



## What does **a million dollars** look like?



### In this issue:

- Nominating Committee approves candidate list for board of directors
- Scholarship recipients and safety poster coloring contest winners announced
- Check out Mor-Gran-Sou's new website!
- SmartHub payment updates
- Meeting minutes and more!

**A solid start for crops and cattle in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area.**

A timely "million-dollar" rain soaked the counties of Morton, Grant and Sioux the third week in April. Farmers and ranchers welcomed the moisture, although it stressed some of the young livestock and caused extra work for their caregivers.

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVENEY



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

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for eight Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for election in July. In 2016, the three board positions sought include: one Grant County position, one for the Mandan Area position, and one for the Morton County position.

The board of directors set March 10 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 22. 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 30, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

**Grant County:**

Vernard Frederick, Flasher  
Delwin Petrick, Elgin

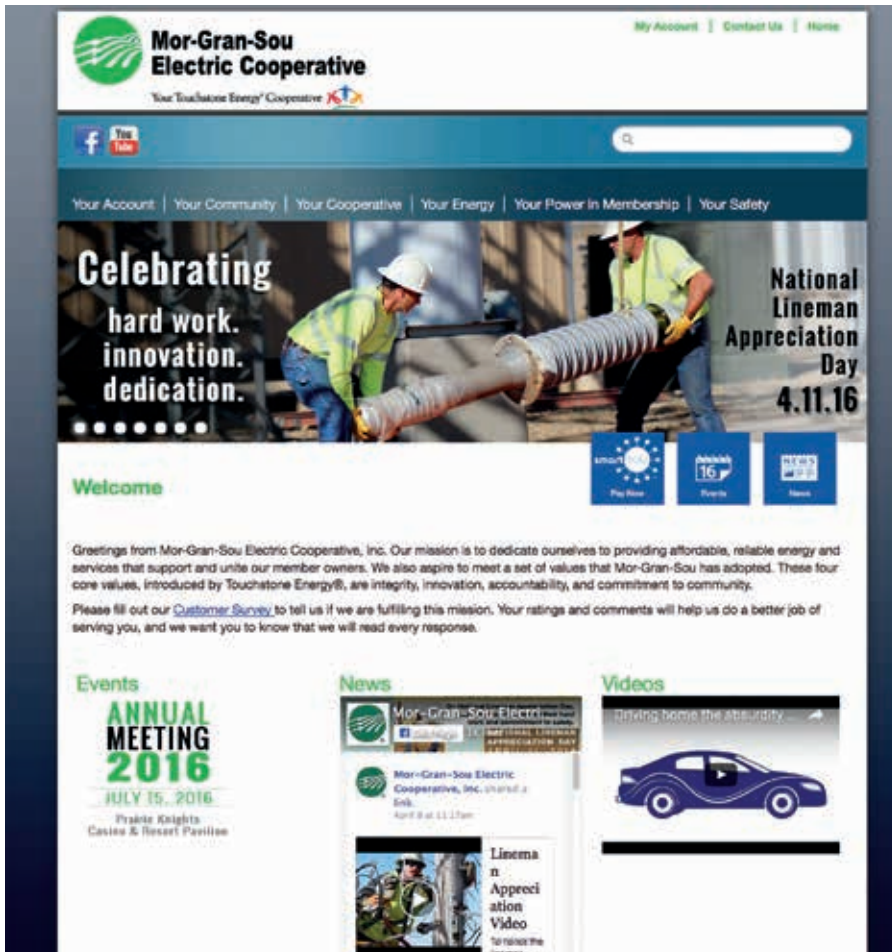
**Mandan Area:**

Leland Barth, Mandan  
Cody J. Hatzenbuhler, Mandan  
Clyde Howe, Mandan

**Morton County:**

Dennis Dutke, Mandan  
Jay Larson, Almont  
Travis Wolf, Mandan

A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed in late June. ■



## Introducing our new website

If you recently visited Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's website, you may have noticed our new look. This newly designed website better captures Mor-Gran-Sou's commitment to providing safe and reliable electric service, and shows how we are dedicated to fulfilling the electrical needs of today's and tomorrow's members. Whether you are making a payment, researching your daily or monthly kilowatt-hour usage, wanting to contact us electronically or catching up on the cooperative news, you can find it here.

