



# Many hands make lighter work



## What's inside:

- **Mor-Gran-Sou remembers Paul Huncovsky**
- **Student scholarships available**
- **Consider serving as a board director**
- **Apply now for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**

*In the cooperative spirit of working together for the greater good, twins **Brady and Luke Hauge** helped clear snow frequently last year, with the new shovels they received for Christmas. We hope Mother Nature doesn't challenge them and our linemen so much this winter — but if she does, we are all ready. The boys are the sons of Clair and Jennifer Hauge, and grandsons of Jim and Jody Hauge and Dave and Mary Saxowsky. The Hauge families are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. We thank Jim for sharing this special photo and memory.*

COURTESY PHOTO





PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY

In 2016, Mor-Gran-Sou staff stopped by **Paul Huncovsky's** home to talk about his recollection of the Blizzard of 1966. The cooperative's line superintendent at the time, Paul said the snow was so high, and visibility so poor, power restoration was impossible until conditions improved.

## Mor-Gran-Sou remembers

# Paul Huncovsky

BY JACKIE MILLER

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors and staff were saddened to learn of the death of Paul Huncovsky, who passed away on Oct 22.

Paul, who grew up in Timmer, graduated from Flasher High School in 1948. Upon graduation and before serving in the U. S. Army, he worked for Mor-Gran Sou Electric Cooperative. Paul returned from the Army in 1953 and in March of 1954, he married his wife, Lavina. After their marriage, the young couple moved to New Salem where Paul returned to work for Mor-Gran-Sou. Paul worked in maintenance out of the New Salem outpost from 1954 to 1965. When the service center was moved to Mandan and another started in Glen Ullin, Paul transferred to Flasher to work as a lineworker, and later a line superintendent.

Paul and his wife made Flasher their home where they raised their three children, until Paul retired in 1991. They then moved to Mandan where they enjoyed the "good life," relishing in the company of many, and traveling with friends and family. Paul lost Lavina in 2009.

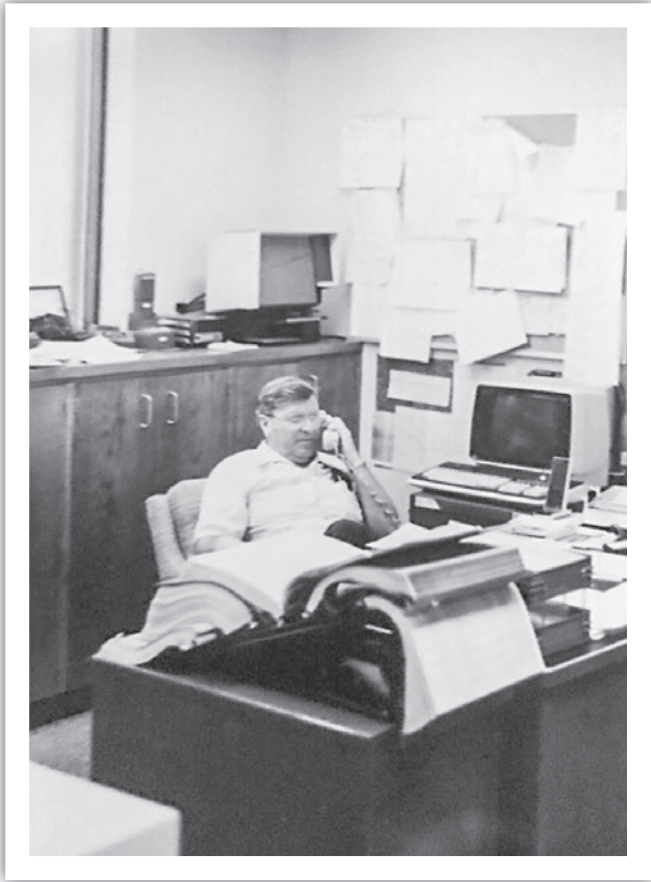
Those who knew Paul best describe him as fun-loving; he always had a smile on his face and was known for playing a practical joke or two. Of course, Paul had a

serious side to him and was responsible for his line crew throughout his work career.

Connie Rossow, a former co-worker of Paul's, shares those sentiments. "Paul was a great person to work with. He was always happy and looking for the good in everyone. He liked to pull pranks and enjoyed a good laugh," she says. "But when outages or other crises occurred, then he was always serious and no fooling around."

Connie continues, "After Paul retired and moved to Bismarck, we still kept in touch and he tried to get to events in Flasher when he could. After he got sick, my husband, Clifford, and I visited him whenever we were in Bismarck. He was still always happy and glad to see you, and never grumbled about his symptoms, as he was suffering from ALS. After he was in a wheelchair, Paul was always telling funny things that happened when he was trying to get outside, and how Paul's son, Jim Huncovsky, always had to come to his rescue and we had another good laugh."

Jim offered a few personal thoughts of his own. "I know my dad was proud to be an employee of Mor-Gran-Sou. He appreciated the people he worked with and the



opportunity to meet so many of its members over the years. His career was always a part of him, as he demonstrated on his 80th birthday. He strapped on his belt and hooks, and started to climb the light pole in his yard to show he could (and to scare his family members in attendance),” he describes.

