



# CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

AUGUST 2015

NEWS



## 'Keep calm and co-op on'

*Julie Armijo (right), member services clerk, Jackie Miller (left), chief of staff/manager of member services, and Darren Stastny (center), safety coordinator of Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC, represented Mor-Gran-Sou at the parade.*

Neighboring Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives joined forces to show the “Power of Human Connections” at the Independence Day parade in Mandan. More than 70 employees from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Capital Electric Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives and National Information Solutions Cooperative handed out candy to the many co-op member-owners and their families who lined the street. Taking part in the parade is one way our area cooperatives show their Touchstone Energy commitment to community, and thank the military men and women who serve this great nation so that we can be free.

The theme of this year’s parade was, “Show Your Colors ... Red, White & Blue.” The cooperatives integrated the theme with their own: “Keep calm and co-op on.” ■

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- Summer storm causes damage
- Thanks, members, for attending your annual meeting
- NISC expands to accommodate growth
- Meeting minutes ... and more!



# POWER IS A PRIVILEGE

## One of many Youth Tour lessons

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

When he was in Washington, D.C., on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in June, Andrew Schafer attended a presentation on rural electrification. He listened to a lineman describe his trip to Haiti, in which he helped bring power to an underserved nation. The lineman talked about how after Haiti was energized, a child flew a kite too close to a power line and was electrocuted.

The presentation only lasted an hour. But the information Schafer learned that day will stay with him for a lifetime. It made him think about what it would be like to not have electricity, and how many people do not know the benefits and dangers associated with voltage. It also made him think about one day becoming a lineman and helping others. Schafer, a senior at Flasher Public School, learned that power is a privilege.

The son of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Mark and Nola Schafer, Andrew won the Youth Tour essay-writing contest and week-long tour of our nation's capital when he answered the following question, "If you were asked to influence other students your age to become more actively involved in their electric cooperative, including attending the annual meeting, what would you tell them, and why?" After attending the



PHOTO BY NDARECILIZA KESSEL

rural electrification seminar on Haiti while on the Youth Tour, Andrew could write another essay with an international perspective.

Andrew represented Mor-Gran-Sou and the state of North Dakota while on the trip. In addition to learning more about electric cooperatives, he toured monuments and museums, visited with our state's congressional delegation, and made a real connection with what he has already learned in school about U.S. history and American Government.

Some of the trip's highlights included the Library of Congress,

which impressed Andrew with its beautiful architecture and attention to detail. He toured the Smithsonian and enjoyed the exhibit, "The Last American Dinosaurs: Discovering a Lost World" in the Natural History Museum.

"I've always loved dinosaurs!" he says.

His favorite part of the Youth Tour was visiting Arlington National Cemetery and watching the solemn Changing of the Guard.

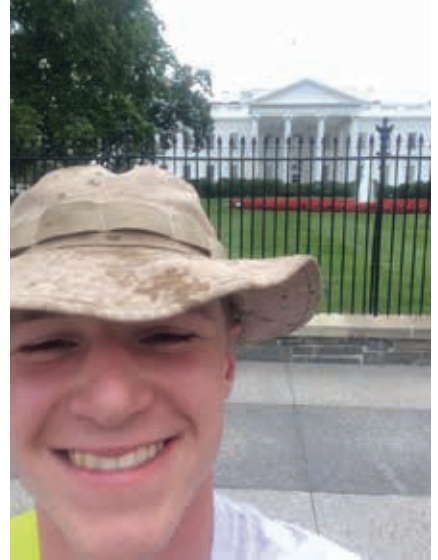
"That was pretty sweet," he reflects.

In meeting with the state's congressional delegates, Andrew says



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Andrew Schafer** thanks the Mor-Gran-Sou membership for sponsoring an "awesome" trip.



**Andrew Schafer's** "selfie" in front of the White House.

he connected to Congressman Kevin Cramer the most because he gave brief, to-the-point answers, and was really personable.

While on the tour, Andrew says

he was busy all day, all week. While the students saw and did so much, there is so much more to see and do. Andrew says he is already looking forward to a time when he can return

to Washington, D.C., and see some of his favorite attractions again, as well as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

Andrew says the overall tour and experience exceeded his expectations.

"Thanks! Thanks a lot! It was awesome," Andrews says to the Mor-Gran-Sou membership who sponsored the trip. He encourages students to apply for future Youth Tours, and says the work in writing the short essay is so well worth the experience.



## Thank you, Director Gaebe!

Robert Gaebe has served on the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. board of directors for 9 years. He chose not to seek re-election at this year's annual meeting. Over the years, his expertise and concern for the membership and employees has been appreciated. Mor-Gran-Sou thanks you, Director Gaebe, and wishes you well.

Watch for a story on Bob Gaebe in a future issue of the *North Dakota Living* magazine. ■



The June 21 wind and rain storm snapped 16 power poles north and east of New Salem.

