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FEBRUARY 2022

NEWS



Giving Hearts Day

Giving to those who give back to the community

BY ANNE HANSEN



Each year, North Dakotans reach into their pockets and pledge contributions during a 24-hour event known as Giving Hearts Day.

Giving Hearts Day was founded in 2008 with the hope that around Valentine's Day, individuals would not only show affection to the people they love, but to the charities they love, too! Fast-forward to today, and the annual event has become the longest-running day of giving in the country. Giving Hearts Day has helped raise more

than \$110 million for more than 550 local nonprofit organizations.

"Giving Hearts Day provides people all across the region an opportunity to experience the joy of giving by supporting their local nonprofits," said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving Hearts Day.

The organization itself is a platform for charities to fund their missions through a community of donors. To enrich local North Dakota communities, the Giving Hearts Day

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Over 7,700 wreaths were placed by volunteers as part of Wreaths Across America.

organization wanted to see all donations stay local.

“All dollars raised on Giving Hearts Day stay with charities in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota to fund their important missions that improve health and quality of life right here in our communities,” Offerman said.

Additionally, the organization reviews all applicants to ensure that each is a valid nonprofit and prepared to run a successful Giving Hearts Day campaign by attending High Impact Institute fundraising trainings.

This month Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is highlighting two members who partake in the Giving Hearts Day: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation and the Central Dakota Humane Society.

Spotlight on North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation

The state of North Dakota honors the veterans who have served the state by providing a location where they may find eternal peace in a setting with rich military history and quiet dignity.

Located near Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery is dedicated to the men and women who have served their state and nation.



Volunteers place flags at each gravesite on Memorial Day.

“We want to ensure the perpetual care of the cemetery, which continues to be a peaceful place for the veterans and their family members,” said Denise Lutz, development coordinator at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

The cemetery sets on 70 acres of burial space and includes a committal chapel and administrative building. With over 600 burials per year, the cemetery continues to grow.

“The cemetery’s first burial was in 1992, and we continue to grow as we hit over 10,000 burials this year,” Lutz said. With the growth comes more expenses to ensure the continued upkeep of the cemetery.

“As we continue to grow, we need more funds to help with the maintenance,” Lutz said. “This is partly why the foundation has decided to participate in Giving Hearts Day for the first time this year.”

“You will be rewarded by knowing you have assisted in making the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery a fitting memorial for those men and women who have represented our state and nation with such dedication,” Lutz said.

Spotlight on Central Dakota Humane Society

Central Dakota Humane Society (CDHS) has been doing great things for pets and people in the Bismarck-Mandan and the central North Dakota area for more than 60 years. As a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, CDHS has had a shelter building 3 miles north of Mandan since 1994, where it houses homeless pets and works to find them homes.

“We rescue, care for and rehome stray, neglected and abandoned pets,” said Cameo Skager, CDHS communications/development director. “Not only do we care for the animals at the shelter, we help feed



The Central Dakota Humane Society notes that by adopting a shelter pet, a family can make a difference for the adopted pet and for another pet on the waiting list who needs a home.

community pets in need through our Buddy's Bowl Program and promote spaying and neutering through our spay/neuter assistance program. We also educate about responsible pet care and the importance of volunteerism, and provide a place for volunteers to help in the community."

To accomplish all it does, CDHS relies on donations from the community.

"Funds that are donated provide for the animals, allowing us to give them a warm bed, nutritious food, love, training, veterinary care and the ability to adopt them into a forever home," Skager said. "In addition to funds, we also need volunteers to help with walking dogs, socializing with the cats and helping with events, and we need donated items such as bleach, paper towels and more."

"We absolutely love Giving Hearts Day," Skager said. "So many charities that do wonderful things in our community are given a huge boost during this one-day event. Our favorite thing about the day is making our thank you phone calls. We love offering a personal message of thanks and really enjoy visiting with our supporters." ■



A Central Dakota Humane Society dog finds its forever home.

How you can make a difference

Although the event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 10, this year, the Giving Hearts Day efforts and funds raised help beyond the day of the event.

If you are interested in donating, you can visit www.givingheartsday.org and click on the donate button. Another way to contribute is to send a check, directly made to the charity of your choice, to the organization by Feb. 10.

"With nearly 500 charities participating, there is an abundance of ways to help. We have the resources for you to maximize your efforts with the charity or charities your heart chooses," said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving Hearts Day.



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Let's connect



Travis Kupper

When we say we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smartphones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op (that’s you), there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, you help power good in our local

community through Operation Round Up, sponsorships and other initiatives that help the most vulnerable in our community.

We depend on you, because you power our success. And when Mor-Gran-Sou does well, the community thrives, because we’re all connected.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from Mor-Gran-Sou through a variety of programs, products and services we offer our members. For example, when you download our SmartHub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you follow us on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, tree trimming and maintenance, co-op director elections, giveaways and more. You’ll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping with community service projects

– and who doesn’t enjoy seeing good things happening in our community!

When you sign up for text alerts, you can receive advance notices on outage and restoration information, billing updates and changes to Mor-Gran-Sou event details.

By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on potential savings or important information.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure we can provide the highest level of service you expect and deserve. In addition to the contact information, Mor-Gran-Sou also surveys our members to better understand how we can serve you. Please be aware you might be receiving a phone call, asking for you to participate in this survey in the coming months.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit www.morgransou.com, call 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 or 701-663-0297, or stop by our office in Flasher.

