



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

OCTOBER 2017

NEWS

Plan it.

Safety is success by purpose.

*Leadman Clint Begger, right, and
Journeyman Lineman Brady Zachmann*



What's inside:

- Manager's message on the cooperative difference
- Rural lifestyle, city opportunities possible due to electric service
- N.D. Native American Hall of Honor
- 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
- Meetings minutes, and more

ND REC's

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEWNEY



YOU are the reason Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is special

BY DON FRANKLUND

Every year, there are events and milestones we look forward to celebrating: a birthday, a family vacation, a parade or firework display. As electric cooperatives, we look forward to October, when we celebrate National Cooperative Month and what makes us special.

Do you understand the cooperative difference, and what makes your membership in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative special? A cooperative is owned by the members it serves, so YOU are the reason a cooperative is special. You own us. You govern us, by electing directors to the board of directors who represent your interests.

Those local directors ensure the rates are sufficient to operate with safety and reliability in mind; not to make a profit. The money that is earned after expenses have been paid is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credits checks. Annually the board of directors, at its discretion, decides whether to allow a general retirement of capital credits for that calendar year.

The people who work for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are another reason your cooperative is special. Our 21 employees are dedicated to the communities they serve, and when they're not working you'll often find them volunteering their time with some local organization or activity.

There are many more cooperative employees working for you, and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative is approaching its

10-year anniversary in 2018, and that's another milestone to celebrate. The alliance is a management and shared services cooperative that is owned by Mor-Gran-Sou, Slope, Roughrider, and KEM Electric Cooperatives.

What does that mean for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members? Your cooperative has access to 14 additional employees who are specialists in their fields — from engineering and safety to information technology and human resources. It would be expensive for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to hire its own civil engineer ... but thanks to the shared services provided by the alliance, you DO have a talented civil engineer working for you and doing what's best for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's members.

As far as management services, I'll continue serving as the sole co-general manager and chief executive officer until early 2018. The alliance board is currently working to find a replacement for my friend and former partner, Chris Baumgartner, who resigned from the alliance to accept a position with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

After evaluating how the partnership has worked for the past five years with Chris, and discussing various scenarios and options, the board determined it would be best to continue having two managers. The time and consideration they are investing in this process is considerable, and I know the question they always come back to when making decisions is, "How will



this affect the member at the end of the line?" I trust they have your best interests in mind when hiring a replacement, and with every decision they make in the board room.

YOU are the reason we exist. Electric cooperatives were formed in the spirit of coming together for the greater good. Electric cooperatives accepted the challenge and built an electric system in some very rural areas where others would not go — not to make money, but to bring families power on the farm, in the home, at a business — and ultimately improve their quality of lives. We continue with the same goals today.

Electric cooperatives are special. This October and every October, and every day in between, let's celebrate the business model that makes this journey possible. ■



CO-OPS COMMIT

Co-op Month 2017

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.



PHOTO BY HEIDI BOLDT

Beth and Lincoln Roth are Mor-Gran-Sou members from north of New Leipzig, along with sons **Carter**, 6, and **Bennett**, 3. Married 15 years, the couple met as children when Beth became good friends with his sister. "He was the annoying older brother who would pick on us at sleepovers," Beth remembers. "We ran into each other when I was in college at a wedding dance ... and he wasn't so annoying anymore."

Beth Roth is a freelance artist who writes agriculture-based stories for regional and national publications. When the couple's sons go to bed, and farmers and ranchers tend to come inside after a long day's work, Beth conducts interviews and writes stories. Also a Thirty-One Gifts consultant, Beth markets her business and does real-time product demonstrations online. Reliable electric service, and a supportive family, help make the extra income possible. Holding a degree in communications and animal science, Beth says the extra work also gives her personal enjoyment.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Rural lifestyle, city opportunities possible due to electric service

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Editor's note: In commemoration of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's 70th anniversary, we looked back on the meager beginnings of rural electrification in July, and why women were motivated to get central station electricity in their homes. In this month's local pages, we are featuring Beth Roth, a member who shares how electricity allows her to live in a rural area, yet write for regional and national publications, and market her business — all thanks to reliable electric service.

You can't beat the view from Beth Roth's office. When she looks out the window, she can see her husband working, their boys playing, cows feeding, and prairie stretching for miles. Her office is the loft in their home, and the only supplies she needs are her laptop and electricity.

A former agent with Grant County Extension for seven years, Beth left a fulfilling job and career to do what she had always dreamed of doing — stay at home with her husband, Lincoln, and sons Carter and Bennett. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members from north of New Leipzig, Lincoln and Beth farm and ranch in partnership with his parents, and brother and family. A farm girl who grew up south of Elgin, Beth will be busy this fall operating the corn cutter and taking care of the boys — and when time allows, supplementing their income as a freelance artist and business owner.

Having earned a degree in communications and animal science from North Dakota State University in Fargo, Beth does contract work for agriculture publications. When time allows, she writes for *Cattle Business Weekly*, based



This is the view from Beth Roth's office. This photo, taken from the home's loft, shows the feedlot Lincoln and Beth Roth established with assistance from the N.D. Stockmen's Association. The Roths have about 150 cows and feed another 1,000 calves through the winter. The couple also farms about 1,000 acres, in partnership with Lincoln's parents, and brother and family.

in Philip, South Dakota, and *Working Ranch Magazine*, with headquarters in Henderson, Nevada.

Also a Thirty-One Gifts consultant, Beth sells bags, totes, purses and home-organization tools. Finding that clients prefer shopping and placing orders online to hosting home parties, Beth holds parties on Facebook where she can “go live” and showcase a product to her audience in real time.

“It’s amazing what you can do with technology,” she says.

Beth and Lincoln also use the computer to keep crop and cattle records, and do their taxes.

Having access to those records 24/7 is important to their livelihood, so when the power goes out, “life is hard,” says Beth. She remembers the two significant storms of 2010, when Mor-Gran-Sou’s system was heavily damaged by snow, ice and wind. The first storm, which turned out to be the less destructive of the two, was their first insight into how hard life can be without electricity.

“We could see the physical damage; all the poles were down. We didn’t know the extent because we couldn’t drive around and see, but we knew it was bad here,” Beth remembers.

They were without power for about a week during that incident. On Good Friday when the second storm hit and damaged more than 10,000 poles across the system, the Roths drove to Dickinson when roads allowed, and bought a generator that can power the corrals, fridge, freezers, microwave and furnace. It isn’t enough to power the stove and oven.

That’s hard to explain to young kids who say they are hungry. And when kids say they are hungry, they mean, now.

Beth and Lincoln didn’t have children back in 2010 during the two historical storms. When they do have an occasional power outage now, Beth says they simply, “deal with it.”

“We have a kerosene lantern and a Coleman lantern that we use for lighting. That’s something I remember doing when we were kids, too,” Beth continues. “Mom had a kerosene lantern we would always light. We would play Uno® and Kings in the Corner®, and other card games and board games, and whatever we could around the kerosene lantern.”

Good things come with temporary inconveniences. Sticky hands from Play-Doh®, and shrieks of laughter when the boys cling to dad’s legs and he drags them around the kitchen to “clean” the floor. When the DVD player doesn’t work because the power is out, it’s not too hard to find other, better entertainment.

Beth wouldn’t trade her rural lifestyle for a big-city opportunity. She’s already worked a dream job in town, and now she’s doing everything she wanted and more — being a wife, mother, farm and ranch partner, and when it works for her schedule, writer and business owner. ■

Thank you, Beth and Lincoln, for inviting us into your home and sharing this story.



Members honored for tribal and cultural achievements

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates some current and former co-op members who were inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor in September, as part of the Tribal Leadership Summit and United Tribes International Powwow.

Located in the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, the Native American Hall of Honor is an annual program and exhibit recognizing Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribe and culture. The program is a partnership of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, State Historical Society of North Dakota, State Historical Society Foundation and United Tribes Technical College.

This year, five individuals and one group were selected by the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor Committee, which is comprised of tribal representatives from each of the five federally recognized tribes of North Dakota.

The 2017 inductees, and the categories they represent, included:

- David Gipp, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: Leadership.
- Leigh Jeanotte, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa: Leadership.

- Mary Louise Defender Wilson, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: Culture/Arts.
- Dan Jerome, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa: Culture/Arts.
- Pete Fredericks, Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation: Sports/Athletics.
- 1973 Fort Yates Warriors Basketball Team, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: Sports/Athletics.

Mor-Gran-Sou congratulates all inductees and would like to highlight the folks who live or lived on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation at some point. Mary Louise Defender Wilson is a Mor-Gran-Sou member from Porcupine. Dr. Gipp is a former member from Fort Yates. The players on the 1973 Fort Yates Warriors “miracle team” who beat the Minot Magicians in a triple overtime Class A championship victory included Wyman Archambault (current member), Anthony Bobtail Bear, Jerry Grey Bear, Gus Claymore, the late Oliver Eagleman, Bill Eaglestaff, Darrell Eaglestaff, Albert Gipp, the late Roger Goudreaux, Verle Red Tomahawk (current member), Jesse Taken Alive and Ken Walks. Assisting in their success were Student Managers Kevyn Heck and Sheldon Speigleman, Assistant Coach Sherman Laubach and Coach Clark Swisher, Jr. ■

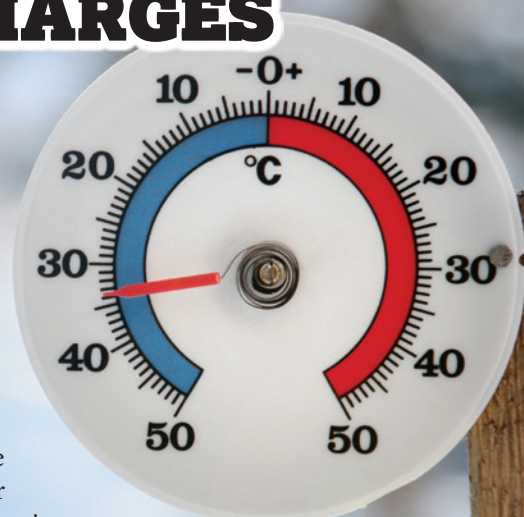
COLD WEATHER CHARGES

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. ■



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, 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

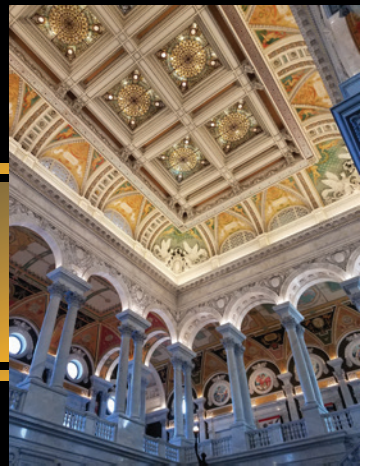
1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

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



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Aug. 28, 2017

- Approved the July 21, 2017 regular Board meeting minutes
- Reviewed the July 21, 2017 Annual Meeting minutes
- Approved two work order inventories and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Appointed a Trustee and Alternate for the ND REC Benefits Trust
- Approved 2018 Budget for IEAC (Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative)
- Presented award to the ND Council of the Arts with matching funds from CoBank, Mor-Gran-Sou and Basin Electric from CoBank's "Sharing Success Program"
- Reviewed statistics, history and evaluations from the 2017 Mor-Gran-Sou Annual Meeting
- Heard the Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) update, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard and accepted the July financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the directors' expense report for July
- Reviewed department reports
- Elected voting delegates and alternates to various upcoming meetings
- Held Executive Session
- Was presented the annual training on code of conduct and ethics, conflict of interest, harassment, and EEOC by legal counsel

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Oct. 26 at Prairie Learning Center, Raleigh, at 10:30 a.m. CT

Nov. 29 in the NDAREC board room 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.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN
Tuesday, Oct. 31

Cooler weather is on the way and the heating season is upon us.

Is your electric meter breaker on?

Members, if your home or business has a sub-meter for the separately metered electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel. In fact, if you have a heat meter, please make sure the breaker to the meter is turned on all year, to ensure Mor-Gran-Sou receives meter readings. If the breaker is off, your electric heat kilowatt-hour usage will not be reflected on your bill.

The Separately Metered Heat rates run Oct. 1 through April 30.

FALL BACK!
Daylight saving time ends this year on **Sunday, Nov. 5**. Don't forget to "fall back" one hour on Saturday evening before you go to bed.



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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