



Wyatt Landeis, a Mandan High School student, will join 1,400 students from across the nation on this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Landeis wins trip to Washington, D.C.

For Wyatt Landeis, a Mandan High School student, an opportunity to travel and learn about our nation's capital is what persuaded him to apply for the North Dakota Youth Tour to Washington, DC.

"I'm looking forward to the experience as a way to get to see the world and see our capital and all of its attractions," Landeis said.

His knowledge, research and time spent writing an essay won him an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to see our nation's capital through the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative holds a contest to select one local high school sophomore or junior to attend the Youth Tour. The recipient will travel with other North Dakota teens, and join 1,400 students from across the nation during the Youth Tour. Participants will learn about cooperatives, visit with legislators at the Capitol, see the national monuments and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Meet Wyatt

Wyatt is the son of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members, Kim and Jason Landeis. He is involved in his

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community and many extracurricular activities, including band, Boy Scouts and DECA. During work, he also works as a host at Bennigan's, a restaurant located in Mandan.

Wyatt wrote this year's winning essay, answering the question, "If you were asked to help promote your cooperative's annual membership meeting, what ideas do you have for increasing attendance among young member-owners and students?"

Wyatt wrote:

How do you amp up a current? As a member of Boy Scouts, band and DECA, I've learned some different values and morals, some of which being: commitment to the community, working as a team and the value of hard work. Some of these align with Mor-Gran-Sou's core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to the community. As an electric cooperative, you have reached out with the marketing question of: "How do we amp up the current of youth and young members of Mor-Gran-Sou in our community meetings?" I propose some strategies and explanations of how to generate a youth response.

One way youth think is: "What do I get out of it?" A "voltage voucher" could be given out as credit toward electricity. This could be a door prize for members who bring their kids or for younger members. This could jolt the family into spending the saved money on each other. A different idea could be restaurant tickets or vouchers for family activities. These could be handed out to each person of a family or group, causing the number of participants to grow and to get families who eat out to plug in to our meetings.

A different concept to consider is where to have the meeting. I would propose a community space everyone knows and loves and not be restricted to a certain age group, such as, a local zoo, bowling alley, park or family restaurant. A particular venue to conduct an event is the Starion Sports Complex. This is a well-known place by teens that could hold a concert, a scavenger hunt or even a festival of sorts. The event could sponsor a local group in which the youth are active and would coincide with a Mor-Gran-Sou event. This would encourage those in the surrounding area to come and support the event.

This leads to a different style of event: entertainment. This could focus on making the meeting into an event and experience. Live music and competition are great ways of entertaining, as well as keeping the event age-friendly. As a musician in band, music has been a positive outlet for me. One thing that prevents the youth from listening



Wyatt Landeis is active in DECA at Mandan High School.

to live music is having it in an age-restricted setting, such as a bar. To have a live band playing would be an electrifying and an age-accommodating experience. On the flip side, having a competition could bring those who want an interactive outage. This could be a scavenger hunt, a bowling tournament or an "off-the-grid marathon." The activity should be somewhat suited for the youth and the community and could be paired with door prizes or voltage vouchers.

A common North Dakota activity is fishing and ice fishing. Hosting a fishing tournament would bring those from all three counties if located properly. This would attract those who enjoy fishing and those who want to show off their amazing fishing skills. This could lead to a prize available to winners. The prize could be collected as a suggested donation or entry fee at the beginning and would be given to the winners or raffled to participants. The money raised could also be put toward a charity. This would help Mor-Gran-Sou be observed as a community-based company.

Some board members may worry that these events will not be cost-effective. To counteract this, the entry fee could be split and used to pay event expenses, and as a prize or charity donation. Additional other attractions, such as a band, could be paid in freewill donations and exposure.

In conclusion, communicating these events to the youth will be successful through both social media and mailed flyers. Do both. Flyers or your newsletter accompanying the bill will target the family as a whole. That is where I found this writing contest! These ideas would help ground the younger target market in Mor-Gran-Sou. And by the way, if you use my ideas, I will be watching for them. I would gladly help you execute them as an intern or paid employee. I will also gladly spread the word on how these ideas were incubated. ■



Annual poster contest winners announced

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to receive a strong message from children in the area, as 87 posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest.

Students were instructed to concentrate on the following

topic: Show how Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has served members for 75 years.