As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we're always looking to improve the member's experience. Please take a few minutes to check out the new site at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) and give us your feedback. ■



DOLL



LENNIE



MILLER

## Mor-Gran-Sou awards scholarships to graduates

BY JACKIE MILLER

**M**or-Gran-Sou is pleased to announce the winners of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative scholarship awards. Exemplifying the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou offers four \$500 scholarship awards; two of the four scholarships are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. Those receiving a \$500 scholarship in the fall of 2016 include: Krysten Doll, New Salem; Mikayla Lennie, New Salem; Leslie Miller, St. Anthony; and Amber Morrell, Mandan.

Krysten Doll plans to attend Bismarck State College (BSC) and work toward an elementary education

degree. Her parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Donna and David Doll of New Salem.

Mikayla Lennie is also planning to attend BSC. She will enroll in the pre-respiratory therapy program. Mikayla's parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Faye and Jeff Lennie of New Salem.

Leslie Miller plans to earn a degree in actuarial science at the University of Minnesota – Moorhead. Her parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Val and Dale Miller of St. Anthony.

Amber Morrell, in pursuit of an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, plans to attend the University of Mary in Bismarck. Her parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Mary and Raymond Morrell of Mandan.

We congratulate Krysten, Mikayla, Leslie and Amber on winning this year's scholarship awards. Mor-Gran-Sou wishes them and all graduating seniors well on their plans for the future. ■



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# Safety poster contest winners announced;

## Area youth offer ideas on safety around electricity

**M**or-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to receive a strong message from children in the area, as 91 posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest. The posters were judged by employees during the all-employee meeting in March.

Students were instructed to concentrate on the following topic: *How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?*

We had a wide variety of scenes showing safety around the home and farm communities.

Mor-Gran-Sou hopes the contest made the students more aware of their responsibility in practicing safety around electricity. We wish our young people a great summer, and remind them to stay safe when working or playing around electricity.

This year's winners include:

### Preschool through kindergarten:

**First place:** Mady Bohl, daughter of Robert and Tasha Bohl, Flasher

**Second place:** Cyndi Deichert, daughter of Corey and Michelle Deichert, Flasher

**Third place:** Payton Omlid, daughter of Richard and Amy Bohl, Flasher

### Grades one through three:

**First place:** Matthew Gieser, son of William and Amy Gieser, Mandan

**Second place:** Tyler Rossow, son of Travis and Jessica Rossow, Flasher

**Third place:** Landan Zenker, son of Steven and Kyla Zenker, Carson

### Grades four through six:

**First place:** Lezlee Isbell, daughter of Jerid and Melissa Isbell, Flasher

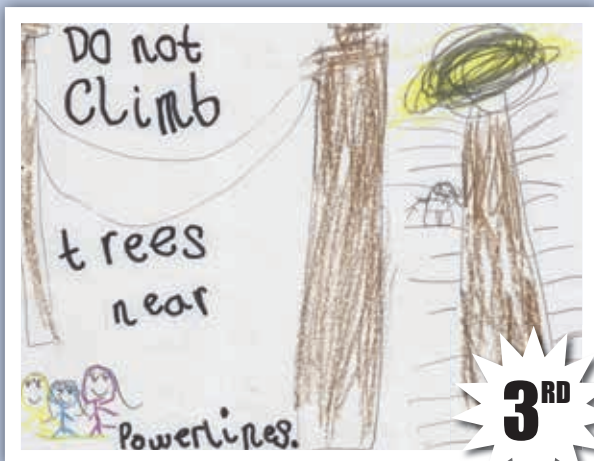
**Second place:** Carter Bonogofsky, son of Art and Lisa Bonogofsky, Flasher

**Third place:** Jada Bonogofsky, daughter of Brad and Jennifer Bonogofsky, St. Anthony ■

## Winners: preschool-kindergarten



1<sup>ST</sup>



3<sup>RD</sup>



2<sup>ND</sup>

Winners: grades one through three

1<sup>ST</sup>



Winners: grades four through six

1<sup>ST</sup>



2<sup>ND</sup>



2<sup>ND</sup>



3<sup>RD</sup>



3<sup>RD</sup>



### Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed to honor holiday

Remember to keep “memorial” in Memorial Day, and to observe the day as it should be ... a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

It is also important to salute those who are now actively serving in the many branches of our military, both overseas and at home. We thank our soldiers for protecting what is precious to all American citizens — OUR FREEDOM.

If anyone from your home is actively serving and is having trouble meeting electric bill expenses, please call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative to work out a suitable payment arrangement.

