- Be safe while hunting

SEPTEMBER  
2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chairman **Casey Wells** conducts business during the annual meeting.



## POWER FOR GENERATIONS: Members attend 75th annual meeting

Members gathered with one another at the Prairie Knights Casino and Resort for Mor-Gran-Sou's 75th annual meeting.

Travis Kupper, co-general manager, noted in his address to the membership, "We were founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural and underserved areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the must-attend event of the year."

This year, over 250 individuals attended the annual meeting and enjoyed a complimentary meal. During the annual business meeting, directors were elected, bylaws changes were voted on and bill credits were won.

### Board elections and reports

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative depends on the guidance and perspective of their members and board to help set priorities for the co-op and guide governance decisions. At the annual



meeting, we raise issues for voting consideration by the general membership.

The board of directors is comprised of members who live and work in our service area, for they are in a position to know where community investments are most needed. The membership fulfilled cooperative principle No. 2, democratic member control, by voting to fill the board positions. Voting this year took place by mail, electronically and in person which increased member participation. Those elected into a director position included Ryan Petrick, Grant County director; Pam Geiger, Mandan area director; and Mark Doll, Morton County director.

We want to thank M. Curtis Feland, Scott Katus, and John Schmid who ran for a board position. Your interest in your Cooperative is what makes us strong.

Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile presented the financial report to the membership. He said Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. audited the 2021 financial statements of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and presented their report to the board of directors.

“As we look to the future, we are confident in our ability to continue providing members with the reliable energy they have come to expect as our world becomes more electrified. We are prepared to power future generations as our overall energy consumption grows,” said co-general manager, Travis Kupper during the cooperative update.

Kupper also announced the launch of a new Mor-Gran-Sou logo. “The annual meeting theme, Power for Generations, got us thinking about who we are, and what we want to be for our members. Mor-Gran-Sou has grown and evolved over the past 75 years, and felt it was time for a change to better reflect who we are today, and to symbolize our future,” he said.

## Giving back to the membership

Linda Urlacher shared what Operation Round Up accomplished in 2021, which is a cooperative program in which Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members can voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies. The foundation board members, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants and encourage members to apply or let other nonprofits know about the opportunity.



**Pam Geiger, Ryan Petrick and Mark Doll** were elected by the membership to serve as directors.

In addition to Operation Round Up, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative also gives back to local high school seniors with scholarships.

“We are dedicated to the development of young leaders, and annually award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area, and one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a high school outside of our service area, whose parents are members of Mor-Gran-Sou,” said Pam Geiger, director.

Geiger also recognized the following scholarship winners, who were chosen by faculty members from each respective school:

- Elgin-New Leipzig Public School chose **Samantha Ellison**.
- Flasher Public School chose **Jace Friesz**.
- Glen Ullin Public School chose **McKenzie Gerving**.
- Mandan Public School chose **Jenna Gierke**.
- New Salem-Almont Public School chose **Emily Morman**.
- Home school or school outside Mor-Gran-Sou’s service territory: **Meghanne Olsen**.

In addition, the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative was awarded to **Adam Gress**, Mandan High School. 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. **Clayton Marohl** was awarded a \$500 WDUS scholarship.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric awarded “luck-of-




**Jason Helgeson**, senior engineering technician helps members find their location on a service map.



the-draw” scholarships to students who had registered for the meeting and attended with a parent. The goal of these scholarships is to encourage the younger generation to attend and learn about the cooperative business model of one member, one vote – and to show how their voices and votes will count. Recipients included \$500 to **Kenna Mutschelknaus**, \$500 to **Owen Erhardt**, \$100 to **Claire Johnson** and \$100 to **Angelee Rath**.

Mor-Gran-Sou’s youth tour winner, **Wyatt Landeis** also addressed the membership with a recap of his recent trip to Washington, D.C. The board of directors, co-general managers and staff at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative wish to thank our members for participating in the

annual meeting – whether that be in person or making your voice heard by electronic voting and mail in voting of the membership and look forward to meeting your electrical needs in the future. 