The posters were judged by employees, and the winners include:

1



2



3



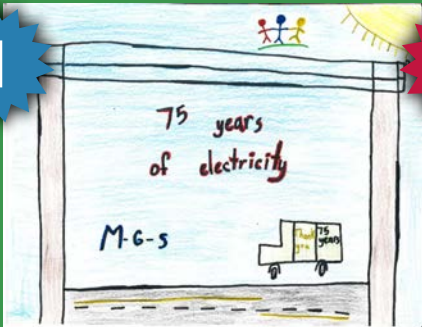
Preschool to kindergarten

First – Emerentiana Petersen, daughter of Andrew and Hayle Petersen, Mandan

Second – Cannon Schaff, son of Kari and Casey Schaff, Flasher

Third – Bernard Petersen, son of Andrew and Hayle Petersen, Mandan

1



2



3



First to third grade

First – McKenna Ruscheinsky, daughter of Alisha and Travis Ruscheinsky, Carson

Second – Clare Petersen, daughter of Andrew and Hayle Petersen, Mandan

Third – Kendric Nipe, son of Trina and Matt Nipe, Flasher

1



2



3



Fourth to sixth grade

First – Ty Meyer, son of Brandon and Courtney Meyer, Solen

Second – Sawyer Bravender, son of Jerry and Lindsey Bravender, Flasher

Third – Jaeger Boldt, son of Heidi Ostrem and C.J. Boldt, Flasher



Adam Gress



Clayton Marohl



Samantha Ellison



Jace Friesz



McKenzie Gerving



Jenna Gierke



Emily Morman



Meghanne Olsen

Mor-Gran-Sou awards scholarships to graduates

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative announces the student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of the cooperative. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

Basin Electric/Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship

The winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative scholarship award is **Adam Gress**. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2022. Adam is the son of Ben and Trina Gress, Mandan. Adam plans to attend North Dakota State University to pursue a degree in food science.

Mor-Gran-Sou/WDUS/3C Construction scholarship

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. Clayton is the son of Jonathan and Michelle Marohl, Solen. He plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science to pursue a degree in diesel technology.

There was no applicant for the 3C Construction scholarship.

Mor-Gran-Sou high school scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative offered a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area, for a total of six \$500 scholarships awarded. This year's recipients receiving \$500 in the fall of 2022 are:

- Elgin-New Leipzig Public School chose **Samantha Ellison**, daughter of Jeff Ellison.
- Flasher Public School chose **Jace Friesz**, son of Jade and Sonya Friesz.
- Glen Ullin Public School chose **McKenzie Gerving**, daughter of Mike and Carrie Gerving.
- Mandan Public School chose **Jenna Gierke**, daughter of Steven and Kristy Gierke.
- New Salem-Almont Public School chose **Emily Morman**, daughter of Tim and Tiffani Morman.
- Homeschool or school outside Mor-Gran-Sou's service territory: **Meghanne Olsen**, daughter of Blaine and Becky Olsen.

Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply, and congratulations to this year's winners! Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is proud to play a small role in supporting your educations and future careers. ■



Highway 21 Treasure Hunt celebrates 20 years

For over 20 years, people from near and far have been discovering treasures and supporting local businesses along the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt, a 100-mile rummage sale spanning from St. Anthony to New England. The event draws hundreds of visitors into the area each summer and has received national attention.

This year, it will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT

on June 17-18. The route features over 100 rummages sales, many of which are being hosted by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members.

“With 100 or more rummage sales along the 100-mile route, this unique rummage sale event was the first of its kind in North Dakota,” says Luann Dart, Elgin, who coordinates the event.

Participating communities along Highway 21 include St. Anthony, Flasher, Carson, Heil, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England.

“A small group of volunteers from each community spearheads the event each year, with advertising expenses covered with donations from local, civic-minded organizations,” Dart says. “Most recently, expenses were covered by the Hettinger County Job Development Authority and West River Telecommunications Cooperative.”

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 each 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.

“We always have some great rummage sales, so visitors are sure to find some treasures,” Dart says. For more information, contact Dart at 584-2172. ■

Safety starts with ME: Cody Maher

Last year in North Dakota, over 100,000 acres burned from grassfires and wildfires – a dramatic increase from previous years. The effects of a drought cycle have left North Dakotans more susceptible to fire.

“As your local cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou takes these growing threats seriously,” said Cody Maher, area foreman in Fort Yates. “Our cooperative has continuously embraced a proactive approach to fire prevention.”

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s goal is the safety of its members and the protection of the communities where they live. In 2021, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative began implementing a fire mitigation plan, which focused on practices and

strategies to minimize the possibility of fire.

The line crews routinely receive hazard recognition and fire extinguisher training. In addition to training, the trucks are equipped with fire extinguishers and flappers, and a 500-gallon water sprayer that can be used in extreme drought situations.

“We receive training from the statewide organization that creates a fire simulation, and we are required to put it out firsthand, using proper techniques,” Maher said.

In addition, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative works with other utilities and regional transmission operators to avoid fire issues, which may include not automatically reclosing the transmission line and breaker operations.



