



# CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

APRIL 2017

NEWS

## Future leader Sam Dart earns 2017 Youth Tour trip

*In June, **Sam Dart** will tour Washington, D.C. with peers from across the state and nation who are representing their family's electric co-op on the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. A junior at Grant County High School in Elgin who is interested in technology, Sam Dart could be the next Bill Gates or Steve Jobs.*

### What's inside:

- Meet the 2017 Youth Tour winner
- Thank a local lineman
- Call 811 and know what's below
- Plan to attend your annual meeting
- Meeting minutes and more

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY



## TOUCHING HISTORY

# Future leader Sam Dart earns 2017 Youth Tour trip

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Sam Dart comes from four generations of family members who fought in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. A junior at Grant County High School in Elgin, Sam recently reflected on his ancestors and some relics from their service that he helps preserve at home.

“I have the woolen pants from my great-great-uncle, who fought in World War I, and letters sent home by my great-uncle, who fought in Italy during World War II. A gas ration card from World War II shows the sacrifice the people as a whole had to make during World War II,” he recently wrote. “Those are the difficult sacrifices to continue a democracy.”

A young man who values the history and sacrifices associated with service to country, Sam will soon travel to where the freedoms his relatives fought for are granted. The son of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member Luann Dart and the late Sam Dart, Sam will travel to Washington, D.C. June 10 to 16 for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Coordinated and paid for by electric cooperatives across the state and nation, the Youth Tour is an opportunity for 1,500 students to travel to our nation’s capital and watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments. Having entered an essay-writing contest in North Dakota and earned a spot on the tour, our state’s 16 students will

meet other student leaders from nearly every state. In one short week, they will make lasting friendships and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life including U.S. senators and chief executive officers.

In the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative value of commitment to community, and with a desire to help mentor our state’s future leaders, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative has sent one student annually on the trip for the past 13 years.

This year, Sam answered the essay-contest 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.”

In his essay, he noted democracy in the United States is strong, thanks to those who serve in the military and have given the ultimate sacrifice. For those who support our armed forces from home, Sam lists other ways in which people can support democracy. Those include voting, discussing bills that can become laws at the Legislature, and even protesting to express disagreement.

To keep a democracy strong, Sam noted it is up to each person to understand the issues and vote when the time is right — and, to listen

and learn from one another — even when they may not agree.

“To make a democracy more effective, people should be civil and listen to each other. And the government should listen to the people. Our legislators should ask more young people about what they think,” he wrote.

If Sam meets the state’s congressional delegation while he’s in Washington, D.C., he plans to do just that. Concerned with the high cost of college, Sam says he would ask for reassurance that students will do well in life, and not be held down because of debt.

And if he happens to run into President Donald Trump in an elevator?

“I would shake his hand and thank him. It’s a tough job,” Sam says. “Having a conversation with someone that high up would be interesting, to see how his mind works, other than what we see in the news.”

Sam says he reads the news online every day, to stay in touch with the world and see that our country is moving in the right direction. While in D.C., he will likely enjoy visiting the Newseum, an interactive museum of news that allows visitors to experience stories through the eyes of the media. In a recent article published online at [newseum.org](http://newseum.org) in the new “Inside Today’s FBI,” a quote by FBI Director James Comey stated, “What a democracy should do when there’s a collision of values is talk about it.”



The museums at the Smithsonian will also be of great interest to Sam.

"I like having things to look at; stuff that tells a story," he says. Like the woolen pants and gas ration card saved by those four generations of relatives who served our country, Sam says those pieces of history tell a story.

"I understand the sacrifices made by my ancestors and I am grateful for their sacrifices, which makes me understand the importance of participating in a democracy," he concluded in his essay.