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency on Monday, May 30.



## Scheduling payments with SmartHub

Members are now able to schedule their electric bill payments using SmartHub. This new feature allows members the option of scheduling their payment in advance.

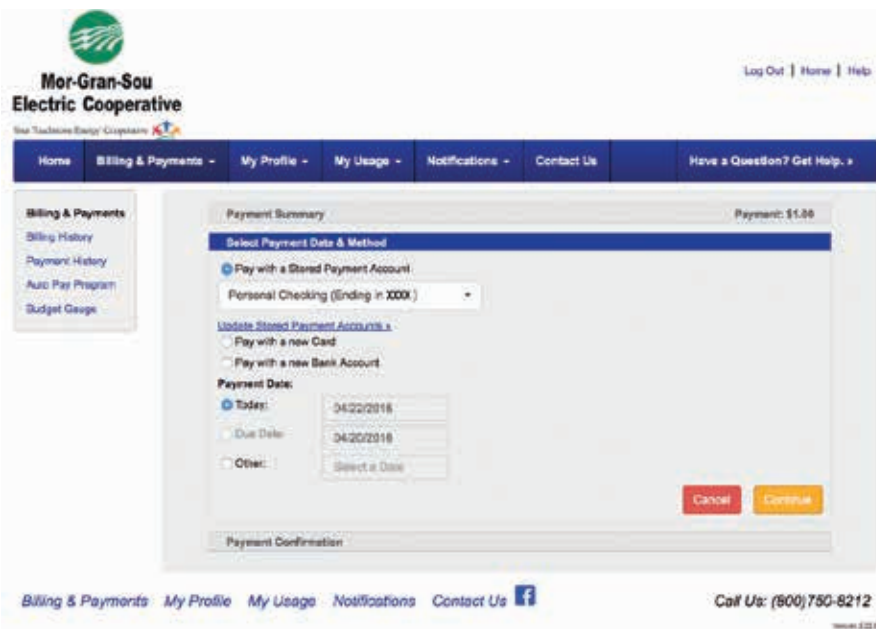
“In the past, we have had members ask for a payment schedule feature and now, we are able to accommodate that need,” says Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s manager of member services. “With the busy schedules in today’s world, members like to make payments for all their household bills at one time.”

Members are allowed to schedule a payment up to 20 days in advance. To schedule a payment, members will need to log on to SmartHub using the mobile app or through Mor-Gran-Sou’s website, www.morgransou.com. If you choose to pay through the website, click on “My Account” (upper right-hand corner of the home page) or Your Account (blue bar on the home page)/SmartHub/and click the link “Log in to SmartHub or to create an account.” Once you have entered your email address and password, your account is in focus. Select the “Make

Payment” button that will take you to the Payment Summary screen, and then select the “Continue” button. This screen (see graphic below) allows you to select the payment method and date to schedule a payment. After a payment is scheduled, members receive a confirmation email or message confirming the pending transaction. If you pay through the SmartHub mobile app, choose “Bill & Pay,” and select the “Pay” button. This next screen allows the member to schedule a payment.

It is important to note that scheduling a payment is not considered a payment arrangement, as the software does not notify the office staff of a member’s scheduled payments. Mor-Gran-Sou receives the payment on the date selected by the members and it will be applied to their account. All bills are due the 20th of every month. Services may be subject to late fees or a disconnection of electric service if the payment is received after the due date.

As mentioned, a scheduled payment is not a payment arrangement. If a member needs to make a payment arrangement, we ask that you contact the office and speak to a customer service representative. For any additional questions, please call the office at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 1-800-750-8212, and we will be happy to assist you. ■





# The mysterious gravesite of 'Ray Coop'

BY SCOTT RESSLER

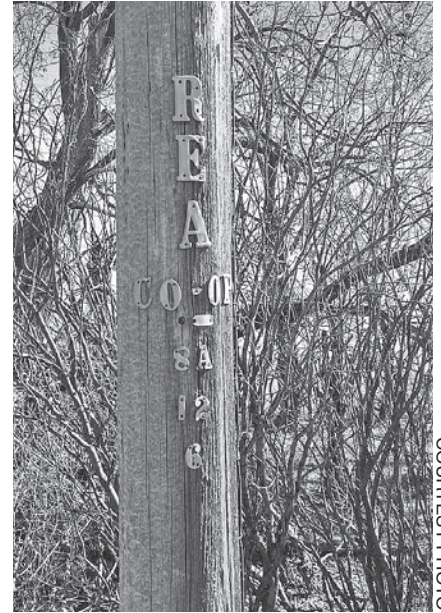
Recently, we decided it was time to tie up the 4-H steers for the first time at our place. Now, anybody who undertakes that task remembers how much of a project it can be the first time — especially since we waited until the steers weighed more than 800 pounds.

