



A RESAP site observation was held in our service area July 31 with NDAREC Safety Instructor **Steve Homes** (second from right). He observed and assessed several Mor-Gran-Sou linemen changing out poles near Hebron, and even assisted. He joined, from left: Journeyman Lineman **Cody Graetz**, Leadman **Jason Jahner** and Apprentice Lineman **Brett Fleck**.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is working to achieve recertification through the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). In this issue, learn about the three-year process and how it is helping our field and support staff achieve safety excellence.

## What's inside:

- Unclaimed capital credits
- Cold weather charges
- Students, apply now for the Youth Tour!
- Meetings minutes and more



# Safety: focusing on the continuous journey

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

t Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, we are undergoing our threeyear recertification process for the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). Founded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, RESAP aids cooperatives in identifying and applying best practices and focuses on continuous improvement in order to achieve safety excellence.

The premise for the program is based on two fundamental guiding principles that are essential to achieving safety excellence:

1. Safety must be embraced as a core value where the actions and decisions of the cooperative reflect a fundamental and unwavering commitment to safety at all levels. This is achieved through a strong safety leadership culture. Cooperative leaders accept responsibility for a culture that ultimately drives safety performance.

2. Cooperative leaders and employees take ownership of the systems and processes that create a safe working environment. Safety systems are a shared responsibility and should focus on enhancing safe behaviors and reducing unsafe acts and risks to injury.

Additional components to achieving recognition including:

- A cooperative safety improvement plan;
- The completion of 14 annual self-assessments; and
- Establishing safety goals and benchmarking performance.

A RESAP site observation was held in our service area on July 30 and 31. Steve Homes, safety instructor with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, inspected office sites in Mandan, Flasher and Fort Yates. He also toured a substation and pole yard, and supervised some field work. During the field visit, he watched line crews change out poles near Hebron.

Christy Roemmich, the safety services director for NDAREC, says Mor-Gran-Sou has an outstanding safety record and demonstrates the highest level of safety performance.

"Crews are safety-oriented,

#### Mor-Gran-Sou celebrates Careers in Energy Week

The week of Oct. 15 to 19, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative celebrated Careers in Energy Week. Mor-Gran-Sou employs 24 people in Flasher, Fort Yates and Mandan who work a variety of jobs ranging from foremen and linemen, to meter technicians and member services representatives and more. Our extended co-op family, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, provides a secondary layer of employees who work as engineers, human resource professionals, information technology experts and more.

It takes a variety of skills to develop new technologies and infrastructure, keep the electric grid secure, and power the lives and economy of our local communities.

If you are considering a career in the energy industry, consider working for an electric cooperative! We are here to serve our member-owners. programming is thorough, performance is constant, and their co-general managers provide leadership in safety," she concludes.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

Cooperative thanks its employees for taking a team approach to safety and continuous improvements. ■



Mor-Gran-Sou Journeyman Lineman **Cody Graetz** grounds the line on both sides to change out a pole.



NDAREC Safety Instructor **Steve Homes** (right) watches Mor-Gran-Sou Apprentice Lineman **Kale Ohlhauser** tamp a pole.

### **UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS**

The following list contains the names of current or former Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members who have unclaimed capital credit checks that were mailed in December. These checks have either been received but not cashed, or returned to Mor-Gran-Sou by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Mor-Gran-Sou personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from Mor-Gran-Sou, please have them contact our office at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large, but we would like to get these checks to the proper parties. Persons who wish to claim checks from the following list should be prepared to provide proper personal identification.

#### What are capital credits?

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is a nonprofit business. We exist only to provide goods and services to you, our members; not to make a profit for a shareholder or investor. Cooperatives are operated to provide at-cost electric service to their members.

When all the expenses are paid, the cooperative's margins are credited to you in the form of capital credits. As the financial condition of your cooperative allows, you are paid these capital credits. In the meantime, your capital credits are your equity in the cooperative.

Refunds are allocated based on the amount of business a member does with the cooperative — the more electricity used, the larger the capital credit check.

If you have questions about your capital credits or would like a more detailed explanation, contact Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

### NOTE: This is the third and final installment. To view names published in the first two installments, read the September (A-GI) and October (GL-MO) local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

**INSTALLMENT THIRD** AND FINAL: MO-ZO MOOS, DUWAYNE R. MOOS, KAYLA MOOS. MARVIN MOOS, WALTER L. MORAN. SHELLEY MORGAN. RIFFAT MORGENSTERN, HELEN MORKEN, SHARYL J. MORMAN, AARON MORMANN, GARY MORNING STAR, TORI MORRELL. ANTON MORRELL, DELVIN MORRELL, SAMUEL MORRIS, JACKIE MORRIS, KEITH MORRIS, LEROY A. MORROW, RODNEY MORTON, CHARLES MORTON, DAVID A. MORTON, TED MORTON, TERRY MOSBRUCKER, FRANKLIN MOSBRUCKER, HELEN MOSEL, BILL MOSER. ROBERTA MOSSER, VIRGIL MOTOR CONTROL ENGINEERING MOUNCE, LYNNE MUGGLI, ALLEN MUHLENKORT, DONALD MURPHY, DERRICK

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### **COLD WEATHER CHARGES**

ne 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 \$10 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.

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### JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

## WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETHIE!

#### 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 CREASONS

#### **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

## MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### Meeting date: Sept. 26, 2018

- Approved the Aug. 29, 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 August financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the director's and attorney expense reports for August
- Approved Chairman's designation of Board committees for 2018-2019
- Annual review/approval of governance policy for director compensation
- Annual review/approval of director meeting attendance guide
- Reviewed Mor-Gran-Sou statistics and trends

- Reviewed preliminary 2019 operations budget information
- Heard update on health benefits program, office building status, maintenance service and Southwest Power Pool
- Approved Resolution for document execution
- · 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

## Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

Nov. 28 at 10:30 a.m. CT in the NDAREC board room in Mandan

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.

## Holiday Closings

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 12, in observance of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Members: Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.

#### 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



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

#### www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🏹