



When Mother Nature knocks, we knock back

At the end of January and beginning of February, rime ice settled in the Mor-Gran-Sou service area. A combination of mild temperatures, high humidity and freezing fog created some picturesque needle, comb and feather forms. While beautiful to view, rime ice can cause power blinks and outages for various reasons. Here, Lineman CJ Pesicka uses a fiberglass hot stick to knock frost off an energized line. The top line was lower than the phase line due to the weight of the ice, and it was causing outages. Members, remember to sign up for a SmartHub account and follow Mor-Gran-Sou on Facebook to learn timely updates!

Also in this issue:

- **Consult with Mor-Gran-Sou before adding grain bins or other new load**
- **Serve your electric cooperative as a director!**
- **Save the date: Annual Meeting, July 16, location TBD**
- **Sign up for SmartHub choosing ACH and receive a \$10 bill credit**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**

PHOTO BY GARY FITTERER



Ohlhauser earns journeyman status

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Kale Ohlhauser says he likes to work outside; especially when the weather is nice and he can enjoy it. While he likes doing a variety of jobs, his favorite things to do are setting regulators and doing underground terminating.

Growing up in Bismarck, Kale Ohlhauser saw power lines with triplex running through an alley next to his home; they were tapped off poles. He says he never really thought about the power supply that fed his home and those of his neighbors until after he graduated from high school.

Kale enrolled in Bismarck State College (BSC) to study engineering. After attending some classes, he learned much of what he would be doing would be at a desk. He decided it wasn't for him.

A friend of Kale's was attending the BSC lineworker program and liked it. He gave Kale his belt and hooks, and showed him how to climb a few feet on a light pole. Kale was "hooked."

An outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing, Kale liked the idea of doing different jobs every day outside. He enrolled in line school in Mandan, where he completed his classroom training.

After he graduated, he needed to start logging the hours and experiences needed to earn journeyman status. Kale was hired by Roughrider Electric Cooperative to work out of Hazen as temporary help during the construction season.

"I really enjoyed my time with those guys. I was a young buck, and those guys had a lot of experience. It was good for me; I got to learn a lot," he says.

Laid off in November 2017, Kale applied for jobs in

Kale Ohlhauser (foreground) helps upgrade a service at Mor-Gran-Sou business consumer Cloverdale in Mandan.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENVEY



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kale Ohlhauser and his girlfriend, **Taylor**, take a break from landscaping to pose with their dog, **Kolt**.

His education will continue in the field on the different projects the line crews build and maintain. He will also attend seminars on safety and changes in the industry, which will help Mor-Gran-Sou improve system efficiency.

Kale says his favorite part of the job is the camaraderie of the line crews. He says Mor-Gran-Sou has hard-working employees who treat one another with respect, and that they get along well. He also keeps in touch with linemen from Roughrider Electric and friends who attended line school at the same time.

“I go out and visit them, and do some hunting. It’s fun and it’s a good way to keep the friendships going. You never really lose those connections and friendships; that’s what I’ve noticed. It’s a tight-knit group once you’re in it,” he says.

Mor-Gran-Sou congratulates Lineman Ohlhauser for earning journeyman status, and thanks him for the good work he is doing on behalf of our members. ■



Kale Ohlhauser likes to fish and hunt deer, ducks and geese. Once the game is harvested, he has the meat processed for jerky or makes duck nuggets with Cajon seasoning. He also shares some of the harvest with landowners as a thank-you for allowing him to hunt on their property.

Wyoming and North Dakota. He was offered the job in Wyoming when he learned Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was hiring. Wanting to stay close to home, he applied and was hired. He started in April 2018.

Kale completed the apprenticeship program in August 2020 under the guidance and mentorship of Mor-Gran-Sou staff. He was unable to accept his certificate of completion in person from the safety services team at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, because the annual Apprenticeship Training and Safety conference was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Kale says the completion of the program felt like a long time coming, and he is relieved he no longer needs to study for tests.

As a graduate, Kale has logged 8,000 hours of supervised training on poles, tower and construction; line hardware and framing; overhead conductors; tools and equipment; transformers; oil circuit reclosers, regulators and capacitors; metering and instrument transformers; rolling stock; engineering; records; safety meetings; hot-line maintenance; troubleshooting; underground; substations; lighting; and service.



DON'T TOUCH THOSE LINES!

Rime ice plagued the Mor-Gran-Sou service area in February; members urged to stay away from power lines

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

The first week in February, rime ice caused power bumps and outages across the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area. Line crews worked as safely and efficiently as possible to restore service.

