



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

AUGUST 2017

NEWS

Don't put **Safety** on autopilot.

See C2 for GPS and electrical infrastructure safety

PHOTO BY LIZA KESSEL/NDAREC

What's inside:

- Former Miss Indian World inspires, mentors youth
- Manager Baumgartner continues co-op journey
- Sioux warrior honored for N.D. highway marker contributions
- Meetings minutes, and more



Don't put Safety on autopilot.

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field. But while GPS can help the driver plant straight rows and maximize potential, it can also give a false sense of security. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative reminds our members not to put safety on autopilot.

When farmers enter the field using GPS, they do an outside round and set the borders and boundaries of the field. Then, they set the angle and straight line, so they know the direction the GPS will take.

If there is a slough, rock pile, fence post or power pole in the middle of the field, they still need to manually drive around the hazard and set a boundary for it, if the system allows. Once set, less focus may be needed on steering — but drivers still need to be aware of navigation issues and human error.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says Manager of Operations Randy Ressler. “Once the GPS control system is activated, the tractor drives itself and depending on the type of system used, it might not have the ability to autonomously avoid obstacles such as utility poles,” he says.

“It’s been said that people say they didn’t see the power pole because they were playing a game on their smart phone or reading the newspaper,” Ressler continues. “These GPS systems, while they’re a great benefit to the farmer, might be creating a hazard for them, as well. It’s too easy to get comfortable with these things and before you know it, we have another



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

broken pole and a potentially life-threatening situation.”

Ressler encourages members to evaluate their fields regularly, looking for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field and driving back to the farm.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric linemen to de-energize the line.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this

is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at 1-800-750-8212 or email safety@morgransouelectric.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■



The former Miss Indian World, **Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn** (second from left) encouraged area youth including, from left: **Frankie Jamerson**, **Hannah Black Cloud** and **Destiny Medicine Crow**.



Former Miss Indian World inspires, mentors youth

STORY AND PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Her reign may be over, but the former Miss Indian World, Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, still has plenty to teach. On June 16, she met three young women who represented different districts of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, and shared words of wisdom including, "Don't let anyone hold you back," and, "Life never gets easy. You just get older and stronger."

With ancestral ties to the Porcupine district, Danielle was the first woman from Standing Rock to hold the title of Miss Indian World. Her one-year reign came to an end in April.

At the June luncheon held in the Porcupine Community Center, Danielle relayed some of her experiences as Miss Indian World, and conveyed to the young women in attendance that they, too, could get an education, excel and be leaders — and still be one with their culture.

Danielle visited about how she traveled the world as Miss Indian World, visiting with people of all

ages about suicide prevention, higher education and language revitalization. Then, she asked the youth in attendance to come to the podium and introduce themselves, and talk about their challenges and goals.

Frankie Jamerson, a student representing the Little Eagle district, shared how suicide has hurt her family, and how she wishes to change things and make them better for future generations. In a heartfelt speech, she said she really looks up to Danielle, and wants to be just like her. Her plan is to graduate from high school and enroll in the Navy.

Danielle thanked Frankie for her honesty and determination, and told her, "You can accomplish anything."

Hannah Black Cloud spoke next, representing the Porcupine district. She shared that she had changed schools, and learned firsthand how hurtful bullying can be. Her goal is to study criminal justice and become a police officer, who will serve and protect the community, and bring

people together.

Destiny Medicine Crow spoke last; she represented the Bear Soldier district in McLaughlin. Words seem to elude her, but she shared that she was on the honor roll and wanted to become a dancer. Danielle thanked her for her courage in coming forward and taking part.

The luncheon concluded with an Honor Song performed by Gabriel Red Tomahawk. He also welcomed guests prior to the program with the Flag Song.

The program was coordinated by area residents Kathleen Vetter and Mary Louise Defender Wilson. ■

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative thanks the Porcupine community and Kathleen and Mary Louise, for inviting us to be part of this special day. We say a special thank-you to Danielle and her family, who are such an inspiration to us all. We wish these three young women much success, and know they will take Danielle's kind words and infuse them in their journeys.



