



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

MAY 2018

NEWS



'Hey, nice work!'

Fighting fires and caring for people is in **Matt** and **Allison's** blood. These first-responders, who are brother and sister, are following in their parent's footsteps. Mor-Gran-Sou members Jesse and DeAnna Smith provide various emergency services, and we thank the entire Smith family and others for choosing these challenging jobs that show their commitment to community. In this month's local pages, learn about the local work the Smith family is doing — and how National EMS Week was started.

What's inside:

- Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions
- Save the date for the annual meeting
- Student scholarships and safety poster coloring contest winners announced
- Idle services to be retired
- Pole testing scheduled
- Meetings minutes, and more



‘HELPING PEOPLE ON THEIR WORST DAY’

Mor-Gran-Sou highlights Smith family — and all emergency services providers — in honor of National EMS Week

BY BETH ROTH



PHOTO BY DEBORAH KATES FINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Mor-Gran-Sou members Jesse and DeAnna Smith, and children Matt and Allison, all provide critical emergency services in the cooperative service area. Thank you, Smith family and other emergency services personnel, for working challenging jobs and caring for people.

Pages and bunker gear are a way of life for the Smith family, who are Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members from rural Mandan. Jesse is a 30-year emergency medical technician (EMT) and firefighter veteran. DeAnna is an administrative assistant in Bismarck State College’s (BSC) Medical Arts and Emergency Services Department. Their son, Matt, serves full-time on the Bismarck Rural Fire Department as an EMT and firefighter. And daughter, Allison, 18, is currently a junior firefighter with the Mandan Rural Fire Department, with plans to apply as a senior firefighter in the future.

Fighting fires and caring for people is in their blood. “My dad was a charter member of Mandan Rural. He started with them in 1962 when they started the department,” said Jesse. “When I was like 5 years old, I’d go to the meetings and I thought it was so cool because they had a pop machine there. I would get a bottle of pop and I would sit on the back of one of the rescue units. I would sit there and look at all these trucks and think, ‘Man, when I get old enough, I’m gonna do this.’”

When Jesse turned 18, he joined the Mandan Rural Fire Department. At age 19, he started working for Metro Ambulance as an EMT. By 21, he had started with Bismarck Fire Department full time, where he stayed for 30 years. “It’s always been something I’ve kinda enjoyed — helping people,” said Jesse. “It’s not about red lights and sirens; it’s trying to do the best you can to help people on their worst day.”

Even after officially retiring from the City of Bismarck a few years ago, Jesse is still fighting fires. “I retired in February. By April, I was back on the roster on Mandan Rural,” he said.

As an administrative assistant at BSC, DeAnna plays her own role in helping people. “I can’t stand the sight of blood, but I can take care of the administrative side of it,” she said. Through her work, she helps students navigate the necessary training they need to become EMTs, paramedics, nurses, CNAs and surgical technology staff. “It’s probably more rewarding than anything because you are watching somebody who has the passion,” she said. “I’d love to go out and do what they do; I just can’t.”

Both Jesse and DeAnna were initially apprehensive when their children expressed interest in joining the ranks as junior firefighters. “When my boy said, ‘I’m gonna go and become a junior firefighter,’ I said, ‘Are you sure you want to do that?’” said Jesse. But after some thought and prayer, both parents supported Matt and Allison’s decisions to follow the family tradition. “I’m very proud of my kids,” said Jesse. “As long as they do it on their own accord and not because of me, I’m okay with it.”

“It was hard to let my kids join as junior firefighters,” said Deanna. “There was definitely some soul-searching because my first instinct was to say no, absolutely not. But clearly, they have a calling for it, and if God is telling them to do it, then who am I to step in and say you can’t.”

As Mor-Gran-Sou celebrates National Emergency Management Services (EMS) Week, May 20 to 26, we honor everyday heroes including the Smith family.

“There are so many people who donate so much time to keeping up certifications and chasing fires and ambulance calls,” said Jesse. “Most would never, ever expect a pat on the back. They’re very humble about what they do. But it’s kinda nice sometimes when someone says, ‘Hey, nice work.’”

Thank you to all of our first-responders for all that you do! ■

National EMS Week is May 20 to 26

EMS Week was developed when President Gerald Ford declared the first National Emergency Medical Services Week in November of 1974, to celebrate EMS professionals and the work they do every day responding to medical emergencies. This year’s theme is, EMS Strong: Stronger Together.



Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for five Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for re-election in July. In 2018, the three board positions sought include: one for the At-Large position, one for the Morton County position, and one for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 7 as the deadline for

receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 14. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names they received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 21, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

At-Large:

Mark Doll, New Salem
Tim L. Kuntz, Mandan

Morton County:

Bonnie Tomac, Mandan

Sioux County:

Chad Harrison, Fort Yates
Marcie Kahl, Solen

A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed in late June.



Julie Armijo (right), member services manager, helps count ballots at last year's annual meeting.

Annual Meeting

2018

JULY 20, 2018

Fort Yates, N.D.
Prairie Knights Pavilion

Learn about co-op issues;
cast your vote and elect three members
to serve on the board of directors;
and enjoy a hearty meal.

**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Sam Dart



Autumn Bertch



Kyle Schulte



Katelyn Schmidt



Jaret Lennie



Jayce Archambault



Kathryn Slavick

Mor-Gran-Sou awards scholarships to graduates

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou.

In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou offers scholarship opportunities every year to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

\$500 scholarship winners; one from each school in Mor-Gran-Sou's service area

Mor-Gran-Sou awarded one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area, for a total of nine \$500 scholarships awarded. Faculty members from each respective school choose a student to receive these funds.

- Elgin-New Leipzig Public School chose Sam Dart; parent/member is Luann Dart
- Flasher Public School chose Autumn Bertch; parents/members are Brandon and Sheila Bertch
- Hebron Public School chose Kyle Schulte; parents/members are Darrel and Heidi Schulte
- Mandan Public School chose Katelyn Schmidt; parents/members are Wes and Karen Schmidt

- New Salem-Almont Public School chose Jaret Lennie; parents/members are Jeff and Faye Lennie
- Solen Public School chose Jayce Archambault; parents/members are Dave and Nicole Archambault

Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Each year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative provides \$1,000 to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative to be awarded as a scholarship to a qualified candidate. This year, Kathryn Slavick was chosen from all the qualified applications received. Kathryn parents are Robert and Kathleen Slavick, Mandan. ■

STILL TO COME — Luck of the Draw \$500 scholarships!

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 20 at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort in Fort Yates. All high school seniors who have parents/guardians that are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent, and are required to RSVP for the meeting.



Pole testing scheduled

Mor-Gran-Sou will begin testing distribution poles within the Elgin, Grant, Cedar, Flasher and Sioux substation service areas sometime within the next several weeks.

The inspection will consist of team members accessing all cooperative distribution lines using four-wheelers, and testing each pole for rot or other damage.

We thank our members for their understanding as we work to make the system as reliable as possible. ■



PHOTO BY GARMEN DEVNEY

Lance Woods with RAM Utilities

Idle services to be retired

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to retire idle services throughout the co-op's service area. What does Mor-Gran-Sou consider to be an idle electrical service?

It is a service that is not making any payment to the cooperative, but continues to receive regular maintenance. Your cooperative's procedure is to post a detailed list (to the right) in our communications material to keep members informed of those idle services that will be retired. This is the first notice of this particular group of idle services to be retired.

Prior to this detailed listing, Mor-Gran-Sou personnel have already contacted, or tried to contact, the property owner and affected property owners based on the information available. If someone comes forward and is willing to pay the line retention fee, we no longer consider it an idle service. However, if no one comes

forward, the line is then put on a list and will be retired. The following idle services will be retired at the cooperative's convenience:

Grant County

T133 R85W Section 12 NE 1/4

Morton County

T134 R84W Section 3 NW 1/4

T139 R83W Section 28 SE 1/4

Sioux County

T130 R80W Section 12 SE 1/4

T130 R80W Section 14 NW 1/4

T131 R80W Section 27 NE 1/4

T133 R79W Section 8 NE 1/4

T133 R79W Section 11 SW ¼

T134 R79W Section 23 SW 1/4

T134 R79W Section 29 SW 1/4

T134 R82W Section 22 SE 1/4 ■

Don't sweat summer energy bills

Summer is approaching, but not everyone is keeping cool by the pool.

Summertime usually means air-conditioning systems are working overtime. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that 6 percent of an average household's energy use is dedicated to cooling.

But you have ways to keep energy costs down, even when the temperature rises.

