

Celebrate Co-op Month!



By providing the electricity that powers your home, farm or business, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative plays a role in your daily life. We are thankful for the opportunities to help our members feed families, harvest crops, power progressive businesses and stay connected to the world.

Electric cooperatives observe Co-op Month in October. Operating in the spirit of cooperation, cooperatives are a true example of grassroots involvement because they are owned and controlled by those they serve. Our business model — and our local, hometown members are what power Mor-Gran-Sou.

Thank you, members, for being active and involved. Together, let's celebrate Co-op Month.

Safe, reliable, affordable energy. We are proud to power your life.





What's inside:

- How YOUR local co-op fits into the electric cooperative network
- Mor-Gran-Sou members earn N.D. Leopold Conservation Award
- Co-op seeks Youth Tour student applicants
- Meetings minutes and more

A powerful network connects Mor-Gran-Sou members

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Your family follows the same drill every weekday morning. They wake to alarms set on their smart phones. They turn on the lights and start preparing for the day. They make breakfast using the microwave or stove. After eating, they load the plates in the dishwasher and start it — and turn off the lights before heading out the door. As members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, you may not think about how your daily routine requires electricity. You just know that when you plug in your phone, it starts charging immediately.

When you plug in your phone, you connect to more than just power. You connect to a local business that is part of a vast network of local electric cooperatives that extends across the state and nation.

This connection begins with your membership in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. With headquarters in Flasher and service centers in Mandan and Fort Yates, Mor-Gran-Sou is one of 16 distribution cooperatives in North Dakota that delivers retail electricity to about 250,000 North Dakotans through 196,000 meters. It also has transmission assets and responsibilities.

Unlike consumers who buy power from a privately owned utility, co-op members not only buy electricity from their utility, they have an equal vote in electing a board of directors to manage their co-op.

The current board chairman of Mor-Gran-Sou is Leland "Judge" Barth, who was elected to serve on the board of directors in 2010. A resident of Mandan, he serves as a Mandan Area director.

A member as well as a director, Barth helps make decisions in the board room that affect his neighbors as well as himself.

"Decisions I help make in the board room affect all members of Mor-Gran-Sou," he says. "I want to do everything possible so every member receives reliable and affordable electric service."

Barth works for Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative, and he and his wife Suzie have one son, Owen. He is also a partner in the family farm located in Morton County.

Technology continues to change the way Mor-Gran-Sou does business, and Barth keeps in touch with how technology is changing the electric utility industry. As interest in distributed generation grows, battery life increases and the cost of supplies goes down, he knows the electric utility industry could look a lot different in the next 10 years. The plans he and his fellow directors are making now will pave the way for future members.

"At board meetings, all board members discuss where we are headed in the future. As we see the coal industry and renewable forms of energy evolve and change, we also need to evolve so we can continue providing affordable and reliable electric service," he says.

Barth joins eight other directors in governing the affairs of Mor-Gran-Sou, including setting the rates, approving construction plans and establishing operating policies. One of the most important functions of any distribution cooperative board is to determine how the co-op will meet its electric power needs.

Directors of distribution cooperatives began thinking about power supply decades ago when they realized they needed a plan to meet future electric demand. That prompted them to band together to create generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives. These G&Ts have built coal-based power plants, natural gas and wind energy projects and more, to generate electricity that is delivered by distribution cooperatives to their members.

The cooperative ladder from Mor-Gran-Sou extends a rung to Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou's largest power supplier. With headquarters in Bismarck, Basin Electric is one of the largest G&Ts in the nation, providing wholesale power to member ruralelectric systems in nine states.

Just as every distribution cooperative is a business governed by a board of directors, so is every G&T. Basin Electric is operated by an 11-member board representing 11 districts. Mor-Gran-Sou is a member of District 9. It is represented by Wayne Peltier on the Basin Electric board. This allows Mor-Gran-Sou to have a voice in how it is run through the District representative it helps elect.

These directors meet monthly to oversee business that consists of generating or purchasing, reselling and delivering power to its members.

The people who serve on the board of distribution cooperatives are members of their co-op. The directors who serve on the G&T board are also directors from their respective distribution cooperatives. It's another step up in the network.

Political strength lies in their equal vote as a Basin

Electric director. It also provides them with a strong voice to make other decisions.

Mor-Gran-Sou also purchases a small portion of power from Western Area Power Cooperative. WAPA is one of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy that transmits wholesale electricity from multi-use water projects.

Power players in North Dakota's economy

Electric cooperatives, including distribution co-ops and G&Ts, have a huge financial impact on North Dakota's economy. More than 61,000 miles of distribution lines connect people across the state, from Cannonball to Casselton — but the lines aren't the only reason these members are connected. They are joined by nearly \$1 billion in investments made by electric distribution cooperatives in North Dakota. These cooperatives account for the majority of all retail electricity in North Dakota.