### Bill credits awarded to members

Members – thank you for participating in this year’s annual meeting. Your voice is important to us, and we are glad you made it heard! Below is a list of the \$50 bill credits that were awarded for members who voted in person, online or by mail:

- Rosemary Barnhard, Solen
- Alberta Berger, St. Anthony
- Terrie Bingeman, Mandan
- Dusty Day, Mandan
- Alice Gangl, St. Anthony
- Joel Gartner, Glen Ullin
- Brittany Hearn, Mandan
- Russell Hoovestol, Mandan
- Morris Iszler, Elgin
- Scott Katus, Watauga
- Clairdon Koehly, Mandan
- Donnette Medicine Horse, Fort Yates
- David Motl, Mandan
- Eric Ohman, Mandan
- Arlene Riehl, Raleigh
- Michael Schaedler, Huff
- Frank Umber, McIntosh
- Jeff Vandenburg, Flasher
- Clyde Wetsch, Mandan
- Ryan Wisdom, Mandan



Four luck-of-the-draw scholarship winners were announced during the meeting.



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Be prepared before the storm**



**Travis Kupper**

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted, and this time the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything – food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this

situation. While you can't predict the weather yourself, you can plan ahead, so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

### **Preparedness actions and items**

- 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 that 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 together in an easily accessible location.

### **With advance warning**

If a severe storm is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra

steps to safeguard your home. Fully charge all cellphones, laptops and devices, so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small 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.


### **During a prolonged outage**

In the event of an outage, turn off 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. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small generator for your household needs, in a safe, outside and well-ventilated area, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy, yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check Mor-Gran-Sou's Facebook page for 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.

### **Power in planning**

Advance 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. Act today, because there is power in planning. 

# Safety Starts with ME: Beth Kroh

For Beth Kroh, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s member service representative II, the shift from summer to school comes with the reminder to remove distractions while driving, as crosswalks get busier, an influx of new drivers and more.

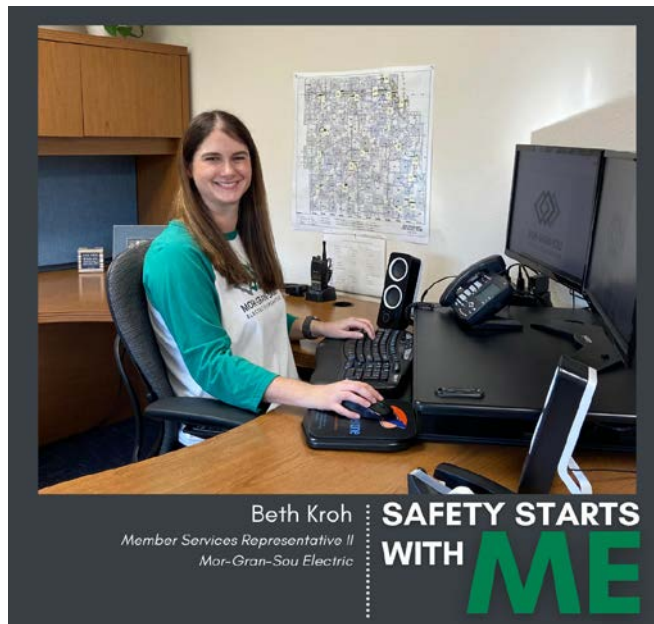
“At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we speak a lot about safe driving practices and remind members to be safe and recognize their surroundings, whether that be driving in a tractor around power lines or slowing down if linemen are working alongside a road,” Kroh said. “It is important to remove the distractions while driving.”

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting, calling or adjusting the entertainment system, according to Anne Prince, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s member communications manager. Doing any of these activities while driving increases the potential for injuries and fatalities. In fact, distracted driving is one of the leading causes of motor vehicle accidents in the United States.


