



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

DECEMBER 2018

NEWS

*May your homes –
and hearts – be filled with
warmth this holiday season.*

*Merry Christmas, and have a safe,
prosperous and happy New Year,
from the board of directors,
co-general managers and staff at
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.*



What's inside:

- **Strong financials lead to end-of-year return**
- **SAFETY@MORGRANSOU.COM**
- **Consider serving your cooperative as a board director**
- **Student opportunities: Youth Tour, scholarships and safety posters**
- **Meetings minutes and more**



Mor-Gran-Sou member nominates daughter for #WhoPowersYou contest



Mor-Gran-Sou members **Sherry and Curt Berreth**, with sons **Coy and Colten**.

Mor-Gran-Sou member Viola Bullert nominated her daughter, Sherry Berreth, in the third-annual #WhoPowersYou contest, which honors

inspirational people in our communities.

In partnership with the national brand alliance Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, Mor-Gran-Sou shared the #WhoPowersYou contest to recognize special people who power our lives, like community leaders or those who inspire. Nominations were made from Oct. 2 through Nov. 4 online at www.whopowersyou.com.

Judges reviewed the nominations and chose the winners based on creativity and impact on the community. The winners (\$5,000 grand prize; \$2,000 second prize; \$1,500 third prize; \$500 honorable mention) were announced the first week of December.

Across the United States, 301 people were nominated for this year's contest. Seven nominees are doing amazing things right here in North Dakota. Sherry Berreth is the only nominee from the Mor-Gran-Sou service area.

While the winners had not been announced at the time of publication, Sherry Berreth is certainly a winner in our book. Mor-Gran-Sou applauds her work with students, and her tenacity to fight and beat cancer. Her letter of nomination is below. ■

Sherry Berreth: My daughter, my hero!

BY MOR-GRAN-SOU MEMBER VIOLA BULLERT

Let me tell you about my daughter ... my hero! My daughter, Sherry Berreth, is an elementary physical education teacher and mother of two wonderful boys. She is the hardest worker I know. She is the definition of willpower. She became a school teacher so she could be a great mother and spend quality time with her family.

She has instilled some pretty amazing qualities into her two boys. They have each been students of the month at Mandan Middle School, team captains on their hockey teams, sportsmanship award winners in rodeo, and just all around great children.

In 2013, Sherry was nominated as the N.D. Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year. She is a wonderful teacher with very high expectations of her students. She is teaching so much more than just games; she is teaching and instilling life skills in her students and empowering them just like she has done as a parent!

In February 2013, Sherry was diagnosed with stage three colon cancer. It seemed as though her whole life was turned upside down in a matter of moments. The chemo and radiation treatments were difficult and exhausting. Many people in our community opened their arms, and surrounded her family with love and support.



Sherry Berreth (right) was nominated in the #WhoPowersYou contest by her mother, **Viola Bullert**.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Sherry is a fighter! After a two-year battle with colon cancer, she was diagnosed with lung cancer. She went to Mayo Clinic for a fourth surgery and had part of her lung removed. Three weeks later she was back to work, because she loves her job and her students!

Throughout this time, her energy was low but she never gave up. In fact, instead of feeling bad for herself, she would always say that she got cancer for a reason. If you had been in her shoes, you might ask “Why me?” But not her. She would always say, “Why not me? What makes me better than anybody else?” She would also assure you that she would go

through it again, just so her kids would never have to.

Despite her circumstances, she has greater hope! Sherry is now in remission and will never look back. Because of cancer, she would tell you she is a better person. According to her students and her family, she is the best! Sherry is always thinking of others; never herself.

I would love it if she could win this money so that she could go on a vacation with her family, just as a reward for all of her dedication and hard work! According to an unknown author, “Power is the ability to do good things for others.” This is a standard Sherry lives by! ■

BILL CREDITS

Strong financials lead to end-of-year return

At the end of each year, Mor-Gran-Sou completes its financials. The co-op then prepares a budget to plan for future needs.

Many things are considered while preparing the budget in addition to the current financial status, such as the cost of money, management plans, construction projects, maintenance projects, generation and transmission forecast, and politics.

When the current year’s financials are stronger than forecasted, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors may issue a bill credit to the members.

Adjusting the cooperative’s margin as a bill credit, rather than allocating

money as capital credits, allows the members of Mor-Gran-Sou to receive an immediate benefit. It also allows Mor-Gran-Sou to maintain its margins (which will be allocated) within expected and manageable levels.

The last bill credit issued to members occurred in November and December 2017. They were based on kilowatt hours used by each member. November’s credit included January through September 2017 usage, and December’s bill credit included January through October 2017 usage. The credit appeared on the members’ November and December billing statements.