The steers are in the feedlot at Grandpa and Grandma Renner's ranch near St. Anthony. Our 10-year-old son, Stran, and 8-year-old daughter, Stray, didn't want to stick around the barn for the excitement, so they went out to venture around the place, something they have often done before.

After the successful halter application and attachment to a sturdy pole in the barn, my wife Sheila and I sat down to watch. Soon the kids returned to the barn.

That's when Stray asked Sheila, "Why is there a guy buried in Grandpa and Grandma's yard?" She continued, "There's a pole with the name 'Ray Coop' on it with some numbers underneath."

She led us over to the supposed "burial place" and what we found was one of the funniest things we have seen in a long time. Stray was right about a few things: There is a pole with a name and numbers on it. However, it stood for something quite different. What was on the pole was "REA CO-OP," which many of you know stands for Rural Electric Association Cooperative, not "Ray Coop," an unknown man buried in Grandpa and Grandma Renner's yard! ■



COURTESY PHOTO

*This article is republished with permission from the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. Scott Ressler, the association's environmental services director, wrote the article. He and his wife, Sheila, are Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members who ranch south of Mandan. The REA pole owners are Sheila's parents, Mor-Gran-Sou members Jeff and Angie Renner, who live near St. Anthony. We thank Scott and the N.D. Stockmen's Association for sharing this fun story.*

**Switch to Safety**

**Don't Take These Warning Signs Lightly**

- The home is over 40 years old and has aluminum wiring, but has not recently undergone a safety inspection by an electrician.
- Lights get dimmer or brighter when other appliances turn on or off.
- The wall plate is hot to the touch.
- There is discoloration of or around the switch plate.
- Lights dim and/or flicker without cause.
- Often breakers trip or fuses blow when the switch is turned on.
- You detect an odor when a switch is used.
- The switch leans to one side or feels loose when operating.
- You often experience a shock when operating the switch.

# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



### Meeting date: March 30, 2016

- Approved the Feb. 24, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the February financial report
- Appointed attendees/voting delegates for various upcoming meetings
- 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
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed and accepted director's and attorney's expenses report for February
- Heard director reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Heard the Nominating Committee report to date
- Held the annual Bylaws/Resolutions meeting
- Accepted the 2016 Board of Director Candidates submitted by the Mor-Gran-Sou Nominating Committee
- Approved a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) resolution for the RD Apply Intake System
- Approved National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) documents for emergency line of credit changes
- Held Executive Session

### Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

May 25 in the Flasher office at 9 a.m. CT  
June 29 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan 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, 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 contact the office for a copy.

## Former Mor-Gran-Sou employee passes away

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was saddened to learn of the death of Ruth Wenger, who passed away on March 14. Wenger, who spent a short time with Mor-Gran-Sou, worked as an accounts receivable clerk from Feb. 24, 1953 to Oct. 4, 1954. The board of directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou extend their condolences to the family and friends of Ruth Wenger.

## Board minutes available to Mor-Gran-Sou members

Each month, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative publishes highlights of the monthly board meeting in the local pages of *North Dakota Living*. This information is presented under the caption "board meeting highlights."

Mor-Gran-Sou reminds members that they do have access to the approved monthly board meeting minutes in their entirety, if they wish to see them. Under present policy, members can request to come to the Mor-Gran-Sou Flasher office and review the approved minutes, or have the approved minutes mailed to them upon completing a request for data form. They can also find the Request for Information or Data form on our website at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) (click Your Power in Membership and then forms/applications).

If a member wishes to review the minutes in Flasher, we ask that he/she call before stopping in. This gesture of courtesy will make the visit more efficient, as the minutes will be readily available upon the interested member's arrival.

Members, to request to review the approved monthly board minutes at the office or to obtain a copy by mail, please direct your calls to Manager of Administrative Services Cindy Ternes at 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212. She will be happy to assist you. For further discussion, please contact Board Chairman Leland "Judge" Barth.



### MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

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