Founding co-op principle guides Manager Baumgartner to Basin Electric

STORY BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth cooperative principle, and Chris Baumgartner is showing his commitment — by continuing his role in a new capacity at Basin Electric Power Cooperative. His final day serving as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative’s co-general manager and chief executive officer was July 28.

Baumgartner partnered with Don Franklund for the past five years to co-manage Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider, Slope and KEM Electric Cooperatives under the shared management and services organization known as Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative. The alliance cooperatives share employees and resources to save time and money — and ultimately benefit the autonomous memberships. In addition, Baumgartner and Franklund co-manage the West Dakota Holdings LLC family, including 3C Construction, West Dakota Utilities Service (WDUS) and other subsidiaries.

Months ago, Basin Electric announced a restructuring of the organization that included the creation of a senior vice president of member services and administration position. Baumgartner, who worked for Basin Electric for 20 years prior to joining the alliance as co-general manager and CEO, was a natural fit.

Baumgartner has a bachelor’s degree in mass communications, and Master of Business Administration and Master of Management degrees from the University of Mary, Bismarck. He started at Basin Electric as a college intern in 1992 and left as the manager of member relations in 2012.

“I grew up there, so to speak. It is where I first learned about our industry, and developed an understanding and love for the cooperative business model,” he says. Now as the senior vice president of member services and administration, Baumgartner is assisting Basin Electric with member and communication services, procurement and strategic planning.

In a statement issued by Basin Electric, CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut stated, “Chris’ familiarity with cooperatives from both the generation and distribution perspectives will be a tremendous asset as we continue work with our members to provide the safest, most reliable, and most affordable electricity possible to consumers at the end of the line.”

That mission falls right in line with the work

Baumgartner has been doing on behalf of Mor-Gran-Sou members.

“The past five years have been a wonderful time of growth, learning, cooperation and friendship. I am truly, truly humbled to have been given the opportunity by our boards of directors to work with Don to lead our organizations and to work directly with so many good people. I have said many times that the work our four cooperatives do, along with the WDUS family, is something special;

something I am very proud to have been a part of,” he says. “‘Cooperation among cooperatives’ is one of our founding principles. That hasn’t changed and it won’t change — and the work will continue after my departure.”

Baumgartner left the alliance with a tremendous amount of support from Franklund and the many boards of directors, who looked at the job change as an opportunity to help move another cooperative member of the family forward.

“The fun thing would be to stay here [with the alliance] because we have so much going on. I feel like I started slow, started to grow and walk fast, and now we’re to the point where we’re running — and I’m leaving. There are so many exciting things that are going to happen here in the next few years,” he shares. “But I’ve been called to try and help in another area, so I’ll do that.”

In his role at Basin Electric, Baumgartner will continue to support the alliance and cooperative memberships in any way he can. He says he feels confident the alliance will make progress with Franklund as manager. He recently



*After serving Mor-Gran-Sou Electric as co-general manager and chief executive officer of Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative for five years, **Chris Baumgartner** accepted the job of senior vice president of member services and administration with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.*



reflected on some good and bad days they've had on the job. No matter what issue presented, Baumgartner said he and Franklund were always a team who sometimes had different perspectives, but always held great respect for one another and the decision-making process. Their commitment to the level of cooperation needed to co-manage the cooperatives, and their desire to receive guidance from the boards of directors, will leave a lasting legacy for the members who have made it clear they want to maintain local control, while moving forward in a more cost-effective manner than they would be able to do as individual co-ops.

In addition to Franklund's leadership, Baumgartner says the senior management teams and their support staffs, and active board members from across 16 North Dakota counties, will ease his departure and possibly set the course for another co-general manager/CEO. The boards are currently evaluating the vacancy and determining how best to move forward.

"The boards represent the people we serve. Each

director represents one neighbor, one friend, coming together since cooperatives were formed 70 years ago to work together for the greater good. That's our whole purpose for being here," he says. "Our benchmark in the board room, and in our day-to-day tasks, is this: 'How will this help the members?'" he asks. "We've never lost that sense of who we are and why we were formed. That plays into everything we do; every decision we make. That has never changed, and it will not change as I leave.