Foggy conditions started Sunday, Jan. 31, and continued through Wednesday, Feb. 3 before the weather pattern shifted to clear and frigid.

Rime ice occurs when mild temperatures, high humidity and freezing fog form a heavy layer of ice on power lines and poles.

Power blinks can occur when frost falls from the line. Outages can occur when the weight of the ice causes lines to snap, or tree branches above the power lines break and fall into the line, among other reasons.

Members helped play an important role in restoration efforts. By calling the office and logging their outages with dispatch, many conveyed where they had seen twisted or snapped power lines. Providing locations made the restoration process more efficient.

For your safety, always keep these safety tips in mind:

- Never make contact with a power line under any circumstance;
- Assume downed power lines are energized and dangerous, and stay away; and
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for safe use of standby generators.

Thank you, members, for your patience and support during this ice storm. ■

PHOTO BY GARY FITTNER



Lineman **CJ Pesicka** knocks ice off an energized line using personal protective equipment.

Annual AT&S safety conference cancelled

The 57th annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference, scheduled in January, was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Sponsored by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, the conference provides an opportunity to reflect on industry changes and challenges, and to recognize the accomplishments the linemen have made in training and safety throughout the year. ■

Local accomplishment that would have highlighted at AT&S Conference:

Circle of Honor Award

This award recognizes outstanding performance in preventing vehicle accidents. To achieve this award, a cooperative must not have had a vehicle accident for five-consecutive years.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and 3C Construction earned the Circle of Honor Award. ■



Stay connected with SmartHub

Life is fast and it can be hectic, but paying your bill doesn't have to be complicated. With Mor-Gran-Sou's SmartHub web and mobile app, viewing and paying your bill, monitoring electric usage, reporting service issues and receiving important updates is easy!

**On the go and in control...
Manage your account
like never before**

What is SmartHub and what's in it for you, our member?

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but wondered what it can do for you.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, contact customer service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from previous months.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment, either on the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple clicks. **Please note: Credit card payments may have restrictions based on billing profile.**

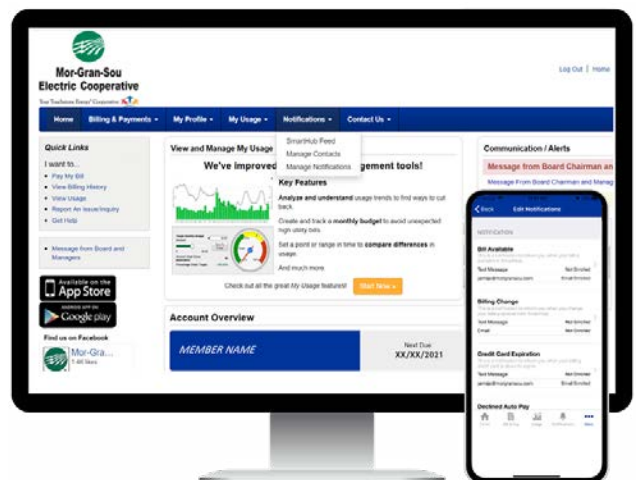
You'll also be able to see important notices with SmartHub. Once you have an account, select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.

Reporting a service issue is a snap with the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call us; just let us know about the issue with a few clicks. You can also contact us for customer service requests or with any questions. You can contact us at any time from anywhere! We will respond the same day, during regular business hours, when possible.

Register now for SmartHub!

Mor-Gran-Sou made SmartHub available to our members in July 2013. If you have not signed up for an account, you will need to register as a new user in order to receive an electronic bill and pay your bill online.

- There is no cost to sign up for and use SmartHub!
- To sign up for SmartHub web access, visit www.morgransou.com and click Your Account and SmartHub.
- To sign up for the SmartHub mobile app, visit the Apple Store or Android market, and search for SmartHub.
- After you sign up using the app or web version, enter your account number and follow the step-by-step process.
- After you have successfully registered with SmartHub, you'll be emailed a temporary password to log in for the first time.
- The first time you log in, you'll be asked to create your new password.
- Once registered, please verify your payment options if you have recurring payments by check or by credit card.
- At the end of the registration process, if you would like paperless billing, select that option so you can receive your new bill electronically and no paper bill will be sent to you.
- SmartHub allows you to view and manage multiple accounts.
- Information is in real-time so it's always up-to-date.



