



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

JUNE 2021

NEWS



PHOTO BY NDARECI/LZAKESSEL

Explore it ... Adore it ... and Save!

Also in this issue:

- Watch the mail for your annual report
- Students, enter the Luck of the Draw scholarship drawing!
- Scheduled safety training saves lives
- Support local businesses and communities on Highway 21 Treasure Hunt
- Meeting minutes and more

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-percent discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Lodging at the Badlands Motel, Elkhorn Quarters and Rough Riders Hotel

Members will receive a 20-percent discount at the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

To make your reservations and claim your savings, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and provide the discount code **Touch2021**. When visiting the Cowboy Hall of Fame, provide the discount code **Touch2021** at the door.



2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Friday, July 16, 2021

IMPORTANT: Annual Meeting update

Similar to last year, the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors has decided for the safety of our members to schedule the 2021 Annual Meeting as a virtual meeting only. It will be held Friday, July 16, and televised on BEK TV.

All voting for this year’s annual meeting will take place by mail, as permitted by your cooperative’s bylaws and policies. The voting will include the election of the board of director positions for At-Large, Morton County and Sioux County.

Please look for details in the ballot packet scheduled to be mailed later this month. ■

Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for four Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for election in July. In 2021, the three board positions sought include one for the At-Large position, one for the Morton County position, and one for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 11 as the deadline for receiving members’ completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 18. At that meeting, the committee declared that 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 24, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors accepted the following nominations as willing and qualified candidates:

At-Large:
Steve Tomac, St. Anthony

Morton County:
Kathy Tokach, St. Anthony

Sioux County:
Chad Harrison, Fort Yates
Lisa Kraft, Selfridge

A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s annual report, scheduled to be mailed later this month.



I Have A Question:

Please use the space provided below to ask a question or make a comment to be addressed at the annual meeting. Time is allotted at the end of the virtual meeting to answer questions. If the question is in written form and you want your question answered, please include your name and address. Anonymous questions or questions from non-members will not be answered.

Please provide your name and address:

You may submit a question, prior to the annual meeting, by mailing to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. – P.O. Box 297 – Flasher, ND 58535-0297. You may also call the office at 1-800-750-8212, 1-701-663-0297 or 1-701-597-3301, and ask for Jackie; or log into SmartHub and use Contact Us (annual meeting member question), or email us at info@morgransou.com.

Please have all questions submitted by **4:30 p.m. CT, Friday, July 9.**

If all questions are not answered during the meeting, the responses may be put in the *North Dakota Living* magazine local pages or provided individually to a member.

Luck of the Draw student scholarships available!

Mor-Gran-Sou will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 16.

All high school seniors who are dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members, and have not previously been chosen for a Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship, are eligible for this scholarship.

In the past, Mor-Gran-Sou has required students vying for this scholarship to attend the annual meeting, in an effort to teach the next generation of members about the cooperative business model and the importance of being involved.

Because this year's meeting will not be held in-person,

students should apply for a Luck of the Draw scholarship by completing this form. Interested students should detach it from the magazine, fill it out, and return it to Mor-Gran-Sou by mailing to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297. You may also call the office at 1-800-750-8212, 1-701-663-0297 or 1-701-597-3301 and ask for Jackie, or email us at info@morgransou.com.

To qualify for the Luck of the Draw scholarship, this form must be received at Mor-Gran-Sou by **4:30 p.m. CT on Thursday, July 8.**

Luck of the Draw scholarship application

Your name and address: _____

Telephone number and email address: _____

Member account number: _____ College/University you plan on attending: _____

Career choice at this time: _____

I hereby certify that I graduated from _____ High School in 2021, and my parent(s) or guardians (list names) _____ are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. I request to have my name put into the Luck of the Draw scholarship drawing for the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Dated: _____ Signed: _____



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY

Ever wonder how a tree becomes a utility pole?

In the United States, most electric distribution poles are made from southern yellow pine, a species grown throughout the Southeastern region of the country.

Virtually all of these distribution poles are cut from carefully managed stands of timber, usually from 35 to 40 years of age. Only about 15 to 20 percent of pole size trees are actually of high-enough quality physically for possible use as utility poles.

Once harvested, the selected trees are delivered to a processing facility for debarking and machining. After being cut to the desired length, they are measured to determine the proper size class. The pole's class determines its load capacity.

