



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

NOVEMBER 2016

NEWS

‘Marines are deeply committed to bettering their local communities. Their active involvement often inspires and guides the people who know them best — their families, friends and neighbors.’

~ www.marines.com

Marines **Ken Pilon** (left) and **Ray Morrell** helped fight our nation’s battles and develop quality citizens. Pilon served from 1982 to 1986, and was honorably discharged after 4 years of service as a Corporal. Morrell served from 1986 to 1992, and was honorably discharged after 6 years of service as a Sergeant. Now, these Dakota Leathernecks members are preparing a Marine House in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area to provide camaraderie for Marines and their families, and host events within their community as well as those which can educate people on important military service issues. In this month’s local pages, learn one of those issues — and how your support can greatly move their current mission forward.

What’s inside:

- Dakota Leathernecks help Marines
- Solen enhances community, thanks to generous donation
- Heating assistance available
- Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
- Meeting minutes ... and more

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY



DAKOTA LEATHERNECKS

Faithful to the Corps and country — and now YOUR community

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



North Dakota is a state well-known for its support of the military. Yet, some branches of service are more well-known than others. The United States Marine Corps, sometimes referred to as the silent professionals, is making some noise west of Mandan — and hoping people will hear its current mission of helping and educating in our local communities and beyond.

The Marine Corps League originated in 1923 and was chartered by Congress in 1937. It's the only Marine Corps-specific veteran service organization in the world.

The Dakota Leathernecks Detachment #1419 is currently the only chartered detachment of the Marine Corps League in North Dakota. One year ago, the Dakota Leathernecks began renovating the old Price Consolidated School building two miles west of Mandan. Still under construction, members have already been using it as a clubhouse to host meetings and events for Marines who have been out of the service for some time, those who are just getting out, those who are still active, and people in the community who simply support the Marine Corps.

"We help Marines, Corpsmen, chaplains and their families," says Ray Morrell, a Marine and commandant of the Dakota Leathernecks. He is also a member of Mor-Gran-Sou.

"The Marine Corps League can serve as a vehicle not only for the moms, dads, aunts and uncles, but Johnny Joe public who may have served in the Army and enjoys the camaraderie that he isn't getting now. Anyone can be an associate member in the Marine Corps League."

Friend and Mor-Gran-Sou member Fred Berger gifted the detachment with the 101-year-old building with the charge of, "Make it come to life." Since then, members and friends have hauled out more than 24 tons of lathe, plaster and debris, invested almost 3,000 volunteer Marine hours, and continue to transform the building into a prideful, serviceable facility. The exterior is nearly complete. The inside has been stripped to its stud walls, and Morrell says they are ready for rough-ins.

"We're the electricians. We're the HVAC people. We're the plumbers. We're doing it all ourselves," he says. "We're

working with local contractors to give us the expertise; then, we'll be the manpower. The Marine power."

Morrell, who has been involved in lots of community activities and events including Mandan Rodeo Days, Buggies and Blues, and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, says this project has received an outpouring of community support, outreach and positive feedback.

Yet, much more financial support is needed to finish the building and ultimately provide funds so members can address issues important to Marines, like veteran suicide.

"Just this past year in a 45-day span, our detachment has been a part of two suicide attempts and one murder of a Marine in western North Dakota, because they see us as a resource," Morrell shares. "We are looking at what we can do in this facility to address that, in one way, shape or form. Maybe we can hold roundtable discussions on 'survivor guilt' with healthcare professionals or mental health professionals and veterans, or just provide awareness at events and bring the community in as part of it."

The Dakota Leathernecks Detachment #1419 have 64 regular members and associate members. They are working to establish detachments in Minot, Dickinson and Fargo. Looking at the big picture, Morrell says this [the Marine Corps League] would give Marines and the state of North Dakota a unified voice.

If you would like to support the Dakota Leathernecks and their current mission of finishing the Marine House clubhouse and providing local support for Marines and their families, please consider mailing a tax-deductible contribution to:

Marine House Project

Dakota Leathernecks Detachment #1419
P.O. Box 583
Mandan, ND 58554

To learn more about the detachment or to inquire about a membership, email dakotaleathernecks@gmail.com or call Morrell at 701-516-3539. You can also follow the Dakota Leathernecks on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dakotaleathernecks/. ■

Toast to the Corps

Nov. 10 is the birthday of the Marine Corps. To celebrate the Corps' 241st birthday, Dakota Leathernecks Detachment #1419 is hosting a "Toast to our Corps" at the Marine House, 2-miles west of Mandan on the north side of Highway 10. Marines and all those who love the Corps are invited to attend. Admission is \$10 per person and guests will receive a souvenir mug with complimentary beverage.



Need Help with Heating Costs?

LIHEAP can help.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home heating costs.