Locate your account number

Every member has an account number. You can find the number on your monthly bill.

Get your questions answered!

Call us at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212; email info@morgransou.com or contact us through the SmartHub app. We are here to help!

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



Save the date

*Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting
July 16, 2021
Location to be determined*

Be an active and involved co-op member. Vote to fill three positions on the board of directors. Learn cooperative updates and industry issues – and how they affect your electric service.

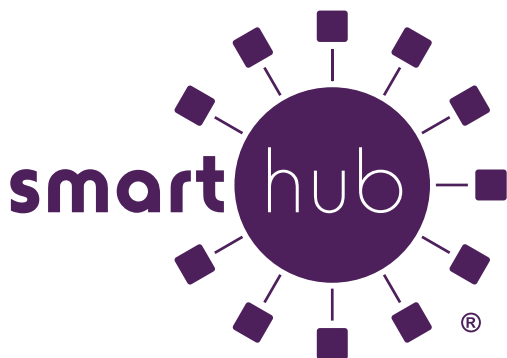
Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

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 16, 2021. 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 18, and/or they can be presented in-person at the following meeting of the

Nominating Committee:

- March 18, 2021, in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT or by conference call.

If you do wish to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, please forward it to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 18. Thank you. ■



Sign up for SmartHub choosing ACH and receive a \$10 bill credit

If you haven't already signed up for SmartHub, download the app and open an account in the month of March, choosing Automated Clearing House (ACH) as a payment preference.

You will receive a \$10 bill credit from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative! ACH is an electronic payment that withdraws funds directly from your checking account.

Or, if you already have a SmartHub account and are paying with a credit card, switch to an electronic check as your ACH form of payment and you will also receive a \$10 bill credit.

Innovation is one of four Touchstone Energy® Cooperative values, and we are proud to offer this service to our members. ■



Bin there, done that Adding a bin site or other new load?

If so, it pays to plan ahead. Members can save time, money and aggravation by consulting with Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative before locating new grain bins or adding new load.

New or upgraded service

When adding electrical loads, such as bin fans or shop heat, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric encourages members to contact the cooperative first. Representatives will design a service adequately sized for the proposed electrical load. Existing services will be inspected to determine if an upgrade in service is required.

Whether you are adding a new service or expanding an existing service, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric needs to study the effect the added load will have on the cooperative's electric distribution system to determine the co-op's ability to serve that load.

Bin placement

When placing a primary electric service at a grain bin site, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric adheres to the requirements set forth in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The NESC specifies the minimum distance between a grain bin and the nearest overhead power line and has two sections that apply to grain handling systems.

Adequate clearance between grain bins and overhead power lines reduces the risk of accidental contact between the power lines and tall farm equipment such as portable grain augers, elevators or grain-probing devices. Also, a grain bin or shop built too close to an overhead power line may mean the bin or power line would need to be relocated, most times at the member's expense.

Members considering a new bin site or added load are encouraged to contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. We are available to provide assistance in planning for a safe, reliable environment for everyone. ■

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *board meeting highlights*



Meeting date: Jan. 27, 2021

- Approved the Dec. 16, 2020, Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment and two work order inventories
- Approved capital credit refund applications to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed the monthly director's financial report
- Reviewed the financial report for December
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard legal counsel report
- Reviewed industry legislative update
- Reviewed minutes from several Basin Electric Power Cooperative board meeting subsidiaries
- Heard Co-General Managers/CEOs update and reports on meetings attended
- Heard directors' recap on virtual training attended
- Approved registration for upcoming virtual director training
- Approved voting delegate for an upcoming meeting
- Approved annual renewal of Mutual Aid Agreement
- Accepted annual Policy Governance requirement on reporting of Red Flag Rule compliance
- Approved audit engagement letter
- Reviewed CoBank notice of 2021 director election request for candidates
- Reviewed report from Acting Secretary of the Board
- Reviewed REPAC and ACRE renewal information for 2021
- Approved 2020 physical inventory adjustment
- Reviewed upcoming virtual meetings
- Reviewed North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives *Safety Matters* newsletter
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

*March 24;
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.



SPRING AHEAD!

On Sunday, March 14, daylight saving time begins.

Remember to set those clocks ahead on Saturday, March 13, before you go to bed.

Easter holiday closing

In observance of the Easter holiday, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 2. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

202 6th Ave. W. - PO Box 297
Flasher, ND 58535-0297
Phone: 701- 597-3301 Flasher
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

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