Even after he retired, Paul remained close to many co-workers, and from time to time, Mor-Gran-Sou would ask him to share cooperative history. In 2007, in honor of the cooperative’s 60th anniversary, Mor-Gran-Sou asked

former employees to share a bit of wisdom or insight about their former jobs. Paul was gracious enough to share his story. He reminisced and said that even though he started working for Mor-Gran-Sou in May 1948, he remembered those days quite well. His first job was to assist Ed Atkinson (a former warehouse superintendent) with annual inventory, which taught him the difference between an insulator and a cross arm. “We were in the process of transferring homes in Flasher from the old lines served by the diesel generator plant to the new REA lines. Most of our work in the early years was installing metering, and converting rural farms to the system as construction crews completed the lines,” he stated during the interview.

“It was a pleasure to work for the people we converted to our system. They were so happy when we pulled into the yard to be receiving electric service. We could not leave without lunch or coffee. They were great people.”

In his capacity as a line superintendent, Paul also shared his experience during the Blizzard of 1966, on the difficulties of traveling and restoring electricity. He says he remembers one of the cooperative’s members calling from the St. Anthony area, saying he was out of power and heat to his home. “He kept asking, ‘Are you coming? Are you coming yet?’ I told him, ‘We just can’t see a thing!’” The N.D. State Highway Department also called Paul, indicating that a group of men had become stranded on the road and asked if linemen lived in the area and could help. “I said, ‘We sure would if we could, but we can’t see, either!’” Serving as the line superintendent came with the huge responsibility of balancing the membership’s needs with the safety of the line crews. “I would never send them out if I didn’t think it was safe,” he concluded.

A number of months have passed since Paul’s passing, and we miss him dearly. Mor-Gran-Sou extends its condolences to the family and friends of our dear friend, Paul Huncovsky. ■

## LIGHT YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH LEDS

The winter holiday season has officially begun, and with it comes the frenzy of decorating, holiday gatherings and gift buying. Don’t let your energy-saving efforts fall by the wayside amid all the festivities.

Light your home with LED lights. In addition to being sturdier and more resistant to breakage, LED lights also last longer and consume 70 percent less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. It only costs 27 cents to light a 6-foot tree for 12 hours a day for 40 days with LEDs, compared to \$10 for incandescent lights.

LED – or light-emitting diode – holiday lights are much more efficient than traditional incandescent lights. While the initial purchase price of LED light strings is higher, consider the cost of running each type of light string for 12 hours per day for 40 days:

Type of light	Electricity cost *
Standard C-7 (125 bulbs, 4 watts each)	\$25.13
Mini incandescent lights (300 bulbs, 0.4 watts each)	\$6.03
LED holiday lights (280 bulbs, 0.04 watts each)	56 cents

\*Assumes an electricity price of 10.5 cents per kilowatt-hour.  
Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 20, 2018

**A**re 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 At-Large position presently held by Mark Doll;
- The Morton County position presently held by Bonnie Tomac; and
- The Sioux County position presently held by Chad Harrison.

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 21, 2018. 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. 10, 2018. The members of the Nominating

Committee include Leslie Dirk, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Kathy Hoff, Leith; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Rhonda Leingang, Solen; Alan Malm, Flasher; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; 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 Wednesday, March 7, 2018. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jackie Miller, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, N.D., 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 [jlmliller@morgransou.com](mailto:jlmliller@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; to download the form electronically, visit our website at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) and click Home/Your Power in Membership/Forms and Applications/Declaration of Candidacy Form. Candidate qualifications can be found at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) and click Your 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 7 deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board. ■

## Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting scheduled for July 20, 2018. The board of directors has charged the Nominating Committee with reviewing and advising the board of any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions. Therefore, any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions should be submitted in writing no later than March 14, 2018, and/or they can be presented in-person at one of the following meetings of the Nominating Committee:

- **Jan. 10, 2018 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT**
- **March 14, 2018 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT**

If you do wish to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, please forward it to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 14. Thank you.





**M**or-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 scholarships to qualifying seniors. With this in mind, we are happy to announce that we have updated our program to include more scholarship opportunities to our graduating seniors. The applicants must be U.S. citizens and dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members. All scholarships will be awarded during the 2017-2018 school year.

The co-op will award nine, \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op. School representatives from Elgin-New Leipzig Public School, Flasher Public School, Glen Ullin Public School, Hebron Public School, Mandan Public School, New Salem-Almont Public School, Standing Rock Community School, and Solen Public School will select one graduating senior to receive the funds. Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will then forward each recipient's name to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

The co-op will also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area. Please contact our office if interested.

#### **Luck of the Draw scholarships**

Mor-Gran-Sou will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 20. All high school seniors who are dependent of Mor-Gran-Sou members are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting and be accompanied with at least one parent or guardian, and will be required to RSVP before the meeting.

#### **Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is awarding a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.**

We award these scholarship to a student already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. 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. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com).