"I am going to miss this," he continues. "I really like what we've done in the past five years, and I'm excited about the next five. Selfishly, I'd like to be a part of it. I know how talented our people are. Mor-Gran-Sou, and the rest of our alliance partners, will continue to ask the question, 'How does this benefit the member?' and move our cooperatives forward."

Thank you for your work, support and commitment, Manager Baumgartner. We know you will continue working on behalf of all members at Basin Electric. ■

About Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Basin Electric is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative with headquarters in Bismarck. It generates and transmits electricity to 141 member rural electric systems in nine states including North Dakota, which in turn distribute electricity to about 3 million member-owners.

Thanks, members!

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors, management staff and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending the 70th annual meeting of the membership held July 21. 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 Grant County position, one for the Mandan Area position, and one for the Sioux County position. Incumbents Casey Wells, Carson; Bob J. Leingang, Mandan; and Lance Froelich, Selfridge; retained their positions on the board. Wells is the Grant County representative, Leingang is the Mandan area representative and Froelich is the Sioux County representative. We thank Thomas Anseth, Mandan, for campaigning to serve his electric cooperative, and for being an active and involved cooperative member.

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



PHOTO BY GARMEN DENNEY



Tacanipiluta

Marcellus Red Tomahawk



PHOTO BY FRANK E. FISK; COURTESY OF STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF N.D.

Editor's note: This copy appears in a brochure produced by Brenda Red Tomahawk, 2002; reprinted with permission. A Standing Rock Sioux Warrior, the late Marcellus Red Tomahawk was recently honored in a flag-raising ceremony for allowing his profile to be used on state highway markers for the past 100 years. His likeness is now being retired.

Tacanipiluta, given the Christian name Marcellus Red Tomahawk, was born in 1849 in the Montana territory. He was 83 years old at the time of his death on Aug. 7, 1931. Although he was widely reported to be a member of the Teton Sioux, Tacanipiluta was a member of the Hunkpapa-Blackfoot Tribe according to family records. His father was a Yanktonai Sioux by the name of Sintemaza – Pete Iron Tail. His mother was a Hunkpapa Sioux named Wamblisapa – Black Eagle. The name Tacanipiluta was his paternal grandfather's name and was given to him as a mark of honor.

As a warrior, Tacanipiluta displayed courage and bravery as he hunted buffalo. He participated in land territorial disputes with other native tribes. As a young man, his tribe camped across the Missouri River by General Sibley. Tacanipiluta was actively against the formation of Fort Rice and worked to force gold hunters out of the Black Hills. With the signing of the Minehanska Treaty, he became a friend of all citizens and around the age of 24 years old, he came to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Upon arrival, Tacanipiluta became an employee of the Indian Police, displaying self-confidence and leadership. He was hired as an Indian Police Duty Sergeant and was later promoted to First Lieutenant. He served 18 years with the Indian Police at the Fort Yates Agency under the U.S. government. Tacanipiluta gained his notoriety and stature. During his years of service, he became a very prominent leader. He was recognized as one of North Dakota's most distinguished men and became part of the state's history.

During the early years of the reservation, Tacanipiluta became an allotted member of the Standing Rock Sioux. He served on the tribal council repeatedly and was recognized as one of the outstanding members of the old-time Sioux. As a council member, he strived for improvements for the welfare of his tribe and recognized the importance of change. He always spoke in his native language, using very little English. He addressed the North Dakota State Legislature through an interpreter and was praised by legislators as one of the outstanding men in the state.

Tacanipiluta met many dignitaries during his lifetime at Mandan. In 1902, he met President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1924, he honored Romania's Queen Marie, and presented her with a war bonnet and a Sioux name. In 1926, Tacanipiluta also honored Marshal Foch with a war bonnet



and they smoked the pipe of peace together. In 1928, he welcomed U.S. Army Chief of Staff Charles P. Summerall in the Sioux language on behalf of the tribe.