To serve their member-owners, electric cooperatives have invested more than \$5 billion in North Dakota's generation and transmission facilities including 4,200 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Electric co-ops account for nearly 90 percent of the coal-based electric generation in the state, and have invested more than \$2 billion in environmental equipment and controls ranking our state among the highest in the nation in efficiency and clean-coal technologies.

Local benefits, national advantages

Membership in an electric cooperative has several advantages. Cooperatives operate efficiently, so their members receive the benefits in lower costs, reliable service, and the refund of margins (capital credits) when the financial condition of the co-op allows. Cooperative members also benefit by making their voices heard when they cast their votes to elect their board of directors. Members are part of an important network that is carefully woven together through the power of human connections.

These connections begin in the electric cooperative board room and reach all the way to the state and national levels. In North Dakota, all 16 distribution cooperatives and five G&Ts are members of a trade association called the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC). Through this association, cooperatives work to communicate with their members; provide legislative representation at the local, state and national levels; deliver safety services and education for cooperative employees and directors; and promote rural economic development. Mor-Gran-Sou Director Chad Harrison represents Mor-Gran-Sou members on the NDAREC board.

Well ahead of its time, NDAREC formed a computer cooperative in the 1960s that is known today as National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). This cooperative is an information technology company that has a campus in Mandan, with additional locations in Lake St. Louis, Mo.; Shawano, Wis.; and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Along with its subsidiaries, NISC employs 1,200 people who develop and support software and hardware solutions for their member-owners, which include electric and telecommunications cooperatives serving more than 20 million customers in all 50 states.

Nationally, North Dakota's electric cooperatives have joined with more than 900 consumer-owned, not-forprofit electric cooperatives as members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which provides a unified voice for cooperatives and represents their interests in Washington, D.C. Together, the nation's electric cooperatives own assets worth \$175 billion, employ 71,000 people in the United States, generate nearly 5 percent of the total electricity and deliver 11 percent of the total kilowatt-hours sold in the United States.

Lynn Jacobson, the secretary-treasurer from Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative in Columbus and director on the NDAREC board, represents North Dakota's electric cooperatives on the NRECA board of directors. His board service, from the local distribution level through the regional and national level, is similar because cooperatives all share the same goals and principles. The differences lay in the varying geographic locations and challenges each co-op faces.

In combining efforts at the national level, more than 740 cooperatives in 46 states comprise of a marketing alliance called Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives. This alliance assures members that when they receive service from their local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, like Mor-Gran-Sou, business will be conducted with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Membership matters

Being part of the cooperative family connects you, Mor-Gran-Sou's member-owners, to people working at local, state and national levels to make sure issues that affect electric service are decided in your best interests. This is what makes electric cooperatives unique. Members have the advantage of receiving personalized service from a local business that cares about the community, with the innovation and high-technology resources of belonging to a nationwide network.

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 part two of three. The final installment will be published in the November local pages of *North Dakota Living.*

INSTALLMENT TWO:

GL-MO GLAS, JOSEPH GLASS, BOBBY L. GLASSER, ADAM GLATT, WILLIAM GOETHE, LAWRENCE GOETHE, SARAH GOETZ, CHAD GOETZFRIED, MICHAEL J. GOLDADE, THOMAS GOLDEN WEST OUR OWN HARDWARF GONZALES, RUBY A. GOOD LEFT, JUNE GOOD LEFT. ROSE GOODEN, DEBBIE GOODHART, JON **GOODMAN, FREDRICK** GOODSELL, TODD GOUDREAU, JUANITA GOWER, JACK GRACE, DWIGHT GRAF, ALTON GRAF, NICK **GRAFF, LARRY** GRAHAM, BARRIE **GRANER, JEFF** GRANER, MILDRED L. GRANER, WAYNE **GRANT, FLORESTINE** GRANT, HELEN H. GRATZEK, JAY M. GREFF, ALVIN GREFF, DONALD **GRENSTEINER, GREG** GRENZ, DENNIS GRENZ, DONALD GRESS, BENJAMIN **GREVIOUS, DARIN** GREWATZ, MARK GREY, JOHN R.

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Millers mimic and work with nature; earn N.D. Leopold Conservation Award

MATERIAL PROVIDED IN PART BY SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION



The N.D. Leopold Conservation Award inspires landowners through example and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders. **Ken Miller** (second from left), of Miller Ranch near Fort Rice, hosted a grazing tour and discussed the holistic resource management he and his wife, Bonnie, follow on the ranch.

or-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates members Ken and Bonnie Miller of Fort Rice, for earning the 2017 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award[®]. On behalf of Miller Ranch, the couple accepted the award during a celebration held Aug. 14.

In the Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative value of commitment to community, and with gratitude for our state's farmers and ranchers, Mor-Gran-Sou helped sponsor the award. Additional co-op sponsors included Roughrider, Slope, KEM and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

The N.D. Leopold Conservation Award is given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold. It honors a North Dakota landowner achievement in voluntary stewardship and management of natural resources.