## Summer storm causes damage

BY JACKIE MILLER

**M**or-Gran-Sou has completed rebuilding a number of structures that were damaged following the June 21 storm. At one point, more than 2,400 meters lost power as the torrential rain and gusty wind hit the area Sunday evening. Crews were dispatched and power restoration began. Power was restored to all consumers by midnight.

Much of the damage occurred north and east of New Salem. Mor-Gran-Sou lost eight single power poles on its 115-kilovolt (KV) transmission line located east of New Salem and running parallel to I-94, and also four 115-KV H-structures on the transmission line running north to the Leland Olds Station. Mor-Gran-Sou members who normally receive service from the damaged lines were being back-fed from an alternate source within the Mor-Gran-Sou grid system. This has also been set back to the normal feed.

Thank you, members, for your patience as we worked through this storm damage.

Mother Nature causes power outages in the summertime, too! Make sure your generator is safe and ready for operation — before the power goes out. ■



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVENEY

During the annual meeting, Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer **Donald Franklund** noted Mor-Gran-Sou's commitment to safety, and discussed membership growth, and monitoring and building infrastructure to accommodate that growth.

## Thanks, members!

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors, management staff and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending the 68th annual meeting of the membership held July 17. We appreciate the interest you continue to show in your electric cooperative!

This year, Mor-Gran-Sou members were asked to vote for three board directors: one for the At-Large position, one for the Morton County position and one for the Sioux County position. Incumbents Mark Doll, New Salem, and Chad Harrison, Fort Yates, retained their positions on the board. Doll is the At-Large representative and Harrison is the Sioux County representative. New to the board is Bonnie Tomac, St. Anthony, who will serve her first three-year board term as representative for Morton County. She fills the position previously held by Robert Gaebe, who chose not to seek re-election. We thank Kevin Fishbeck, Clyde Howe and Richard C. Tokach for campaigning to serve their electric cooperative, and for being active and involved cooperative members.

To learn more about Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting, read a complete summary in the September local pages of *North Dakota Living*. ■



# NISC expands to accommodate growth

PROVIDED IN PART BY NISC



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVENEY

The groundbreaking was marked by speeches given by NISC President and Chief Executive Officer **Vern Dosch** (pictured), NISC Board of Directors Chairman **John Smith** and Mayor of Mandan **Arlyn Van Beek**.

**N**ational Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), a leading provider of technology solutions to utility and telecommunications organizations worldwide, broke ground June 24 for its newest building at the Mandan campus. The 33,000-square-foot expansion will accommodate the demands of a growing organization, offering additional office space, meeting rooms, a dining facility and fitness center. It will also connect all buildings on the campus.

The Mandan location, one of four NISC campuses in the United States, has been the North Dakota campus of the information technology cooperative since 1966 and is home to more than 400 employees.

Due to the continued steady growth of the IT cooperative, NISC expects to add 70 employees over the next five years.

Vern Dosch, NISC president and chief executive officer, said, "The expansion of our Mandan campus will allow us

to better serve our membership and create a positive work experience for our employees."

Jasper Schneider, vice president of member engagement at NISC, added that breaking ground on a larger facility reflects NISC's commitment to a growing membership and to North Dakota.

Chris Baumgartner, co-general manager and chief executive officer of Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC, says Mor-Gran-Sou has always been proud to serve the NISC campus. "NISC is not only a member, but a tremendous cooperative partner. We look forward to working together to meet their expansion needs for many years to come," he says.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was one of the original 13 electric cooperatives in North Dakota to help create NISC. NISC's predecessor organizations were formed by entities whose origins and success today are based on self-reliance. Centralizing the data processing services for rural electric and telecommunications cooperatives was the result of a shared vision among industry leaders in the early 1960s. The goal was to help rural electric cooperatives and telephone companies operate more efficiently and effectively by developing jointly owned IT support centers. ■



From left, NISC Team Lead Automated Mailroom Operations and Facilities **Jim Keller**, NISC Board of Directors Chairman **John Smith** and Mandan Mayor **Arlyn Van Beek** shoveled the ceremonial dirt.



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



**Chaysen Boldt** placed 12th in the Rifle Shoot. He is the son of Heidi and CJ Boldt, who are Mor-Gran-Sou members from Carson.

**Chanci Kraft** placed 8th in Breakaway Roping. She is the daughter of Jason and Cody Kraft, who are Mor-Gran-Sou members from Carson.

# RODEO RECAP

The National High School Rodeo Association held the Junior High Nationals in De Moines, Iowa, June 21 to 28. During the world's-largest junior high rodeo, more than 1,000 students competed for thousands of dollars in prizes and college scholarships.

In last month's local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members read about Clay Roper Gerhardt, an eighth-grade student who competes in the N.D. Junior High Rodeo. Clay is the son of Mor-Gran-Sou members Lance and Tina Gerhardt from northwest of Mandan.

For the first time, Clay had qualified for the Junior High Nationals in four events including Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Steers Saddlebronc and Steers Bareback.

After the national competition, Clay's mother sent Mor-Gran-Sou staff an email, telling them that while Clay had "no luck" making the short go, "It was a great experience and tough competition."

