



# C@RRRRENT NEWS

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**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Kathy Tokach, Steve Tomac

#### Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund  
Travis Kupper

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

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*Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative  
is dedicated to providing affordable,  
reliable energy and services that support  
and unite our member-owners.*

*We also aspire to meet the Touchstone  
Energy® Cooperative core values of  
integrity, innovation, accountability and  
commitment to community.*

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative Inc.  
is an equal opportunity provider.

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: THANK A LINEWORKER ON APRIL 11



If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Mor-Gran-Sou, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure

our members receive uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb high up in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of their home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home?

This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most

visible employees at Mor-Gran-Sou, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and answer your questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Mor-Gran-Sou, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 11, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you’ll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

Travis Kupper

## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: WAYDE ECKROTH

Wayde Eckroth, grew up on his family ranch near Flasher, North Dakota. He enjoys hunting, fishing and the great outdoors. He is also an active member of Mandan and a lineworker for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

One of the things Eckroth likes best about North Dakota, and Mor-Gran-Sou service territory is the natural beauty that surrounds us. "We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife," said Eckroth.

"As a member of the local community, and a lineman at Mor-Gran-Sou, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way," said Eckroth.

Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree.

"First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of my co-workers and line workers above all else," said Eckroth.



Wayde Eckroth | Journeyman Lineman | Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

**SAFETY STARTS WITH ME**

A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages.

#### Members can help by:

- Planting new trees and vegetation away from the power lines and pad mount transformers, avoiding future issues
- Call the co-op if you notice that you have vegetation growing near the power lines.

## THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Get to know our dedicated lineworker in this month's issue of North Dakota Living.

## CO-OP NIGHT WITH THE BISMARCK BUCKS!

Join Mor-Gran-Sou Electric for Co-op Night, as the Bismarck Bucks take on the San Diego Strike. As a sponsor, Mor-Gran-Sou members are invited to redeem a FREE general admission ticket by visiting our website!

The game will take place on May 1.

## CO-OP MEMBERS ADDRESSES NEEDED

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative needs new addresses to mail members their capital credit allocation statements and/or capital credit check written last year.

Within the current issue of North Dakota Living, Mor-Gran-Sou members and their current address on file (last known address) were mailed allocation statements and/or checks that were returned from the Post Office because



it was, "not a deliverable address," "unable to forward" or "attempted not known."

If you know of a current address, please call the Mor-Gran-Sou office at (701) 597-3301, 1-800-750-8212 or (701) 663-0297. Persons who wish to claim checks from the list should be prepared to provide proper identification.