Next, poles are dried and sterilized to kill any decay spores that may be present in the wood. This process normally takes one to three days.

After the poles are dried, they are spread out on skids for framing and inspection. Framing consists of cleaning any bark left over on the poles from peeling, putting required gains on the poles, boring all necessary holes,

and applying burn brands or inset metal tags to the face of the pole. These tags identify the producer, date of treatment, preservative, required preservative retention, length and class of the pole. Once the framing process is completed, poles are inspected by the producer and then by any outside inspection requested by the consumer.

After framing and inspection, the poles are placed on wheeled trams and loaded into long metal treating cylinders that are sealed prior to the poles being subjected to a pressure/vacuum treating cycle. After treatment, sample borings are taken from the treated poles and analyzed to determine if the desired preservative penetration and retention requirements have been met.

If a pole meets all physical and treatment requirements, it's ready for shipment to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, where it's installed to support power lines in our area communities and deliver the safe, reliable power you depend on.

Check out our Facebook page to watch a video on this interesting process! ■



Scheduled safety training saves lives

Linemen can be stranded on a pole if they come into contact with energized electrical lines, or experience heat stroke, a heart attack or other condition that prevents them from climbing down. That's why OSHA requires linemen to receive pole-top rescue safety training annually.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative held this training May 5 in Mandan. During the training, linemen climb a pole, secure a rope around the waist of a 200-pound mannequin, and lower the "body" to the ground.

Thanks in part to scheduled safety training, Mor-Gran-Sou's linemen are equipped to react quickly and efficiently should an accident ever occur. ■



Journeyman Lineman **Wayde Eckroth**

PHOTOS BY BRIAN LAKOUK

TACKLE THAT DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT WITH CARE

You might have the paint selected and the nail gun loaded, but have you considered the safety of your next do-it-yourself project?

Safety is a concern in any do-it-yourself project, but especially when the work includes a home's electrical system. Working on or near a home's electrical system can be hazardous if you don't know the rules. That's why it's a good idea to leave the installation or repair of your home's electrical system to licensed electricians.

Most homeowners do not have the training or experience needed to safely perform electrical work, increasing the risk of immediate injuries and electrocutions and potentially introducing new dangers into the home. Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care, and cutting corners can be a costly mistake.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative strongly recommends hiring a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home. ■



Highway 21 Treasure Hunt rummage sale scheduled for June 18 and 19



Discover treasures and support local businesses along the way during North Dakota's 100-mile rummage sale, the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt. It will be held Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MDT.

The route features approximately 100 rummages sales, many of which are being hosted by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members.

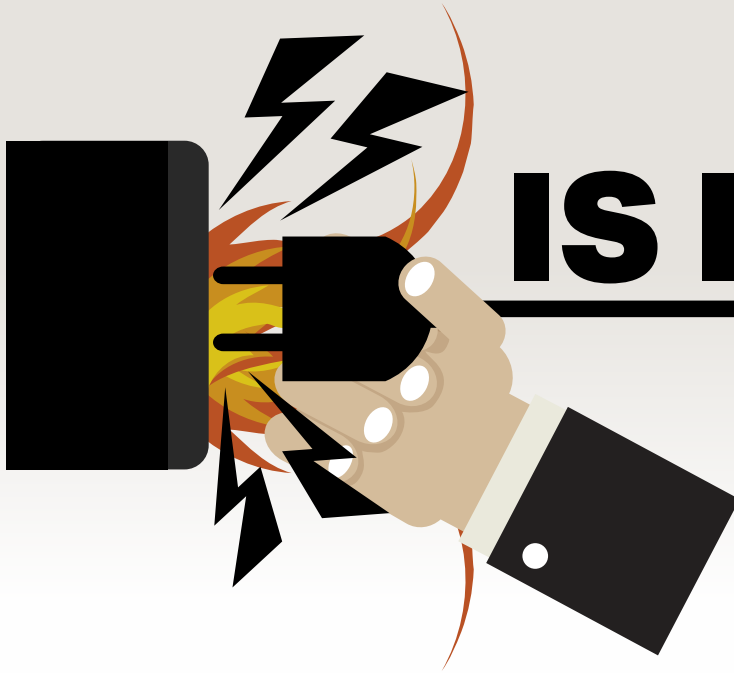
Participating communities along Highway 21 include St. Anthony, Flasher, Carson, Heil, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England. Rural residents host sales, too, so watch for signs along the route for additional sales. Also watch for sales along Highway 6 in the St. Anthony area.