“Our employees are advised to be cautious and on the lookout for smoke and fire hazards while working, in addition to performing routine line patrols on the system to avoid any issues of trees or brush that may be near the distribution lines,” Maher said. ■



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Safety above all else



Travis Kupper

May is Electrical Safety Month. While we all depend on electricity to power our lives, accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

That is why safety is the top priority at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. Over time, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service to its member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners. But, more importantly, we want to return our employees home safely to their loved ones and keep our members safe. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has a safety coordinator whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. Our lineworkers follow specific protocols when dealing with electricity.

As importantly, we encourage all our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety. We examine the information and data gleaned from near misses and accident reports to discern patterns, and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors and their safety. We continue to share safety information with our members through our social media, website and our monthly "Safety Starts with

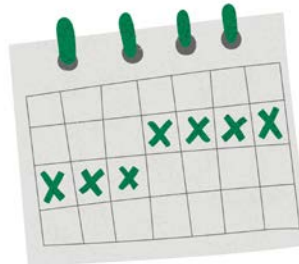
ME" articles, which can help members learn what they can do to stay safe.

With it being National Electrical Safety Month, we want to encourage you to keep electrical safety in mind. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes each year. Many of these accidents are preventable. There are many things you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity, including:

- Do not attempt to do electrical projects that could overload your outlets.
- Do not use any extension cords that are cracked, frayed or damaged.
- Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or pad-mounted transformers that look amiss.
- If you see anything that does not seem quite right, give us a call at the office or send us a picture at safety@morgransou.com.

Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety. ■

OPERATION ROUND UP DEADLINE APPROACHING



Be sure to submit your Operation Round Up application before May 10th!





Attend Mor-Gran-Sou's 75th annual meeting!

It's that time of year again. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2022 annual meeting, which will be held on July 15 at Fort Yates.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your board members.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food, games and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event. This year, we will also be unveiling something new you won't want to miss!

Your annual meeting is also the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by faraway investors, and it is not overseen by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is operated by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

At this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast (and maybe win a prize!), but you will feel good knowing that you had a voice in an important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources, electricity.

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

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for seven Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for three director positions up for reelection in July. In 2022, the three board positions sought include: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan area position, and one Morton County position.

The board of directors set March 10 the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 15. 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 23, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

Grant County

Scott Katus – Watauga
Ryan Petrick – Elgin
John Schmid – Carson
Myles Stoller – Elgin

Mandan Area

Pam Geiger – Mandan

Morton County

Mark Doll – New Salem
Curtis Feland – Almont

Bylaw amendment

The members will also be asked to approve a bylaw amendment this year to eliminate the term limits from the bylaws. The term limit provision only allows a board member to seek six consecutive three-year terms. The position of the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors is that term limits should be eliminated because a director is always subject to not being elected when the term expires. In addition, term limits may prevent a director from serving on national boards. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is the only North Dakota electric cooperative with term limits for its directors.

Mor-Gran-Sou offers another option for cooperative voting process for director/bylaw amendment

During this year's voting process for your cooperative directors and the bylaw amendment, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be introducing another voting option – online voting. As in the past, your cooperative will continue to offer the opportunity to vote by mail-in ballot or to vote in-person at the annual meeting July 15. If a member casts a timely vote prior to the meeting by mail or online, the member will not receive a ballot at the annual meeting.

Members will receive an annual meeting report with banquet RSVP form around June 1. Online or electronic voting will be offered through SmartHub. For those of you who have not used SmartHub and wish to use this free resource, please visit www.morgransou.com and click on "Your Account" and register to use SmartHub.

In a separate, second mailing, members will receive a voting packet after June 15 with voting instructions for all three options. Please keep an eye out for it and vote by mail or online, unless you know you will be attending the annual meeting. ■



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 23

- Approved Feb. 16 board meeting minutes
- Approved capital credit retirement applications for estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed the monthly directors' financial report
- Reviewed the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative financial report for February
- Reviewed update on Mandan building remodel and costs to date
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update and report on meetings attended
- Heard director recaps on meetings attended
- Heard report on Nominating Committee meetings
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative minutes and summary
- Approved amendment to board governance policy, election of board members
- Approved deadline for mailing ballots and deadline for postmark on mail ballots/receipt of electronic ballots
- Approved bylaw amendment to section 404 Tenure, to be submitted to the membership for approval
- Accepted resignation of M. Curtis Feland from the Nominating Committee
- Approved the 2022 candidates for the board of directors
- Confirmed review and approval of the current Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- Reviewed and discussed Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) savings to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative
- Had a virtual presentation from the Cooperative Finance Corporation on bitcoin and blockchain
- Reviewed unapproved minutes from the IEA and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC) reorganization meetings

- Recapped IEA annual meeting and IEA and MSC annual membership meetings
- Reviewed and accepted choice of the new Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative logo
- Reviewed update on North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives remodeling projects
- Discussed strategic planning preparation
- Held executive session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- May 25, 9:30 a.m. CT/8:30 a.m. MT, J&L Building, Bismarck

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Due to COVID-19, 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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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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

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