“At Mor-Gran-Sou, we understand our jobs have the potential to be dangerous, but we are motivated to stay safe, not only for ourselves, but for our families and our children,” Kroh said. “We want the same for our membership and that is why we ask to remove the distractions – no matter if you’re in a field or a school zone. A text, call or entertainment is not worth the potential consequence.”

The National Safety Council recommends taking these valuable tips into consideration, as we get back into the swing of things this school year:

- **Obey school speed zones** – Pay attention upon entering a school zone. Know the speed limit, and learn the drop-off and pick-up procedure.
- **Never pass a bus loading or unloading children** – Ten feet around a bus is the most dangerous area for children. Please keep your distance to allow for children to safely enter and exit the bus.
- **Stay back from the curb** – Teach your children to stay at least three big steps back



from a curb. This ensures a safe distance from your child and the street.

- **Practice with your new driver often** – Inexperience in teen drivers is often the leading cause of teen crashes. It is important to teach your student-driver possible situations that can occur when driving. “Although we should work to eliminate distracted driving no matter the season, it is especially important with the new school year approaching,” Kroh said. 

## Congratulations on your retirement!



Congratulations to **Brent Alkire**, staking engineer technician, on his retirement after 31 years of service to our membership. Best of luck on your future endeavors!



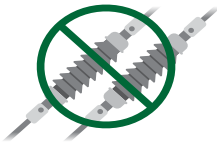


# ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, Mor-Gran-Sou encourages all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



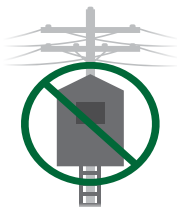
Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.



## Lineworkers attend hotline school

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative joined lineworkers from across the state for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) Hotline School.


The session was held at the Bismarck State College lineworker training facility in Mandan. The annual field training teaches lineworkers how to safely work on energized lines through hands-on instruction and demonstrations from experienced lineworkers.

“Hotline School allows employees to simulate live linework they potentially could work in a normal day’s work,” said Gary Fitterer, operations manager. “It is used as a training tool, for employees who may not get to utilize hot work in their normal everyday work get a chance to keep their skills up-to-date and help them learn safe ways to keep the power on while working

on energized equipment.”

This training prepares lineworkers for situations when de-energizing the lines is not possible and helps keep power flowing during storms or scheduled maintenance, when possible.

“It is important to train employees on new equipment and keep familiar with industry changes and provide a chance to work with others in the state to learn different ways to get the job done safely and efficiently,” Fitterer noted.

Mor-Gran-Sou sent four employees this year, including apprentice linemen Layton Kasper and Chance Magilke and journeymen linemen Brett Fleck and CJ Pesicka. 



# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 27

- Elected chair, vice chair and secretary-treasurer for board reorganization
- Approved the June 29 board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Reviewed the monthly directors' financial report
- Reviewed the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative financial report for June
- Reviewed update on Mandan building remodel and costs to date
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update and report on meetings attended
- Reviewed senior staff reports
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative and subsidiaries minutes and associated information
- Reviewed updates from 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services (WDUS)
- Heard report on Southwest Power Pool annual meeting
- Heard reports of meetings directors attended
- Reviewed the Planning for Action in a Competitive Environment update
- Reaffirmed acting secretary for the board of directors
- Accepted the proposed 2023 board meeting dates and locations
- Completed the CoBank ballot for a director position
- Approved 2023 participation with Western States Power Corporation
- Approved directors to serve as first and second alternates for Innovative Energy Alliance and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative boards
- Approved director to serve on WDUS board of directors
- Discussed recap of 2022 annual meeting, and options for 2023 annual meeting
- Reviewed updated Western Area Power Administration letter regarding proposed rates for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program

### Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m. CT/8:30 a.m. MT, J&L Building, Bismarck

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 Donald Franklund 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 Flasher office to request a copy.

## Reorganizational meeting held

The board of directors held the reorganization meeting on July 27, in which Steve Tomac was elected as the board chair, Chad Harrison was reelected as vice chair, and Pam Geiger will continue as secretary-treasurer.



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](mailto: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/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund  
 Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

