



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

AUGUST 2018

NEWS

CHASING THE STORM

Brian Heskin with Dakota Storm Stalkers left Minot on July 2 to photograph storms in southwest North Dakota. With 30 miles yet to drive when a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued, the storm had started to collapse and weaken when he reached it. He was still able to capture this moment several miles north of Carson, in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area. We thank him for sharing this spectacular view and his talent with our members.



PHOTO © BRIAN HESKIN

What's inside:

- Evan Friesz shares Youth Tour highlights
- Capital credit allocation information
- Farm safety around electrical infrastructure
- Meetings minutes, and more



YOUTH TOUR

A trip where national policy and N.D.'s grassroots advocacy intersect

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



PHOTO BY LIZA KESSEL

*Pamela Clark-Stein, director of education and member services for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, says it's amazing to see the personal growth and confidence in the students who take educational trips like the Youth Tour. "Many of these students stay connected with their cooperative, and some have returned home after college to start their professional career with an electric cooperative," she says. "The Youth Tour experience also promotes interest in grassroots advocacy and future service as a board member at an electric cooperative." **Evan Friesz, Mor-Gran-Sou's representative, is pictured.***

Evan Friesz is already a farmer. An upcoming junior at Grant County High School, he cuts hay, combines crops, works cows, brands calves and helps his dad as needed.

So it was especially meaningful for him to visit the nation's Capital on the day the House voted on — and passed — the Farm Bill. According to politico.com, this

bill will re-authorize programs ranging from nutrition assistance and crop subsidies to rural development and agricultural research. The trip to visit Washington, D.C., and see the nation's legislators in action, was made possible thanks to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

The son of Mor-Gran-Sou members Eric and Jill Friesz from New Leipzig, Evan represented Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and the state of North Dakota on this year's trip, held June 9 to 15. He was one of 16 North Dakota high school students to join 1,800 students from around the nation for a fast-paced 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.

To earn a seat on the tour, the North Dakota students entered an essay-writing contest and addressed the following topic: "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." In his essay, Evan noted a variety of concerns facing our nation's veterans, including homelessness, mental health and access to medical care. He also suggested ways we can show veterans like his father support, including listening, being patient and simply saying thank you.

On the Youth Tour, Evan said his highlights included seeing some war memorials and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. It featured World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War exhibits. Evan says the displays and biographies were interesting, but they didn't change his mind about wanting to join the North Dakota National Guard after he graduates from high school.

His other highlights included the Newseum, which is an interactive museum that features newspapers from across the United States, and events that are preserved in part through the written word. Also a sports fan, Evan toured FedExField, which is home of the Washington Redskins football team, and watched a baseball game.



The North Dakota Youth Tour delegates had the opportunity to meet and visit with Rep. **Kevin Cramer**. Evan says he seemed like a "pretty cool guy." The students also met with an assistant of Sen. John Hoeven. The senator was only able to briefly greet students before leaving to vote on the farm bill. Evan says the students asked the assistant questions on the farm bill and immigration.

"It's way more exciting to watch a game in person," he says. "It makes the game more interesting."

As the kids cheered, visited and learned together while on the tour, they talked about their lives back home and what they want to do when they "grow up." For Evan, he told *North Dakota Living* readers in April that he wants to follow in his father's footsteps and serve our country — and then return to the family farm, where he will become the next generation of Mor-Gran-Sou member-owners.

Mor-Gran-Sou sponsors the Youth Tour annually to help students develop leadership skills — and hopefully one day improve the quality of life in rural communities in this great state. When asked how the trip might leave a lasting impact on Evan, he said, "I'm not a very social person. It was interesting to meet and get to know other people. Either you talked to them, or you didn't talk at all."

As his role advances on the family farm, and he is visiting with producers across the state and nation to discuss trends in technology and agriculture, we hope the skills he gained from attending the Youth Tour will play a small role in his success.

Members, Evan thanks you for supporting the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and giving him the opportunity to represent Mor-Gran-Sou this year.

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 annual, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative helps 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. Mor-Gran-Sou's delegate, **Evan Friesz**, is seated on the left.