Miller Ranch was nominated by the Morton County Soil Conservation District. The application stated, "The Miller Ranch truly embodies the diversity North Dakota carries in its agricultural portfolio. From livestock to crops, from grazing to gardening, from dryland to irrigation, from commodity marketing to direct marketing and from family to agricultural advocacy, the Millers display and share it all confidently, yet humbly, with a land ethic that runs through and through."

Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the N.D. Grazing Lands Coalition, N.D. Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the N.D. Stockmen's Association, presented \$10,000 to the Millers for their efforts.

When Ken took over the family ranch in the 1980s, he knew the management practices he was taught growing up would need to evolve if he expected to pass the family ranch legacy onto his children. In 1984, he and Bonnie received a sponsorship to attend a holistic resource management school in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Armed with new approaches to ranch management, the Millers began cross-fencing to turn their three pastures into 18 to allow more recovery time between grazing. They moved their calving date later in the spring, and transitioned to no-till on their cropland while adding more diversity to their crop rotation. Each new management practice was done with one big goal in mind – to mimic and work with nature.

Today, the Millers continue to strive for improvements on their thriving land. The ranch contains more than 60 paddocks on tame and native grasslands, with 18 additional paddocks under a center-pivot irrigation system. Their management techniques have allowed them to leave more grass at the end of the grazing season, and they have increased carrying capacity of the ranch threefold.

The Millers strongly believe that soil is the foundation for everything they can accomplish in agriculture. In Ken's words, "It's the herd under the ground that we need to be managing." As the family began focusing on building the soil biology, the plants became healthier and resilient, giving their cattle more nutrition, which in turn produced healthier cattle.

Ken says it took four to five years to see above-ground changes that resulted from the root system changing. "The more grass you leave, the more you grow. We started tripling the stock density while improving the land," he said.

Ken and Bonnie are always willing to share what they have learned about conservation and improving soil health. They regularly invite people to their ranch to show them firsthand what "rest and recovery" looks like.

"That's the key to the grazing system," he says. "Even though we can give tours and show people, it's tough for them to make a change. When you're forced to change, it makes it a lot easier. If you're going broke, if you don't change, you're not going to be around. That's what made it easier."

"It's a total learning curve and process," he concludes. "You have to be open-minded to change."

Congratulations, Ken and Bonnie Miller, for earning this prestigious award.

For more information on Aldo Leopold, his legacy and the award, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org. ■

JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

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

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TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

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- 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: Aug. 29, 2018

- Held annual reorganization of officers
- Approved the July 20, 2018, regular Board meeting minutes
- Reviewed the July 20, 2018, Annual 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 July financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the attorney and director's expense reports for July
- Approved the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative 2019 Budget
- Approved participation in Western States Power Corporation for 2019
- Changed location and time of September Board meeting

- Approved dates and tentative locations for 2019 Board meetings
- Reviewed 2018 Annual Meeting statistics and evaluations
- Approved setting the date and location for the 2019 Annual Meeting
- Annual policy training for directors on code of conduct and ethics, conflict of interest, harassment in the workplace, and equal employment opportunity held in Executive Session
- Approved attendance at various meetings, and assigned voting delegates/alternates
- Heard the Co-General Managers/ CEOs updates, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard reports from various meetings the directors attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Oct. 31 at 9:30 a.m. CT in the Mor-Gran-Sou board room in Flasher

Nov. 28, 2018 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.

'FIND YOUR WAY BACK' Kyrie Irving and Asia Irving welcomed home, awarded native names

number of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative representatives attended the traditional Lakota naming ceremony held in honor of Kyrie Irving and Asia Irving on Aug. 23 at Prairie Knights Pavilion. The message was, "Seek out and celebrate your heritage."

The siblings' late mother, Elizabeth Ann Larson, was adopted out of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe when she was a child. Their grandmother was the late Meredith Marie Mountain, who was a citizen of the Standing Rock. Their great grandfather is Moses Mountain and great-grandmother is Edith Morisette-Mountain. The Mountain family comes from the Bear Soldier District, on the South Dakota side of the reservation.

Kyrie is a professional basketball player for the Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association. Asia is a model. They returned to receive a native name, and discover their roots have already taken hold and are growing in North Dakota.

During the ceremony, Kyrie and Asia were given the names of Little Mountain and Buffalo Woman respectively.

Various speakers commended the siblings for knowing who they are and where they came from. For others who have been adopted or left the reservation for various reasons, the consensus among the tribe is to let them know: The door is always open.

For the young people who have hopes and goals, Kyrie and Asia are an example of greatness and what can be accomplished.

"Find your way back. Find your way back to your relatives," a speaker concluded.

We felt honored to be present and represent Mor-Gran-Sou, in what was certainly a day of celebration and history.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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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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