Enjoy your trip, Sam. You earned it! This summer, we'll visit with Sam again, and learn the highlights of his Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. ■

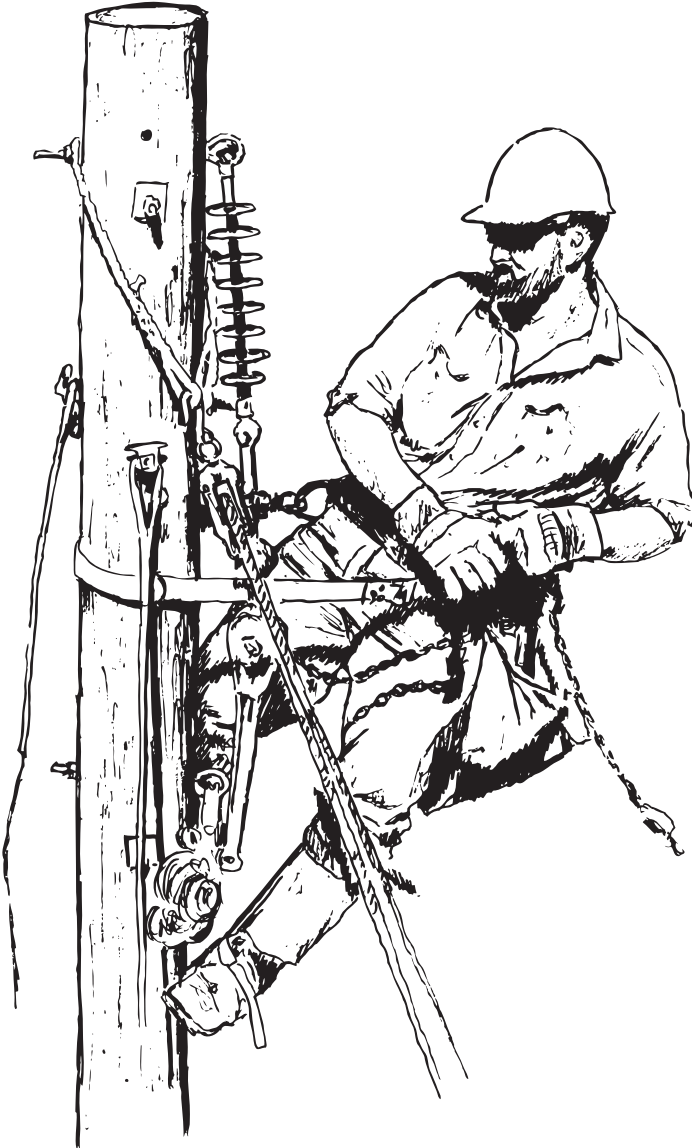


*Interested in technology, **Sam Dart** liked using the 3D printer at school so well that he bought himself one to use at home. A mostly self-taught musician, he also plays multiple instruments and enjoys golfing every summer.*



# #ThankALineman

## APRIL 10



**L**inemen serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 10, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will join the nation in honoring the employees who work in challenging and often dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Linemen are the first-responders at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, and they're always ready to get the job done, day or night," says Manager of Operations Randy Ressler. "Whether they're responding to a power outage or maintaining electrical infrastructure to provide safe and reliable power, linemen are at the heart of everything we do."

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is proud to highlight the general foreman, area foreman, leadmen, journeyman lineman, senior engineering technician and engineering technician who maintain more than 4,500 miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite our member-owners to take a moment and thank the linemen for the work they do. On April 10, use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support for the employees who light our lives. ■

## Keeping our electric system as reliable as possible

**T**ree trimming is a regular part of your electric cooperative's operations.

Mor-Gran-Sou, like all electric utilities, is required to maintain appropriate clearance between trees and electric transmission and distribution lines. Trees need to be trimmed, and in some cases removed, to minimize potential power outages and to eliminate


fire and safety hazards due to trees contacting energized electric lines.

Mor-Gran-Sou typically uses local contract tree-trimming crews to perform this task.

Please know that they are working on your cooperative's behalf to help keep our electric system as reliable and safe as possible. ■



**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# #ThankALineman

## April 10




Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative joins co-ops across the state and nation in observing National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 10. If you know a local lineman, thank him for working to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

*Clint Begger (left), Leadman, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative  
Lance Diebold (right), Lineman, Capital Electric Cooperative*

### **ND REC's**

North Dakota Association of  
Rural Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# No job is too small for North Dakota One Call.