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization services (insulation, weather stripping, etc.)
- Furnace and chimney cleaning
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Emergency assistance

Applications are accepted from October 1 through May 31 for each heating season.

For help filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, call 1-800-823-2417 ext: 158.



www.communityoptionsnd.com

LIHEAP is federally funded and administered by the North Dakota Department of Human Services and county social service offices.

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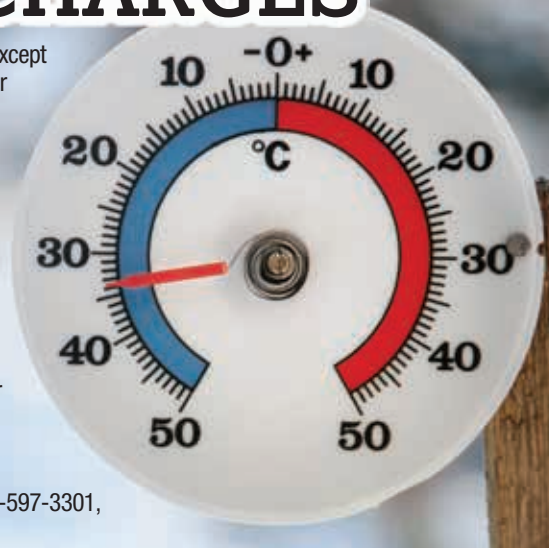
COLD WEATHER CHARGES

One thing that's certain about North Dakota weather is the uncertainty of it, except for the fact that at some point during the winter, it probably will get cold. Our rates are designed around a number of different factors, one of them being an average cost of installing our service. Over the years, we've seen requests for electric service coming in later and later in the construction season and in many years, throughout the winter season. Both equipment maintenance and labor costs are significantly higher during winter weather conditions.

We're not opposed to obliging those requests, however, depending on frost and weather conditions we will assess an additional contribution in aid of construction charge of \$5 per line foot to help offset our increased costs for late-season, cold-weather work. This charge will be made on a case-by-case basis for line extensions requested and built after Nov. 1 and prior to April 1.

Recognizing that everyone is really busy throughout the year, please remember we need sufficient advance notice (two to four weeks) most any time to schedule installing your electric service or service change, but especially just prior to Nov. 1 because everyone is trying to beat the weather.

If you have questions please call Randy Ressler, manager of operations, at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212. ■





PHOTOS BY MARY HOFFMAN

Thanks to an anonymous donor who gifted \$55,000 to the city of Solen and a grant from the North Dakota Community Foundation, the city park now has playground equipment, park furnishings and a basketball court.

Solen enhances community, thanks to generous donation

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

The news seemed too good to be true, and community members appeared reluctant to get excited. But when an anonymous donor indeed gifted \$55,000 to the city of Solen, for the purpose of purchasing and installing playground equipment, park furnishings and a basketball court,

excitement became contagious and started to spread. With the nearest swing set 13 miles away from the city park, the prospect of having a local, safe, fun place for kids to play was a dream-come-true. Solen is located in Sioux County on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

The playground equipment was

installed in September and the basketball court was completed in October. A dedication ceremony was held Friday, Oct. 21. Residents were welcomed and enjoyed hot dogs, snacks and water. A free raffle gifted many local children with basketballs.

The city hadn't had playground equipment for years. Donated to



Solen by a Catholic Indian mission, an old wood and metal swingset had to be removed because the equipment did not meet insurance and safety standards.

Mary Hoffman, a development director for a non-profit association, had grown up in Solen and wanted to see children playing happily in her hometown, just as she did years ago. Her parents, Margaret and Simon Hoffman, still live in Solen and her father serves on the city board. Mary contacted the rural development department with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, to inquire about the possibility of a grant. None existed for the purpose of building a play area, but Hoffman wasn't deterred. She wrote and submitted an abstract

donation request to NDAREC. A few months later, she learned of the anonymous donor and grant.

On behalf of the city, Mary worked with NDAREC to secure the funds. Solen also received additional funding from the North Dakota Community Foundation, in the form of a "Statewide Greatest Needs Grant."

Santana Hettich, a resident of Solen, takes her young son to the new playground on nice days. In a letter she wrote to the city, Hettich said, "It is fun because the community children all come together. I think there 10 or 11 children, including my son and sister-in-law, and they have so much fun just using their imagination and playing tag. It is also a relaxing time for me as a mom, because they have such nice picnic tables and I can work on my tablet or

just relax and watch the kids play! So, thank you very much!"

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, an additional grant from the North Dakota Community Foundation, the determination and skill of a former resident, assistance from NDAREC and its member-cooperatives, and the appreciation of Solen residents, the park has been filled with colorful equipment and lots of giggles. Mary says it has been fulfilling to watch the residents become excited about the community park project.

