



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

JANUARY 2016

NEWS

Happy New Year, from Mor-Gran-Sou

Whether you're driving a hot rod or pushing a box of Hot Wheels, we hope 2016 finds you safe and happy.

Jackson and Olivia Ternes are the children of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Kyle and Becky Ternes and grandchildren of Cindy and Farley Ternes.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

In this issue:

- **Consider serving as a board director for Mor-Gran-Sou**
- **Bill payment options**
- **Student scholarships available**
- **Youth Tour deadline approaching**
- **Former lineman shares career highlights**
- **Meeting minutes and more**



Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 15, 2016

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 Leland "Judge" Barth; and
- The Morton County position presently held by Pam Geiger.

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 30. 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 will meet for the first time, set for Jan. 13. The members of the Nominating Committee include Leslie Dirk, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Kathy Hoff, Leith; Jim Hopfauf, Flasher; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Lisa McLaughlin, Fort Yates; Rodney Nelson, Almont; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

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: Jackie Miller, 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 Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301. You can also email Jackie at jlmler@morgransou.com.

The Nominating Committee members or Jackie can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou's website at www.morgransou.com. To download the form electronically, click on the link entitled Find the Declaration of Candidacy form on the home page. Candidate qualifications can be found on the website under Home/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 Jackie a call. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou office by the March 10 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board. ■

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested on the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at 202-690-7442 or by email at program.intake@usda.gov.



Co-op scholarships available for high school graduates



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 four \$500 scholarships to qualifying seniors.

The scholarship program, sponsored by Mor-Gran-Sou and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of the children of cooperative members. To qualify, students must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year

college, university or vocational/technical school. They must be U.S. citizens and dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members.

As in past years, Mor-Gran-Sou will offer four scholarships. Two of the four are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. We ask that the applicant specify which scholarship award he or she is requesting.

Recipients will be chosen on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average; activities, achievements and honors; work experience; a personal statement of career goals; an essay question centered on local cooperatives and how they serve the area; and an appraisal from

a high school or college counselor or adviser, instructor or a work supervisor who knows the student well.

The scholarship will be awarded during the 2015-2016 school year. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at www.morgransou.com.

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on Wednesday, Feb. 17. 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. ■

Mor-Gran-Sou announces annual safety poster contest

Kids, we need your help! Grab your art supplies and draw a poster that tells our readers how you play and work safely around electricity. This poster should display a clear, creative picture of this year's theme: "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® logo on their entries. No matter what you draw, have fun! We can't wait to hear from you. Cash prizes will be awarded in each division.

DIVISIONS:

Preschool to kindergarten
First grade to third grade
Fourth grade to sixth grade

DEADLINE:

Posters must be received at the Flasher office no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on **Monday, Feb. 29.**

RULES:

- Posters must be on white, 8.5- by 11-inch paper.
- Posters must depict the theme, "How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?" and display the Touchstone Energy logo. Be creative!
- Print the child's name, address, age and parent's names on the back of the posters.
- Enclose a photograph of the child for publishing purposes.
- Only dependents of current Mor-Gran-Sou members are eligible for this contest.

PRIZES:

Each division will be awarded three prizes (nine prizes total): three first-place prizes of \$15; three, second-



place prizes of \$10; and three, third-place prizes of \$5.

WINNERS:

Winning posters, along with the child's photograph, will be featured in the Mor-Gran-Sou local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine. ■



Hoskins retires

North Star GM says being a lineworker like no other job

PUBLISHED IN THE JULY-AUGUST ISSUE OF THE
MINNKOTA MESSENGER

REPRINTED IN PART WITH PERMISSION FROM
MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE

Dan Hoskins climbed the utility ladder to general manager at North Star Electric Cooperative. Yet the love for climbing poles for a utility has never left him.

Unbeknownst to many who worked with him at North Star, Hoskins has a good-size tattoo of a lineworker and an American flag on his right upper arm.

“If I have one thing that’s the highlight of my career, it’s having been a lineman,” Hoskins said on his last day as North Star general manager in June. “I loved my job as the CEO, but . . .”

He never finished the sentence. There was no need. Hoskins came to Baudette, Minn., home of North Star, in 2002 after 23 years at Mor-Gran-Sou Cooperative in Flasher. When he spoke about his days as a lineworker for Mor-Gran-Sou, the excitement in his voice revealed his passion.

One morning at Mor-Gran-Sou, he received a 2:30 a.m. call about an incident in which a yard light had broken off a pole, fell and burned out a transformer. With bitter cold and a stiff wind, the wind chill was 90 degrees below, and Hoskins was forced to climb the pole three times to get the job done. “You couldn’t stay out there; it was just too cold,” he said.