Calling North Dakota One Call is free, easy — and it's the law — prior to digging or excavating on your property. By contacting 811, you request a locate of the underground utility lines.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative employees perform most of the requested locates. Due to the volume of requests during busy times of the year, our cooperative partners with Summit Locating Services. Summit will again be assisting our cooperative in the northeast corner of the Mandan service area this summer.

Underground utility lines including electric, gas, telephone, Internet and more need to be marked — or staked — before a consumer or contractor digs. Some of the many projects that require a call to 811, or One Call, would include planting a tree, installing a fence, or building or adding onto a home. Regardless of the project size, if you plan to dig or excavate, you must call One Call first. It can take up to 48 hours, or two business days, for every utility company to mark the underground lines.

The process of locating goes like this: A consumer or contractor calls 811 and generates an electronic locate request among all area utilities. An employee is dispatched to the site. Using a locator, which is a transmitter with two clips,

the employee sticks a probe in the ground for grounding purposes, and then clips onto utility infrastructure such as an area transformer. The probe then sends a signal down the wire. Using a handheld receiver, the employee can identify the

underground line, and mark it with paint and flags. The employee takes photos of the completed locate, which is good for 21 days.

The process, which has become quite a bit more extensive over the years, is not just important — it's necessary. Randy Ressler, manager of operations at Mor-Gran-Sou, says if a person were to hit a utility line that is not marked or is improperly marked, it could cause a power outage or injury. "One Call is all about public safety and keeping plant intact," he says.

To request a locate, call North Dakota One Call at 811 or visit [www.ndonecall.com](http://www.ndonecall.com). ■



*If you are planning a project that requires digging or excavating, and you've placed a call to 811, North Dakota One Call, an employee will be on-site within two business days to perform a locate.*

## JULY 21, 2017

Fort Yates, N.D.  
Prairie Knights Casino & Resort

*Learn about co-op issues;  
cast your vote and elect three members  
to serve on the board of directors;  
and enjoy a hearty meal.*



**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# Annual Meeting 2017

# Call before



# you dig!

Planting a tree? Installing a fence? Remember to contact North Dakota One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but North Dakota One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact North Dakota One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at [www.ndonecall.com](http://www.ndonecall.com) or call 800-795-0555 or 811.

It's free, it's simple and it's the law.

## The 811 process:



### 1: NOTIFY

Notify the North Dakota One Call Center by calling 811 or making an online request at least 48 hours before work begins, excluding weekends and holidays. You'll give the operator information about how to contact you, where you are planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, or go online to enter this information. Utility companies who have potential facilities in the area of your dig site will be notified about your intent to dig.



### 2: WAIT

Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.



### 3: CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities. Compare the marks to the list of utilities the One Call Center notified.



### 4: RESPECT

Respect the marks. The marks provided by the affected utilities are your guide for the duration of the project. The marks are valid for 21 calendar days.

If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project, or the project will continue past your request's expiration date, please call 811 to ask for a re-mark.



### 5: DIG CAREFULLY

Dig carefully around the marks. No mechanical excavating can take place within 24 inches on either side of the marked location of the underground facility. If you plan on digging within that 4-foot-wide area, hand digging is allowed, but please dig carefully and cautiously.

# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



### Meeting date: Feb. 22, 2017

- Approved the Jan. 25, 2017 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
- Heard report of second Nominating Committee meeting
- Approved attendance at upcoming meetings
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' update and report on several meetings attended
- Heard and accepted the January financial report
- Reviewed and accepted director's expense report for January
- Reviewed department reports
- Held Executive Session

### Upcoming regular board meeting date:

April 27 in the NDAREC Board room at 9 a.m. CT

May 30 in the Flasher Board room 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 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](http://www.morgransou.com), or call the office for a copy.

## HOLIDAY CLOSING

In observance of the Easter holiday, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 14. Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.

## DOWNED AND DANGEROUS

Downed power lines can be deadly. **ALWAYS** assume a downed power line is live and avoid going near it or anything in contact with it.

### USE PRECAUTION

- Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away.
- Never drive over downed power lines or through water that is in contact with them.
- If you see a downed power line, immediately **notify** the local authorities.
- Never try to move a downed power line. Even using items that typically are not conductive **will not** prevent injury or death.



### 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](mailto: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

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative