



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

SEPTEMBER 2017

NEWS

Members — The Foundation of the Future



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative held its 70th annual meeting on July 21. A cooperative does not differentiate between itself and its members – we are one and the same. The opportunities and challenges we face together make us stronger, and this year's theme, "Members – the Foundation of the Future," reflected that spirit of cooperation.

Mor-Gran-Sou Engineering Technician Jesse Kuhn helped work the registration table.

What's inside:

- Annual meeting review
- Youth Tour recap
- Safety tip by Joe Meier
- Meeting minutes, and more



Chad Harrison, a Mor-Gran-Sou board member and tribal councilman for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, welcomed guests to the meeting and talked about the importance of working together for the greater good.



*Have a question? We have an answer, and always have the time for a personal visit. Former Co-General Manager **Chris Baumgartner** visited with a member immediately following the meeting.*

Mor-Gran-Sou reflects on spirit of cooperation at annual meeting

BY JACKIE MILLER

Members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., met at the Pavilion of Prairie Knights Casino and Resort north of Fort Yates on July 21 to conduct their business at the cooperative's 70th annual meeting. This year's theme was, "Members — The Foundation of the Future."

The afternoon began with registration from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CT. Prior to a delicious banquet served at 6 p.m., a solemn prayer was offered by Director Vernard Frederick, a licensed lay minister for the United Church of Christ, Flasher. Mor-Gran-Sou was also honored to have Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Councilman Chad Harrison provide a warm welcome.

Chairman Leland "Judge" Barth dropped the gavel at approximately 5:30 p.m. CT and the business meeting was underway. 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 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. Mor-Gran-Sou thanks Tom Anseth, Mandan, for campaigning to serve his electric cooperative.

Mor-Gran-Sou was honored to have a number of guests join the meeting, including representatives from the offices of Senators Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven, and Representative Kevin Cramer. The representatives read statements from their respective delegates.

After the greetings, Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers Donald Franklund and Chris Baumgartner captured the theme in their interesting and informative report to the membership. Franklund discussed the two rate increases from Mor-Gran-Sou's wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Through austerity measures enacted by both Mor-Gran-Sou and Basin Electric, the rate increase to be experienced by the member-owners had been delayed. Franklund then emphasized the importance of electricity and everything it does for a person on a daily basis. He concluded by thanking Mor-Gran-Sou's employees for their hard work.



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Michael Riedman, the program communications coordinator with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of Mor-Gran-Sou's power suppliers, encourages kids and kids-at-heart to ride the energy bike and learn about energy efficiency. One cyclist at the meeting was **Brody Froelich**, who is the son of Lance and Sunshine Froelich from Selfridge. Lance serves on the board of directors for Mor-Gran-Sou.

Baumgartner continued by updating the membership on national updates and events that have impacted Mor-Gran-Sou. The Clean Power Plan, a rule enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency, has been halted by an executive order issued by the President. Basin Electric continues to work on advancing clean-coal technology and developing renewable forms of energy. Mor-Gran-Sou is also carefully monitoring discussions regarding the budget as it pertains to trade, rural development programs and the proposed sale of Federal Power Marketing Agencies.

Baumgartner also discussed renewable energy sources that some members are exploring. He emphasized that those who install a system will still need to be connected to the electric grid for back-up power when their alternative source is unable to meet their demands. With assistance from Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) Cooperative partners KEM, Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives, Mor-Gran-Sou continues to evaluate member opportunities to utilize solar and other forms of renewable energy; particularly in applications such as remote stock wells.

Baumgartner noted how the alliance allows Mor-Gran-Sou to stay current with technology, regulations, members' needs and more, which otherwise would be difficult to do as individual entities. The IEA also partners with 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services to perform construction and vehicle-repair and certification needs. Baumgartner concluded by saying the partnership Mor-Gran-Sou has with its members is the focus for the cooperative in providing safe and reliable electric service every day.

Dedicated to the development of young leaders in the area, Mor-Gran-Sou recognized four scholarship winners during the business meeting including Caitlyn Becker, Flasher; Mary Hintz, Flasher; Dillon Koeplin, Elgin; and Katelyn Muggli, Carson. The teenagers competed for and received a Basin Electric/Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship award in the amount of \$500 to further their education as they attend college this fall. Basin Electric also offers a scholarship for member-cooperative employees, and this year, the \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to McKenzie Kuhn. She is the daughter of Mor-Gran-Sou Engineering Technician Jesse Kuhn and his wife, Michelle. In addition,



Mor-Gran-Sou was pleased to learn that board of directors of 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services have each offered a \$500 scholarship to its members. This allowed Mor-Gran-Sou to offer two additional scholarships that went to Lindsey Harrison, Selfridge, and Thad Norton, New Salem. All of the scholarship recipients were able to attend the meeting and thanked the members for the scholarships.

In June, Sam Dart of Elgin participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Dart was unable to attend the annual meeting, so he sent a video presentation that was played for the membership. While on the tour, Dart joined delegates from across the state and nation to participate in events that showcase our nation's rich history, U.S. government, the cooperative business model and rural electrification.

After the video presentation, Chief Financial Officer Travis Kupper presented the financial report. He said Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. audited the 2016 financial statements of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and presented their report to the board of directors with an 'unmodified opinion', the highest opinion they can give.

Following the report, questions were accepted by the managers, who shared answers with the public. They also welcomed members to contact them or the board directors after the meeting for a personal answer. The meeting then concluded.

The board of directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou wish to thank the members for participating in the 70th annual meeting of the membership, and look forward to meeting its members' electrical needs in the future. ■



As always, Prairie Knights Casino and Resort provided a hot and delicious meal. Prairie Knights is one of Mor-Gran-Sou's largest member-owners, and the annual meeting is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation and the spirit of cooperation.



Some of the lucky winners of the \$25 bill credit.

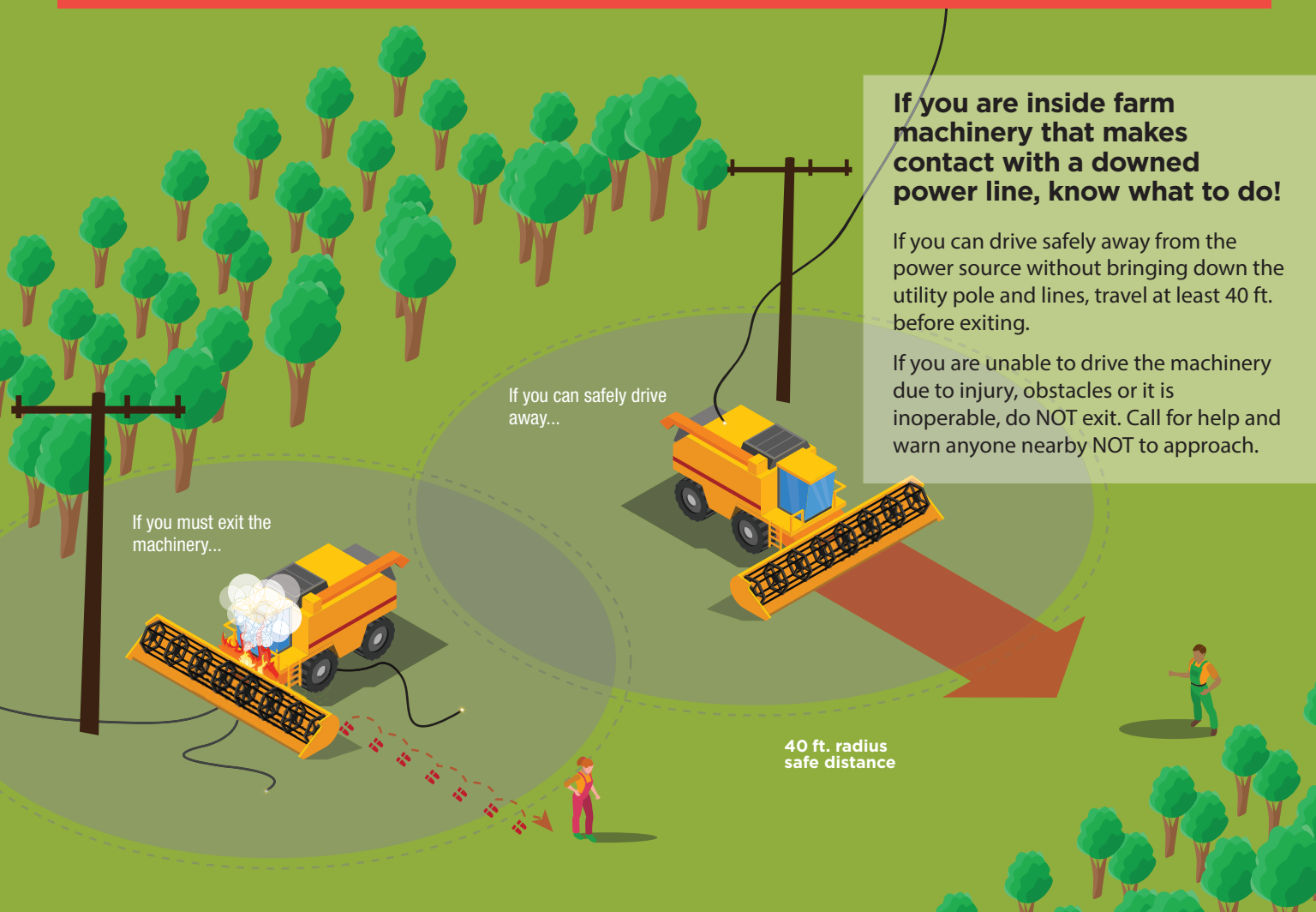
Bill credit winners

This year, members who voted in person at the annual meeting or voted by mail-in ballot had the chance to win one of 15 \$25 bill credits. The \$25 bill credit was automatically applied to the winner's August electric bill. Listed are the lucky winners of the drawing:

- Melody Azure, Fort Yates
- Joseph Boehm, Fort Rice
- Jackie Buckley, Mandan
- Eric Eberts, Mandan
- Wilbert O. Fisher, Solen
- George Gerhardt, Bismarck
- Joseph Hatzenbuhler Jr., Solen
- Marvin Hatzenbuhler, Mandan
- Harvey Hogan, Mandan
- Brandon Meyer, Solen
- Wesley Pulkrabek, Mandan
- Isabelle Schmidt, Flasher
- Franklin Umber, McIntosh
- Emily Yanish, Bismarck
- Leo Zachmeier, Mandan

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If you can safely drive away...

If you must exit the machinery...

40 ft. radius safe distance

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

- 1.** Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
- 2.** Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
- 3.** Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
- 4.** Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
- 5.** Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.



Washington, D.C., and what Sam Dart DIDN'T learn in school

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



PHOTO BY PETE ERICKSON

*The son of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member Luann Dart and the late Sam Dart, **Sam Dart** (back row, fifth from left) traveled to Washington, D.C. June 10 to 16 for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Comparing photos he saw of the capital's monuments and memorials in textbooks to standing beside them on the tour, Sam says everything is much bigger and more impressive in person.*

Growing up in a small, rural town in North Dakota, Sam Dart has known the same people his entire life: the kids at school, the people eating at Our Place Café, the teller at First International Bank & Trust, the nurse at Elgin Community Clinic. He is comfortable visiting with them because they are familiar.

When Sam stepped onto the plane headed to Washington, D.C., he stepped out of his comfort zone — on a trip of a lifetime sponsored by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

Sam was one of 16 North Dakota high school students to attend the 53rd annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in our nation's capital for a weeklong adventure in June. The North Dakota delegation joined a record 1,800 students from around the nation for a fast-paced, intensive week of learning about history and American government; visiting with their state's congressional delegation; becoming more knowledgeable about the cooperative business model; and touring museums, national monuments and memorials. Sponsored by their family's electric distribution cooperative, the students also develop leadership skills and a national network of peers.

He earned the opportunity to travel when he entered an essay-writing contest that is sponsored annually by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. He answered the following topic:

“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.”

Yes, Sam was impressed by the massive size and architecture of the Lincoln Memorial. Sure, he liked the way the U.S. Air Force Memorial sculpture rose above the skyline. True, he felt the shoe and wedding ring collections at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum were powerful reminders that criminal history should never repeat.

Sam will remember the monuments and memorials — and how seeing them was an extension of what he had already learned about in history classes. But the thing he didn't learn in school — how to meet new people his age and build a network of friends who live across the country — is the opportunity he most appreciated while on the Youth Tour. In one short week's time, Sam says he feels more socially advanced. Feeling the trip “opened him up,” Sam might feel comfortable serving on a board, volunteering for a charity, giving a speech — and one day in the not-too-distant future — being a servant leader.

“On the plane coming back, we talked about how this trip was a life-changing thing for a lot of us. It showed how we had to come out of our comfort zones a little bit, and talk to people,” Sam says. “If we had stayed in our little group and gotten to know them, that's good and all. But to come out of our comfort zones and go up and talk to new people, that's a whole new experience and it can bring all these awesome opportunities. We thought that was a really awesome part of the tour; being able to meet so many new people and learn how to talk to someone you've never met who lives across the country.”

Sam also met Congressman Kevin Cramer, who met with the North Dakota student delegation and shared his views on health care reform and other issues. Sam says Representative Cramer shared some “cool” stories about his time back home in North Dakota, including how he relaxes at Lake Tschida, where Sam is working for the summer. For Sam, the conversation made Mr. Cramer seem more like a person than a politician.

On Cooperative Day, Sam heard many inspiration messages including one from Jim Matheson, who said that rural areas are the heartbeat of America. Matheson is



COURTESY PHOTO

Exchanging pins with peers, Mor-Gran-Sou Youth Tour representative **Sam Dart** (second from right) said the trip gave him the opportunity to network with kids from across the state and nation — and ultimately “open up.” With social confidence, Sam will excel in whatever he chooses to do.

the chief executive officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

“You bring a voice that wants to engage with people, and talk about your community and what matters to you,” said Matheson. “It’s up to all of us to support it, nurture it, hold it accountable and make it work. That’s the approach of NRECA, and that’s the approach you will help us pursue.”

Reflecting on his many experiences after the trip, Sam says the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour gives students unlimited potential to learn about their country and connect with new friends who seem very different, and yet the same.

“It’s an awesome opportunity and an awesome experience for all these kids. It helps them! It helped me,” he continues. “Knowing there are all kinds of people out there. You can’t really judge people by how they look. Everybody I met was just an awesome person. They were

all really fun to talk to; just interesting people. I’ll carry that with me, just knowing that I can talk with somebody and they can be the coolest person I’ve ever met.”

In October, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will ask the next batch of students to apply for the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Sam encourages any sophomore or junior who lives in the cooperative’s service area to apply.

“I heard some kids talking about how their co-op had only one or two kids apply. That blows my mind, because it’s such an easy task and the outcome is extraordinary,” he says.

“Thank you, Mor-Gran-Sou, for sponsoring the tour, and for giving me the opportunity to go on this awesome trip and meet people,” he concludes.

For information on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, visit www.ndyouthtour.com or www.youthtour.coop, or call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. ■

Education is a fundamental principle of electric cooperatives. Boards of directors and managers say they believe it’s imperative to help students understand the democratic process and gain the skills necessary to become tomorrow’s leaders. By sponsoring the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, North Dakota’s electric cooperatives are helping high school students experience government firsthand by visiting Washington, D.C., meeting their representatives and senators, and building a better understanding of our country and their role as engaged citizens. On the tour this year, Sam Dart met Representative Kevin Cramer.

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: July 21, 2017

- Approved the June 28, 2017 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved renewal of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association 401K plan and RS Restatement
- Heard Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and report on several meetings attended
- Heard and accepted the June financial report
- Reviewed and accepted director's expense report for June
- Reviewed department reports
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Sept. 27 in the Fort Yates Service Center, Fort Yates, at 9 a.m. CT

Oct. 26 at Prairie Learning Center, Raleigh, 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.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENVEY

Safety tip

BY JOE MEIER, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER FOR WDUS, MANDAN

Working on any type of equipment, make sure the engine is turned off before entering an area with moving components that can harm you. An on/off switch or control can malfunction. Always think ahead and work safely.

West Dakota Utility Services, or WDUS, is an independent business owned by Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives. It services utility trucks, in addition to contractors and customers who have vehicles that need hydraulic repairs or N.D. Department of Transportation certification. WDUS also repairs welders, engines and utility tools including crimpers and hydraulic tamps, and is a distributor that can order hydraulic tools and generators.

If WDUS or Joe Meier can help you with a project or repair, call 701-663-4365 or email wdus@btinet.net.



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
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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 