"This project re-engaged a sense of community," she concludes. ■



Mor-Gran-Sou supports NDAREC's rural development efforts

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives' rural development department, called the Rural Electric and Telecommunications Development Center, has been providing federally supported technical assistance to rural areas since 1994. Operating under the umbrella of NDAREC and the North Dakota Association of Telecommunications Cooperatives, the center is a major development player in North Dakota. Networked with 16 electric cooperatives, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, and 8 telecommunications co-ops, the center takes a statewide approach to sustaining and growing rural areas. The local cooperatives assist the center with rural development activities and community outreach. North Dakota's rural electric and telecommunications cooperatives have been providing matching funds for the Center since 1994. For more information, visit www.ndarec.com and click the Rural Development tab.



Mor-Gran-Sou members recognized at Celebrate Bismarck-Mandan



PHOTO COURTESY BMCC

Aaron Vetter, chief executive officer of Farm Credit Services of Mandan, accepts the Granite Award from Chamber President **Scott Meske**. A borrower-owned cooperative system, Farm Credit Services of Mandan supports organizations, programs and initiatives dedicated to advancing agriculture and improving the quality of life for rural families.

The Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) held its annual “Celebrate Bismarck-Mandan” on Sept. 22 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. More than 400 people attended the award ceremony that featured eight award recipients and some special honors.

Two Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative business consumers received recognition: Farm Credit Services of Mandan and Cloverdale Foods. Farm Credit Services of Mandan was given the Granite Award, which is bestowed on organizations that have stood the test of time in the Bismarck-Mandan area for 50 years or more. Cloverdale was given the Golden Eagle award, which is supplied by the Chamber’s Military Affairs Committee. It honors organizations that have an amazing track record of supporting local and national armed forces.

Dave Leingang, community growth director for BMCC, says the Chamber’s Excellence and Business Committee plans the annual event. Committee members accept nominations for multiple awards, review the list of nominees, and rate them to determine who is most deserving of the award.

“With Farm Credit Services of Mandan celebrating its 100th year, [earning the Granite Award] was a great compliment to them. It was good timing for them, too,” Leingang said. ■



Scott Russel, chief executive officer of Cloverdale Foods Company, accepts the Golden Eagle award. Cloverdale is family owned and committed to offering super premium pork, packed with unsurpassed flavor and quality.

JUNE 10 to 16, 2017

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 a question, 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. 31. Email entries to jlmler@morgransou.com or mail to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.



ESSAY QUESTION:

Democracy is the foundation of our American way of life and of cooperative enterprise. The fundamentals of democracy include voter participation, political party affiliation, and public debate of issues. Describe what you think makes our current democracy strong, and provide suggestions for ways our democracy can be made stronger and more effective.

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.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT

www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Sept. 28, 2016

- Approved the Aug. 31, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved two work order inventories and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Approved bad debt write-off
- Reviewed authorization of 2017 participation with Western States Power Corporation
- Heard financial presentation from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) representative
- Reviewed, revised/clarified, and approved Policy 02 Governance, P. Director Compensation
- Reviewed, revised and approved Director Meeting Attendance Guide
- Assigned directors to attend various Basin Electric Power Cooperative Board meetings
- Approved request to pursue selling several Mor-Gran-Sou-owned acres near Highland Road
- Approved authorizing the Nominating Committee to also serve as an ad hoc committee for Mor-Gran-Sou bylaw changes and resolutions
- Discussed rates and increase from Basin Electric
- Viewed memos on 2017 Budget explanations for Information Technology and Operations departments
- Set the 2017 Mor-Gran-Sou Board meeting dates, times and locations
- Approved scheduling a date for annual Mor-Gran-Sou Strategic Planning
- Approved attendance at upcoming meetings
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' (CEO) update
- Heard updates on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA) and all entities of WDUS Holdings LLC
- Reviewed and accepted director's expense report for August
- Heard reports and held discussion on meetings attended by Co-General Managers/CEOs and directors
- Reviewed department reports
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- Nov. 30 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT
- Dec. 20 in the NDAREC Ulmer Center in Mandan 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 800-750-8212 or 701-597-3301 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, or call the office for a copy.

The holidays are just around the corner

Gift certificates are available at Mor-Gran-Sou.
Light up someone's holiday season!

How long is your Christmas list? If a certain someone on your list is a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and you need a bright idea on what to buy for Christmas ... why not wrap up a gift certificate he or she can use toward an electric bill?

**Call Mor-Gran-Sou
at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212
and ask for Julie or Jackie.**

We can help you "lighten" up the holidays.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

In observance of the holidays in November, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed:
Friday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day
Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, for Thanksgiving
The directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou ask you to keep our military in mind as we celebrate the holidays.

Members: Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.

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

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Flasher, ND 58535-0297
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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..... Bonnie Tomac
Directors Mark Doll,
Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,
Chad Harrison, Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

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

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