#### **Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction.**

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com).

#### **Mor-Gran-Sou is also awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services.**

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com).

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018. 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® Cooperative 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 Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2018.

#### **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.
- 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 poster will be featured in the Mor-Gran-Sou local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine.



# Strong financials lead to end-of-year return

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors and management staff have more good news to share. It is with great pleasure that we announce that in addition to the check for the general retirement of capital credits, to be mailed in mid-December, you will also find a bill credit on your November and December billing statements.

As you may know, Mor-Gran-Sou is a nonprofit business that exists only to provide goods and services to you, our member-owners, not to make a profit for a shareholder

or investor. Cooperatives are operated to provide electric service to their members at as low a cost as possible. At the end of each year, Mor-Gran-Sou completes its financials and prepares a budget to plan for future cooperative needs.

As the board of directors and management staff plan for the future, they also reflect on the current financial strength of the cooperative. In recognition of the fact that the 2017 financials were stronger than forecasted, the board of directors decided to issue a bill credit to the members. Please look for your credit

on the line item on your November and December electric statements entitled "MGS Bill Credit."

If you have any questions, please contact us at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT.

Once again, we are pleased to share this good news with you. Thank you, members, for your support throughout the year. We wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. ■

# Directors receive recognition



PHOTO BY JACKIE MILLER

Mor-Gran-Sou Board Chair "Judge" Barth (center) recently presented continuing education certificates to Directors Chad Harrison and Bonnie Tomac.

Mor-Gran-Sou is governed by a board of nine directors who are electric cooperative members. Elected by the member-owners they represent, directors listen to member issues, attend meetings, study current trends, and keep up-to-date on what is happening in the local, regional and national political arena. During monthly meetings, they exchange information and strategize for the cooperative's progressive growth.

A well-trained and educated director is critical to the decision-

making process in the board room. To help directors better understand the utility industry, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) offers formal training programs in which directors can earn the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), Board Leadership and Director Gold credentials. The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives offers the required coursework annually to help directors complete the requirements for these credentials. Additionally, directors have other opportunities to attend courses, including NRECA's pre-annual meeting, pre-annual directors' conference, summer schools, and pre-regional meeting.

The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The courses include: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning, and Financial Decision Making. The Board Leadership curriculum

offers more advanced courses for directors and can be attained after earning the CCD certificate and earning 10 credits by attending Board Leadership coursework. The Director Gold Credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the CCD and Board Leadership, who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

At a recent board meeting, two directors were recognized for attaining a director education milestone. Bonnie Tomac earned her CCD certificate, and Chad Harrison earned both his CCD certificate and Board Leadership credential.

Directors, we congratulate you on your accomplishment and thank you for your continued interest in the future of Mor-Gran-Sou. ■



# WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 9-15, 2018

## 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, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Jan. 31, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to [jlmliller@morgransou.com](mailto: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.

## TOP 3 REASONS

### TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

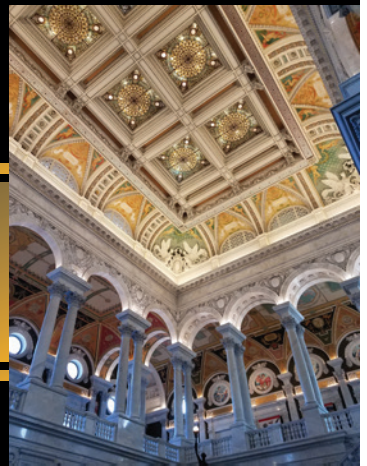
1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

### ESSAY QUESTION:

*There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.*



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT  
[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com)



# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



### Meeting date: Oct. 26, 2017

- Approved the Sept. 27, 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 policy revision to increase director compensation
- Approved funding maximum for 2018 refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted IRS Form 990 report
- Approved CFC Termination Agreement on Capital Term Certificates
- Approved Mor-Gran-Sou/IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Approved Resolution for revised employee pension plans
- Approved 2018 deadline dates for board of director candidacy submission
- Reviewed the 2018 Declaration of Candidacy form
- Appointed members to the Nominating Committee/Bylaw Review Committee
- Appointed director to assist the Nominating Committee
- Appointed members to the Board of Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation (Operation Round Up)
- Approved a member bill credit for November
- Reviewed the preliminary 2018 Budget
- Heard report from Federated Rural Electric Insurance representative
- Appointed a North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives' Board Director and Alternate from Mor-Gran-Sou
- Appointed/confirmed director attendance and voting delegates for various meetings
- Heard the Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer update, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard and accepted the September financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the director's expense report for September
- Reviewed department reports
- Held Executive Session

### Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Dec. 19, 2017, in the NDAREC Board room, Mandan, at 10:30 a.m. CT

Jan. 31, 2018, in the NDAREC Board room, 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](http://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

Our entire organization wishes our member-owners a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year! In observance of the holidays in December and January, Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed:

- Friday afternoon, Dec. 22, and Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas
- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, for New Year's Day

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  
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.... Donald A. Franklund

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

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