Here are some summertime energy-saving tips for homeowners and small-business owners:

- **Raise the thermostat**
- **Clean the condenser coils**
- **Ventilate the attic**
- **Watch the humidity**
- **Close the shades**



Safety poster contest winners announced; Area youth offer ideas on safety around electricity

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to receive a strong message from children in the area, as 77 posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest. The posters were judged by employees during the all-employee meeting on April 6.

Students were instructed to concentrate on the following topic: How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity? We had a wide variety of scenes showing safety around the home and farm communities.

Mor-Gran-Sou hopes the contest made the students more aware of

their responsibility in practicing safety around electricity. We wish our young people a great summer, and remind them to stay safe when working or playing around electricity.

This year's winners include:

Preschool through kindergarten:

First place: Kinley Eckroth, daughter of Jill and Travis Eckroth, Flasher

Second place: Laila Murphy, daughter of Kateri and Michael Murphy, Selfridge

Third place: Carlee Weinberger, daughter of Jackie and Steve Weinberger, Breien

Grades one through three:

First place: Max Ruscheinsky, son Alisha and Travis Ruscheinsky, Flasher

Second place: Braxton Edinger, son of Dwight and Gequita Edinger, Carson

Third place: Kelton Friesz, son of Jade and Sonya Friesz, Flasher

Grades four through six:

First place: Javin Friesz, son of Jade and Sonya Friesz, Flasher

Second place: Olivia Erhardt, daughter of Brent and Sarah Erhardt, Flasher

Third place: Victoria Richter, daughter of Amy and Andy Richter, Flasher

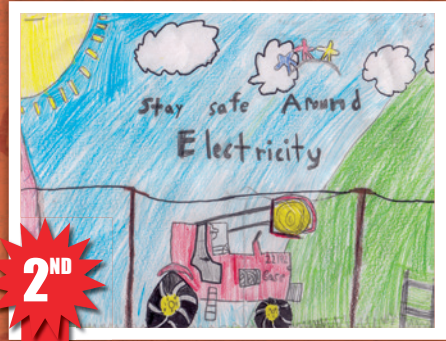




GRADES 1 THROUGH 3



1ST



2ND

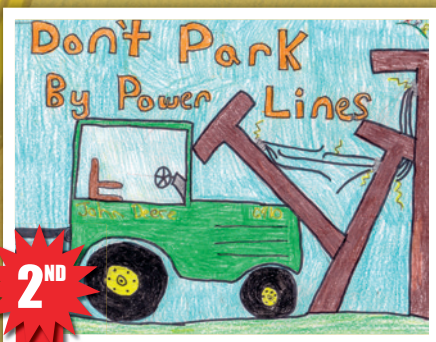


3RD

GRADES 4 THROUGH 6



1ST



2ND



3RD

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: March 21, 2018

- Approved the Feb. 21, 2018, regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved three work order inventories and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the February financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the directors' expense report for February
- Heard reports on the last two Nominating Committee meetings
- Accepted the 2018 candidates for the Mor-Gran-Sou Board of Directors from the Nominating Committee
- Approved update of signatories for bank authorization
- Approved a new bank account and approved signatories
- Approved CFC Bank authorization resolution
- Reviewed requests for RESCO Board of Directors candidate and CFC Financial Position on CFC Board
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard reports from various meetings/trainings the directors attended
- Reviewed department reports
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

May 30 in the Mor-Gran-Sou Board room in Flasher at 9 a.m. CT

June 20 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 9 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.

Board minutes available to Mor-Gran-Sou members

Each month, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative publishes highlights of the monthly board meeting in the local pages of *North Dakota Living*. This information is presented under the caption "board meeting highlights."

Mor-Gran-Sou reminds members that they do have access to the approved monthly board meeting minutes in their entirety, if they wish to see them. Under present policy, members can request to come to the Mor-Gran-Sou Flasher office and review the approved minutes, or have the approved minutes mailed to them upon completing a request for data form. They can also find the Request for Information or Data form on our website at www.morgransou.com (click Your

Power in Membership and then forms/applications).

If a member wishes to review the minutes in Flasher, we ask that he/she call before stopping in. This gesture of courtesy will make the visit more efficient, as the minutes will be readily available upon the interested member's arrival.

Members, to request to review the approved monthly board minutes at the office or to obtain a copy by mail, please direct your calls to Manager of Administrative Services Cindy Ternes at 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212. She will be happy to assist you. For further discussion, please contact Board Chairman Leland "Judge" Barth.



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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-GM/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

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