We look forward to connecting with you! ■



Help us help you.

As a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, we value your opinion and would like to hear how we can better serve you!

This year, starting Feb. 1, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be completing a member satisfaction survey. Participate by visiting: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022MorGranSou. Share your feedback with us in this quick, 10-minute survey and help us continue to make Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative even better!

In addition, you might also receive a random telephone survey performed by Odney Advertising. If you receive a call from Odney Advertising on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, please take time to answer the questionnaire. Thank you in advance! ■



Planning to build or upgrade?

BY ANNE HANSEN

Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

“Each year, we help our members with their construction upgrades and new builds,” said Gary Fitterer, operations manager at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

“Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses,” Fitterer said. “For projects of all sizes, it is important to contact your local cooperative.”

By doing so, you will be able to confirm the viability of your project.

“Our engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials,” Fitterer said.

Information you will need to share with the cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, timeline and power requirements.

“If you are unsure of this information, work with an electrician that can contact us,” Fitterer said.

This year, it is especially important due to the global



supply chain disruptions, Fitterer noted.

“We want to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call us in the early stages,” he said.

Building new?

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- **Location matters.** If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- **Start with a sustainable design plan.** A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General

Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.

- **Choose efficient building methods.** Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

Make energy-efficient upgrades

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak. In warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and keep insects at bay. ■



Mor-Gran-Sou offers scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering scholarships to qualifying seniors.

We continue to offer more scholarship opportunities to our graduating seniors. The applicants must be dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members. All scholarships will be awarded during the 2021-22 school year.

The co-op will award:

- Nine \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from schools within the service area whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op and attend a school within the service area.
- \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area.
- \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.
- \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction, for those pursuing a lineworker career.
- \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services, for those pursuing a career as a mechanic.
- \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 15. ■



When to apply

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m. MT) on Friday, Feb. 18.

Please deliver or mail all necessary information to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.

If you have questions or would like further information, please call Julie or Jackie at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

Safety at Mor-Gran-Sou

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others – before, during and after work. Did you know members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground.

Should you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@morgransou.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■





Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 15

Are you looking for a way to serve the people of central southwestern North Dakota? Look no further, as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative can help you fulfill that desire. Why not serve as a board director for the cooperative? The initial commitment is a three-year term, with provisions in the bylaws limiting a director to serving six consecutive three-year terms, after which time the director is not eligible for another six consecutive three-year terms until one year has elapsed.

At the annual meeting, the following three board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Vern Frederick;
- The Mandan area position presently held by Pam Geiger; and
- The Morton County position presently held by Jay Larson.

Under the bylaws and due to the use of a mail-in ballot, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Instead, the bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee of five to nine members who geographically represent the cooperative. These members will provide a list of qualified and willing candidates to the board for approval and inclusion on the ballot at the board of directors' meeting scheduled for March 23. This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate's biographical information to be included with the notice of meeting sent to the members in June, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in-person.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board and met for the first time Jan. 11. The members of the Nominating Committee include Jennifer Bonogofsky,

St. Anthony; Jackie Buckley, Mandan; Rosie Erhardt, Mandan; Curtis Feland, Almont; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Donald D. Roth, New Leipzig; and Yvonne Seidler, New Leipzig.

For a person to be nominated, the member vying for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou by 4 p.m. CT (3 p.m. MT) on Thursday, March 10. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Julie Armijo, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297.

If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or Julie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. You can also email Julie at jarmijo@morgransou.com.

The Nominating Committee members or Julie can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou's website; to download the form electronically, visit www.morgransou.com and click "Home/Your Power" in "Membership/Forms" and "Applications/Declaration of Candidacy Form." Candidate qualifications can be found at www.morgransou.com and click "Your Cooperative/Articles" and "Bylaws/Board of Directors/402 Director Qualification" or on the declaration of candidacy form.

If you have questions about the process, give Julie a call. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric office by the March 10 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board. ■

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 15. 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 15, and/or they can be presented in-person at one of the following in-person meetings of the Nominating Committee:

- March 15, in the Mor-Gran-Sou office boardroom in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT or virtually

If you wish to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, please forward it to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 15. Thank you. ■



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Dec. 15, 2021

- Approved Nov. 17, 2021, board meeting minutes.
- Approved two work order inventories and a special equipment capitalization.
- Approved 2022 budget.
- Accepted the cost-of-service study.
- Approved line-of-credit bridge loan.
- Approved warehouse lease agreement.
- Approved second amendment to purchase agreement with MCWRD.
- Approved annual Western States Power Corporation reauthorization of participation.
- Reviewed North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives president candidate letters.
- Reviewed the monthly directors' financial report.
- Reviewed the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative financial report for November.
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports.
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update and report on meetings attended.

- Authorized voting delegates and alternates for upcoming meetings.
- Heard director recaps on meetings/training attended.
- Reviewed update on Mandan building remodel.
- Heard West Dakota Utility Services holdings and 3C Construction updates.
- Held executive session.

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m. CT/9:30 a.m. MT, J&L Building, Bismarck

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at this time 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 Casey Wells or Co-General Manager/CEO 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 or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.



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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair.....Casey Wells
Vice Chair.....Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors Vernard Frederick,
Rodney Froelich, Jay Larson,
Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach, Steve Tomac

MANAGEMENT

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

www.morgransou.com



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

In observance of Presidents Day, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on **Feb. 21.**

Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.