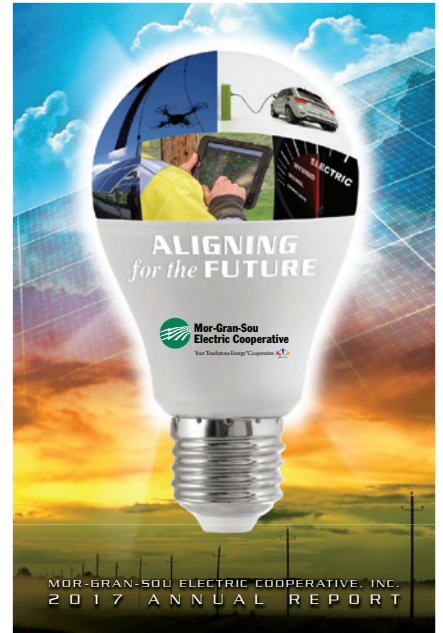
Thanks, members, for attending

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors, management staff and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending the 71st annual meeting of the membership held July 20. 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 At-Large position, one for the Morton County position and one for the Sioux County position. Incumbents Mark Doll, Bonnie Tomac and Chad Harrison retained their positions on the board. Doll is the At-Large representative, Tomac is the Morton

County representative and Harrison is the Sioux County representative. We thank Tim Kuntz of Mandan and Marcie Kahl of Solen for campaigning to serve their electric cooperative, and for being active and involved cooperative members.

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



Beat the Heat this summer



Install and set a programmable thermostat. It could save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling costs a year.



Use a fan. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.

As temperatures rise, many of us are cranking up the air conditioners to stay cool. It should come as no surprise that air conditioners use about 5 percent of all the electricity produced in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

This summer, instead of blasting the air conditioner (and blowing your electricity bills through the roof), you can take simple actions that will help you beat the heat. For example, replacing a dirty, clogged air filter

with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent, while using a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.

With just a few small changes, you can relax in comfort this summer while saving some cold, hard cash.

Here are some tips from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative:



Don't heat your home with appliances. On a hot day, consider using an outdoor grill rather than an oven.



Look up and look around ... Farm equipment is on the move



Linemen **Blake, Cody G. and Kale**



While farmers focus on the ground when sowing and harvesting, looking up is just as important – especially when operating farm equipment near power lines.

For your safety, make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between power lines and your combines, grain augers, pickers, balers and front-end loaders.

Keep in mind that uneven ground and shifting soil conditions can put you in harm's way.

Look up and look around when operating equipment. Power lines and poles may be closer than you think.

If you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou's attention, please call the co-op at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212. Or, send an email to safety@morgransou.com with location information and a photo, if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all.

Linemen **Brady, Cody M. and Gary**



Lineman **Lance**



**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENNEY



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVENEY



PHOTO BY SHERRY SCHMIDT

Committed to community and country

According to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, patriotism is “the love for or devotion to one’s country.” Perhaps no other day of the year evokes such a sense of patriotism than Independence Day. With flags rippling in the wind on porches and store fronts, and local parades and marching bands adorning main streets, together we show support for community and country.

At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, we believe another form of patriotism is engagement in public and civic life. By being active and involved, our goal is to help improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Employees with Mor-Gran-Sou and neighboring Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives have sponsored rodeo events and walked the parade route for years, handing out candy and visiting with members. Certainly, it’s fun to be together and visit with all of you.

It’s also one way we join together and make a difference — and show we care.

Mor-Gran-Sou hopes you celebrated a safe and happy Independence Day with family and friends. We thank all the military men and women who serve or have served, and know this is the land of the free, because of the brave. ■





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



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! ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: June 26, 2018

- Approved the May 30, 2018 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
- Reviewed and accepted the May financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the attorney and director's expense reports for May
- Approved increase to funding for capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Approved allocation of 2017 operating margins
- Approved completing a depreciation rate study
- Assigned Mor-Gran-Sou members to the 2018 Election Committee
- Reviewed the working agenda for the 2018 Annual Meeting
- Reviewed presentation on the Southwest Pool Power
- Approved attendance at various meetings, and assigned voting delegate/alternate
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard reports from various meetings the directors attended
- Held Executive Sessions

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Aug. 29 in Mandan at 9 a.m. CT
in the NDAREC board room

Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. at the
Great Plains Synfuels Plant near Beulah

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. 3 contains a line item indicating your 2017 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 2017 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2017 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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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-GM/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

www.morgransou.com

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HOLIDAY CLOSING:
MONDAY, SEPT. 3

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.