“When the lights came on, I could hear the kids in the trailer screaming and hollering,” he continued. “They were excited. This was at 3 o’clock in the morning. After I got down I walked over there and knocked on the door, and asked if everything was fine



and they said, 'Yes, but you have to come in. The kids want you to come in.'

"So my co-worker and I went in and had cookies and hot chocolate. I sat and had one of their kids on my lap, and we were chatting. ... I just love being a lineman." He says.

Hoskins also loves working for cooperatives.

"I will miss the family part of it," he said. "The employees are great people and they take care of the members, and the members are so devoted to their cooperative. It's a good combination between the two of us and our board of directors."

Hoskins started as a field technician dragging a steel tape through the prairies of North Dakota. He also worked in right-of-way and was operations manager among other Mor-Gran-Sou duties before coming to North Star.

He has a similar love for golf as he does for line work. While in Flasher, he and a friend, Lee Fitterer, were instrumental in getting the sand greens golf course converted to grass greens and installing an irrigation system.

Hoskins was also key in getting grants from the United States Golf Association to help pay for course

improvements. In addition, he helped Baudette upgrade its golf course from 9 to 18 holes with an irrigation system.

"He's a go-getter," Fitterer said. "That man never, ever backs down from anything. If there was a will to do it, he would find a way."

In retirement, Hoskins plans to spend time on the golf course and with his family. He and wife, Sharon, have two children: son Sharbee (wife Michelle) and daughter Brittany (husband Scott) and two grandchildren, Hudson and Harper. ■



It pays to have options

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members can pay for electric service online, over the phone, by mail or by visiting their local office. We understand our members want choices, and Mor-Gran-Sou provides convenient options.

WEB ACCESS

The "My Account" SmartHub Web is available on www.morgransou.com and gives you full access to your account information, including some additional features not available through SmartHub mobile. From there you can view, print or pay your bill, review account history and usage, set up auto pay or paperless billing, and change your address or phone number.

MOBILE ACCOUNT ACCESS

Using the SmartHub App delivers consumers with convenient access to account information like monthly usage, payment history, quick bill pay and more. This safe and secure App is available for iOS (iPhone, iPad) and Android users, and it takes less than three minutes to set up. With people everywhere relying more and more on their mobile devices, we're pleased to offer this quick solution to help members easily manage their electric accounts.

A PHONE CALL AWAY..

Members can check account balances, set up auto pay and pay their bill 24 hours a day by calling **1-877-853-5865**.

SET IT ON AUTO...

The Automatic Payment Plan allows you to pay your monthly electric bill, as an electronic transfer of funds, from a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card. The payment will be made automatically on or around the 15th of each month.

LEVELIZE IT...

Concerned about balancing monthly expenses? Levelized budget billing is a billing method whereby the member's bill is recalculated every month based on the past 12-month's bills, and the amount due will fluctuate. The amount will change each month, but since it is an average, it is not a big change from month to month.

EARN CREDIT BY GOING ELECTRONIC...

Members have the option of receiving a \$1-per-month credit by agreeing to receive their bill electronically and a \$1 credit to members who have their payment automatically withdrawn from their checking or savings account on the 15th of each month.

UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES Toll Free: 1-877-795-0555 Or 911

Visit us online at
WWW.MORGANSOU.COM

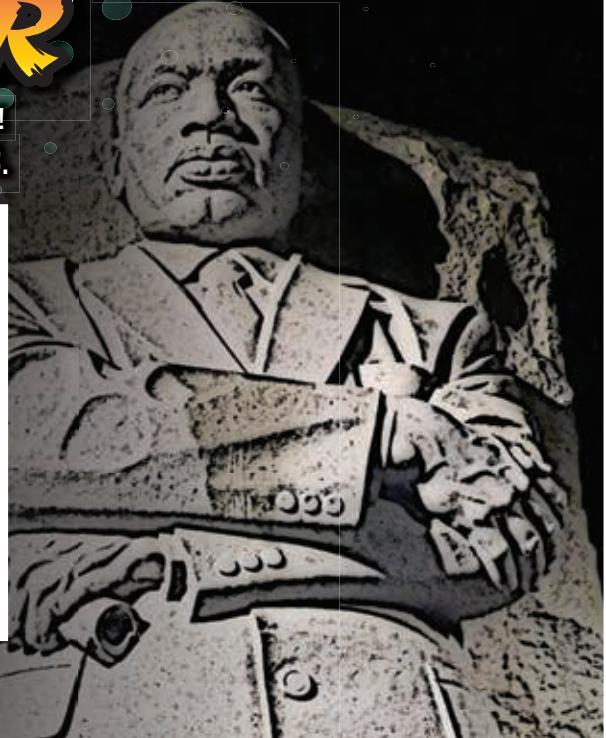


JUNE 11 to 17, 2016

North Dakota Electric Cooperative **YOUTH TOUR**

**HIGH SCHOOL
SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS**

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.



- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- If you have questions, contact Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-597-3301 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 29, 2016. Emailed entries should be directed to jlmliller@morgransou.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.

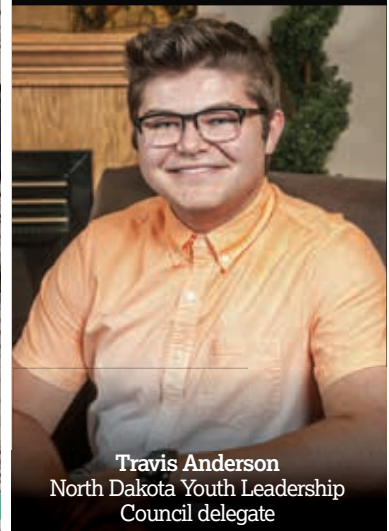
ESSAY QUESTION:

"Pick one of the four Touchstone Energy® core values — innovation, integrity, accountability or commitment to community — and describe how you see this in action at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative."

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

Click the link below to find out why you should write an essay for the 2016 Youth Tour.
www.youtube.com/ndarec



Travis Anderson
North Dakota Youth Leadership Council delegate

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop



winter

4 Seasons of Safety

As we snuggle into our homes during the winter season, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative shares some safety tips.

Use your space heater safely

Many people turn to space heaters as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

- Keep the heater at least three feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture or bedspreads.
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Always unplug the heater when it is not in use. Never go to sleep with a space heater still operating.
- Do not use an extension cord or power strip with a space heater.

Use portable generators safely

During an unexpected power outage, a portable generator can keep us comfortable until power is restored. But if not operated properly, a generator can quickly become dangerous.

What's the first rule? Never, ever use a generator indoors – even with windows open – or in an enclosed area, including an attached garage. Locate the generator where fumes cannot filter into your home through windows or doors – even 15 feet is too close.

- To avoid risk of shock, use your generator only on a dry surface where rain or snow can't leak or puddle underneath.

- For stationary generators that are permanently installed, a licensed electrician will need to install a "transfer switch" that complies with the National Electric Code. The switch safely cuts the electricity to the power lines.
- Shut down the generator and let it cool down before you refuel – gasoline or kerosene spilled on a hot generator could start a fire.

Other safety precautions

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Replace any electrical tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Use safety closures to child-proof electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family. ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Nov. 23, 2015

- Approved the Oct. 28, 2015 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates
- Heard update on the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan
- Reviewed and approved 2016 Budget
- Reviewed and approved the Mor-Gran-Sou/Basin Electric Power Services Agreement
- Approved rate adjustment plus demand increase pass-through for commercial accounts effective Jan. 1, 2016
- Discussed residential rate increase for 2016
- Elected a Mor-Gran-Sou director to the Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA) Board of Directors, and assigned first and second alternates
- Agreed to hold the Basin Electric District 9 Caucus at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Regional meeting
- Agreed to invite the Mor-Gran-Sou Nominating Committee for lunch and discussion at January board meeting
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on the IEA
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed safety meeting minutes and safety reports
- Reviewed and accepted director's and attorney's financial report for October
- Heard director reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

Jan. 27 in the NDAREC Board room
in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT

Feb. 24 at Mor-Gran-Sou
in Flasher at 10:30 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location 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, or contact the office for a copy.

Take the brrrr out of starting a cold vehicle

Will your vehicle start Monday morning when it's 30 degrees below zero? When your vehicle doesn't start due to frigid temperatures, it can be frustrating. That's why most North Dakotans use an engine block heater on their vehicles. Engine block heaters keep your vehicle's motor warm, allowing an easy start on those cold mornings. But there are some considerations when using an engine block heater. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative offers these tips:

- Don't overload a circuit by plugging your engine block heater into just any outlet. A simple formula will help you decide how many watts one circuit can handle. Divide the wattage of the engine block heater by 120 volts to find out how many amps will be used. If you plug a 640-watt engine block heater into a 120-volt outlet, you are using 5.33 amps. Circuit breakers are rated in amps, so make sure the circuit has enough amps to carry the additional load. It might be best to use an exterior outlet that is protected by one circuit breaker and has ample capacity.
- If the engine block heater has a three-prong plug, don't alter it. Always leave the plug intact and attach extension cords correctly.
- If you use an extension cord outdoors, make sure it is a heavy-duty extension cord rated for outdoor use.
- Warming your engine all night and sometimes all day can use a significant amount of electricity. For better energy efficiency, purchase a timer for your block heater. A timer allows you to automatically turn the engine heater to on-and-off intervals according to your specifications.



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..... 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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 