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 and at www.elginnorthdakota.com prior to the event.

From gas stations and restaurants to custom shops in between, there are many opportunities to stop and spend time in our small towns and support some unique local businesses along the way.

Anyone who enjoys rummaging, scoring some deals and traveling will love this event.

For more information contact Luann Dart at 701-584-2172.



OLD HOME WIRING: IS IT SAFE?

Flipping a light switch. Charging a laptop computer. Electricity makes our lives easier, and we often don't give it much thought. But Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative encourages you to think about electrical safety.

Many homes have older wiring systems. The question is, are older wiring systems a safety hazard?

There are several ways you can assess your risk and make simple changes to reduce the hazards that may be present in an electrical system. By ensuring that your home undergoes a thorough electrical inspection completed by a qualified electrician before buying, selling or remodeling a home, you can make certain your home's electrical system operates at the highest level of safety possible.

Call a qualified electrician if you have these warning signs in your home:

- **Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers**
- **If a fuse opens or circuit breaker is tripped, be sure to investigate the cause before replacing the fuse or resetting the breaker. If necessary, call a qualified electrician to investigate the cause.**
- **A tingling sensation when you touch an electrical appliance. Getting a shock when you touch appliances in your house can indicate a more serious problem. Be sure to unplug the appliance and discontinue use.**

- **Discolored or warm wall outlets, or sparks from an outlet. This can indicate arcing, smoldering or burning behind your outlets, damaged or improperly installed wiring in the outlet, or a problem with the receptacle itself. Avoid using the outlet or switch and contact a qualified electrician as soon as possible.**
- **A persistent burning smell coming from an appliance, room or area. This can indicate that the appliance is overheating or malfunctioning. Unplug the appliance or turn off the circuit breaker.**
- **Flickering or dimming lights. This sign could indicate a short in the wiring, dangerous arcing or an overextension of your home's electrical systems. Contact a qualified electrician to discuss potential reasons for this problem and to have an inspection completed.**

Older electrical systems can cause other issues as well. Older homes are not often equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs are designed to protect against electrical hazards in bathrooms and kitchens. A lack of electrical outlets can also lead to frequent use of extension cords, which is associated with an increase in fire hazards.

If you suspect your home wiring is not up to code or is a safety hazard, have it inspected by a qualified electrical contractor. ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: March 24, 2021

- Approved the March 24, 2021, Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and special equipment summary
- Approved capital credit refund applications to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed the monthly director's financial report
- Reviewed the co-op financial report for March
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard general counsel report
- Heard Building Committee report
- Reviewed and accepted the 2020 Audit Report
- Approved resolution for architect contract and designation of owner's representative
- Approved resolution for PPP Loan Forgiveness application
- Visited with representatives from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Completed required Form 990 questionnaire
- Confirmed Mor-Gran-Sou 2021 Annual Meeting start time
- Approved 2021 election committee procedure
- Heard Co-General Managers/CEOs update and report on meetings attended
- Heard directors' recap on virtual trainings and meetings attended
- Reviewed West Dakota Utility Services/3C Construction update
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

June 23;
time and place to be determined

Members may be welcome to attend board meetings. Due to COVID-19, plans can change quickly. Please call the office at 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting status you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Co-General Manager/CEO Donald Franklund at 701-597-3301 or Chair Casey Wells 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.

In last month's local pages, Mor-Gran-Sou published the names of the students who won the safety poster coloring contest. In the "grades four through six" division, we incorrectly identified the first-place winner as Breanna Eckroth. We should have congratulated **Brenna Eckroth**, daughter of Travis and Jill Eckroth, Flasher. We apologize for the error and appreciate you sharing this important safety message: Stay away from broken or fallen power lines!



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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Flasher, ND 58535-0297
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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.....Casey Wells
Vice Chair.....Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
DirectorsMark Doll, Vernard Frederick,
Rodney Froelich, Jay Larson,
Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO.....Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed Monday, July 5, to honor Independence Day

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric wishes our members a safe and Happy Fourth of July, as we celebrate our history and heritage! Line crews will be available in case of a system emergency or power outage by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

Happy Father's Day! Sunday, June 20