Mor-Gran-Sou is still proud of Clay for qualifying and competing. With more experience under his belt, we

know that Clay, and horses Rosy and Toad, may return to nationals and place next year.

To read the results of the National Junior High Finals Rodeo, visit [www.nhsra.com/2015-NJHFR-Info-and-Results-1](http://www.nhsra.com/2015-NJHFR-Info-and-Results-1).

## North Dakota's ranking

Collectively, North Dakota's girls placed 11th at nationals, and the boys placed 14th. Mor-Gran-Sou congratulates ALL the students who competed! We know there were many participants across our service area including Chaysen Boldt and Chanci Kraft of Carson. While we are unable to highlight each student and accomplishment, please know that we are proud of your determination and hard work.

## National High School Finals Rodeo

The National High School Finals Rodeo was held July 12-18 in Rock Springs, Wyo. To read the results, visit [www.nhsra.com/2015-NHSFR-Info-and-Results-1](http://www.nhsra.com/2015-NHSFR-Info-and-Results-1). ■



# Plan farm shop for energy efficiency

The farm shop is one of the busiest buildings on a farmstead. When building a new shop or adding to a shop, certain steps will keep energy use to a minimum. Questions to ask include:

## Is insulation adequate in the walls, ceiling and doors?

Install insulation with an R-30 to R-40 value in the ceiling and R-18 value in the sidewalls. Doors should have an R-value of 10 to 12 (2 inches of foam insulation).

## Do you have a minimal amount of windows in the shop?

Keep the number and size of windows to a minimum. They increase heat loss and limit useable wall space for tools.

## Do the doors fit tightly to limit air infiltration?

Install weatherstripping if doors do not fit tightly. Air infiltration wastes the most energy in many buildings.

## Do you have good economical lighting in the shop?

Good overhead lighting is a necessity in a shop. Use T-8 fluorescent lamps for economical lighting that will keep electricity use to a minimum and give good lighting to work on equipment.

## Do large shop doors face south or east?

Install large doors for bringing machinery in and out of the shop so they face away from prevailing winter winds. Prevailing winter winds are usually from the northwest. Installing the large doors facing south or east will prevent a considerable amount of heat loss when doors are opened.

## Do you have a dense shelterbelt on the west and north sides of your farmstead?

Dense shelterbelts reduce the wind velocity and the energy needed to heat the shop. Short, dense trees should be located on the edge of the shelterbelt and taller trees in the middle. Shelterbelts should be a minimum of 200 feet from the shop or other buildings to reduce snow from building up.

Source: NDSU Extension. To learn more, visit [www.extension.org/pages/30409/farm-shop-energy-efficiency-checklist-and-tips](http://www.extension.org/pages/30409/farm-shop-energy-efficiency-checklist-and-tips).

# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



**Meeting date: June 25, 2015**

- Approved the May 27, 2015 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved applications for refund of capital credits to those age 80 and over
- Heard Co-General Managers'/Chief Executive Officers' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA)
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Heard Mor-Gran-Sou damage report from Sunday's storm
- Accepted members to serve on the 2015 Election Committee
- Assigned director to serve as board representative to the Election Committee
- Accepted financial report from Chief Financial Officer
- Approved 2014 margin allocation
- Approved donation to Adult Abused Resource Center and request for matching funds
- Approved National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) resolution for loan agreement
- Affixed signatures on CFC and CoBank loan documentation
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed Mor-Gran-Sou's Safety Committee and regular safety meeting minutes
- Chose attendees/voting delegate for upcoming meetings
- Accepted director's financial report for May
- Heard director reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

### Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

Aug. 26 at the Fort Yates Service Center at 9 a.m. CT

Sept. 30 at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck at 9 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at [cternes@morgransou.com](mailto:cternes@morgransou.com), or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Leland "Judge" Barth or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund 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](http://www.morgransou.com) or call the office for a copy.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS:

The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 7 contains a line item indicating your 2014 capital credit allocation. The information shown on that billing statement is not the retirement, but the allocation. This is the only statement you will receive concerning your 2014 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2014 allocation.

### What is a capital credit allocation?

This information is provided each year as an official record of your capital credits. Since Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative, at the end of each year we allocate all our profits (the money left over after all expenses are paid) to you, our member-owners, based on how much energy you bought during the year. These allocations are called capital credits. By allocation, we mean that we assign your share of the margins to a holding account in your name. Capital credits are used by your cooperative for operating funds, and at some later date paid back to members as the financial condition of the cooperative permits. These amounts are not payable at this time and do not represent cash, but rather your equity in our cooperative.



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### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Leland "Judge" Barth  
Vice Chair..... Casey Wells  
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger  
Directors ..... Mark Doll,  
Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,  
Chad Harrison, Bob J. Leingang,  
Bonnie Tomac

### MANAGEMENT

Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Chris Baumgartner  
Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Donald A. Franklund

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## HOLIDAY CLOSING MONDAY, SEPT. 7

In observance of the Labor Day Holiday in September, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7. Members, line crews will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.