In 1929, he traveled by train to Washington, D.C., as a guest of Summerall. He was invited to attend a luncheon with President Herbert Hoover and dine with Vice President Charles Curtis. He brought two gifts wrapped in grey cloth: a peace pipe and a beaded tobacco bag to be given to the president and vice president as tokens of his tribe's friendship. Together, their pictures were taken and they appeared in the talking news reels throughout the country.

Tacanipiluta wore his full Sioux regalia and one of the most symbolic times remembered was when he placed his war bonnet upon the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. Following his return from Washington, D.C., he was given a general reception held in Bismarck where he was the guest of honor.

That same year, Tacanipiluta attended the 50th anniversary of Custer's Little Bighorn Battle and gave valuable information regarding the battle's participants, who were his lifelong friends. He attended Bismarck's American Legion Convention and gave a war bonnet to Secretary of War Patrick Hurley, who returned the courtesy by giving him a fine gold watch.

Tacanipiluta died as he lived — among his tribal people. He married four times throughout his life and left six surviving children at the time of his death. Relatives, friends and non-natives all gathered at his home to pay their final respects to their beloved deceased member. Burial services

were conducted in the Sioux and English languages. The State Board of Administration requested to bury Tacanipiluta on the State Capitol grounds, but his family's devotion requested that he be buried on the reservation, near the Cannonball River.

During his lifetime, Tacanipiluta diligently strived to create positive awareness of his Native American culture and educate the general public. In public ceremonies, he introduced his culture to everyone he met from foreign countries to various parts of the country. He adamantly displayed his warrior attire and spoke his native language. He generously offered items of cultural significance as tokens of peaceful relations and a willingness to create harmony amongst all. He advocated for a better life for his tribe and strived for peaceful negotiations among all Americans: native and immigrant.

In 1923, the State Transportation Department requested Tacanipiluta's approval to use his profile on North Dakota's road signs. With the utmost gratitude and respect, he granted his permission to use his profile on the road signs as they are publicly displayed today. Tacanipiluta was recognized as a cultural peace ambassador, and it's his profile that safely guides North Dakota travelers today.

In 1951, the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) also adopted his profile for the department symbol and patrol vehicle emblem. The NDHP Colonel's Award for Excellence bears his name to symbolize his contributions to the state of North Dakota. Tacanipiluta, a Sioux warrior, will be forever recognized for his cultural accomplishments. ■

STATE HIGHWAY MARKER

The profile of Marcellus Red Tomahawk was first displayed on state highway route markers in 1923 when North Dakota developed a uniform system for numbering and marking state highways. Red Tomahawk was a Teton Dakotah (Sioux) Indian who was the first tribal chairman of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and served as a government policeman in the early years of North Dakota's statehood. He lived on the land near the Cannon Ball River on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation near Mandan. In 1923, the State Highway Commission requested Red Tomahawk's approval to use his profile on highway signs. With honor and respect, he and his family granted permission to use his image as it reminded travelers of the first people of the North Dakota plains. Through the years, the Red



Tomahawk image was updated on the sign for readability purposes. The image of Red Tomahawk on state highway route marker signs was gradually retired though a sign replacement process, after being displayed on highways for nearly 100 years. In 2016, Marcellus Red Tomahawk was inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor. ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: June 28, 2017

- Approved the May 30, 2017 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
- Approved Governance policy revision to Election of Officers
- Approved option for allocation of non-operating margins
- Assigned voting delegates/alternates for various meetings
- Assigned members to the 2017 Election Committee for the annual meeting
- Reviewed Annual Meeting working agenda
- Moved the August Board meeting date to the 28th
- Heard Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and report on several meetings attended
- Heard and accepted the May financial report
- Reviewed and accepted director's expense report for May
- Reviewed department reports
- Assigned attendees for various meetings/events
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Aug. 28 in the NDAREC board room, Mandan, at 9 a.m. CT
 Sept. 27 in the Fort Yates Service Center, Fort Yates, 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, or call the office for a copy.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 4 contains a line item indicating your 2016 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 2016 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2016 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..... Bonnie Tomac
 Directors Mark Doll,
 Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,
 Chad Harrison, Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

MANAGEMENT

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

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**HOLIDAY CLOSING:
 MONDAY, SEPT. 4**

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4. Members, line crews will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.