Mor-Gran-Sou’s 2018 financials are

again stronger than forecasted. Once again, members will find a bill credit on their December billing statement. Please look for your credit on the line item on your December electric statement 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.

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. ■

SAFETY@MORGRANSOU.COM

Mor-Gran-Sou is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou’s attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@morgransouelectric.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!



Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 19, 2019

Are 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 four board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Vern Frederick;
- The Mandan-Area position presently held by Leland "Judge" Barth;
- The Morton County position presently held by Jay Larson; and
- The Morton County position presently held by Bonnie Tomac.*

**This position is to serve the remaining two-years of Bonnie Tomac's three-year term, as Ms. Tomac has resigned effective Dec. 31.*

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 27, 2019. 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. 9, 2019. The members of the Nominating Committee include Bryce Allen, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Rhonda Leingang, Solen; Alan Malm, Flasher; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Shari Striegel, Carson; 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 Thursday, March 7, 2019. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jackie Miller, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 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 jlmler@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 and click Home/Your Power in Membership/Forms and Applications/Declaration of Candidacy Form. Candidate qualifications can be found at 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 19, 2019. 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 21, 2019, and/or they can be presented in-person at one of the following in-person meetings of the Nominating Committee:

- Jan. 9, 2019, in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT
- March 21, 2019, 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 21. Thank you.



COOPERATIVE OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Mor-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 2018-2019 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, Selfridge 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.

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.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric continues to award 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. All post-secondary students who have parents that are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are eligible to apply. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at 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. The scholarship will be awarded during the 2018-2019 school year. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at www.morgransou.com.

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

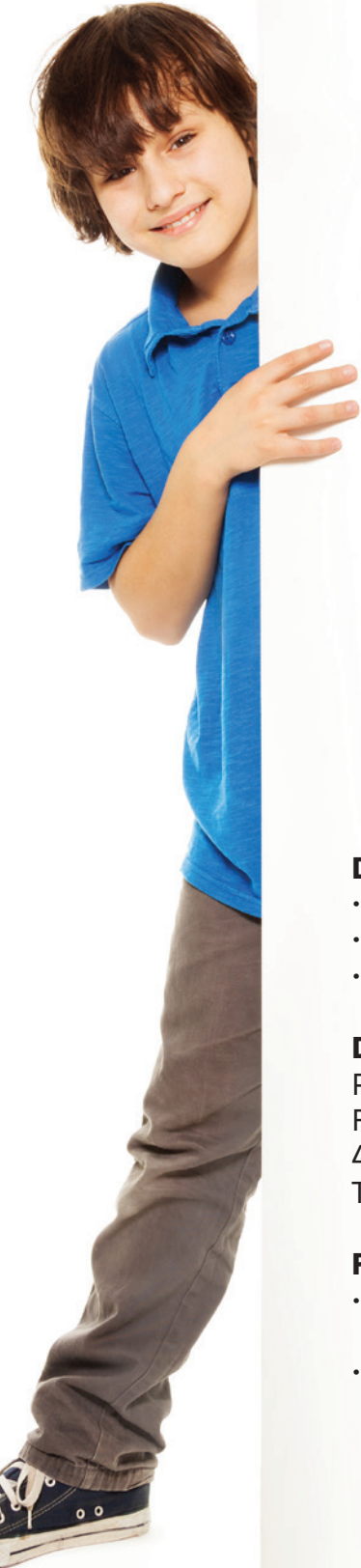
Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at www.morgransou.com.

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 19. All high school seniors, who are dependent of Mor-Gran-Sou members and are a graduate of the class of 2019, 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.

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019. 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 Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019.

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 Cooperative 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.

JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

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 Julie Armijo, 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, 2019.** Emailed entries should be directed to jarmijo@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:

Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *board meeting highlights*



Meeting date: Oct. 31, 2018

- Approved the Sept. 26, 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 September financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the directors' and attorney expense reports for September
- Approved capital credit general refund for 2018
- Per policy, set 2019 maximum amount for retirement to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted IRS Form 990
- Approved a rate schedule revision
- Reviewed preliminary 2019 budget
- Accepted members to serve on the Nominating Committee
- Appointed Board representative to assist Nominating Committee
- Approved deadline dates for 2019 Declaration of Candidacy
- Discussed rural broadband
- Approved attendance at various meetings
- Reviewed Mor-Gran-Sou senior staff department reports
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on meetings attended
- Heard reports from various meetings the directors attended
- Held Executive Session
- Held Strategic Planning

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

*Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. CT
in the NDAREC board room in Mandan*

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.

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:

Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas
Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, 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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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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