



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

AUGUST 2019

NEWS



KFYR-TV FACEBOOK PAGE

PHOTO BY MYRON MILLER

Summer storms cause damage

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area experienced some volatile weather in late June. Tornado warnings and jagged hail hit Grant and Sioux Counties on June 28 and June 29. U.S. National Weather Service Bismarck did not report funnel location or damage, but as

predicted, severe weather including large hail and high wind speeds damaged crops and parts of our power system.

High wind was reported in the areas of Solen and Cannonball, resulting in the loss of the transmission feed out of the McLaughlin Substation. About 20

transmission poles were on the ground between the Cannonball and Solen Substations, as well as distribution poles near the Solen Sub.

Mor-Gran-Sou was able to reroute power feeds to the affected areas and minimize outage time. After the rain stopped, lineworkers from Boldt Power, Inc., joined Mor-Gran-Sou linemen to change out poles and repair damage.

We also had some localized outages in the Heart Butte area.

On July 8 and 9, heavy rain occurred in a short amount of time, and flash flooding occurred in Sioux County. On July 17, a storm caused damage near St. Anthony. As of the middle of July, a pattern of storms and lightning continued.

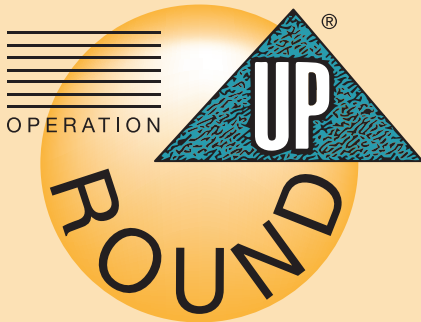
Members, if you see a power line on the ground, do not assume it is de-energized. Keep a safe distance and call Mor-Gran-Sou at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, email safety@morgransou.com. Please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo, if possible.

Thank you, members, for your patience as we worked through the storm damage. Reliable power and reasonable response time to outages are important to Mor-Gran-Sou. Know we will do our best to meet your expectations. ■

What's inside:

- **Grant applications are being accepted**
- **Thanks for attending your annual meeting!**
- **Look up and around ... farm equipment is on the move**
- **Meeting minutes, and more**



Operation Round Up grant applications are now being accepted

Do you have a specific need and could use a boost?

Fairly new to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Operation Round Up is a voluntary, charitable program that allows our members to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. The pennies, dimes, nickels and quarters accumulate in the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc., and a board of directors will meet regularly to review applications and disburse funds in the form of grants.

Grants may be awarded to any non-profit corporation, organization or agency for charitable causes and crucial needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, emergency services and education. All of the money raised by members stays in our local communities.

The Foundation held its organizational meeting on Jan. 9, 2018. A board of directors consisting of five co-op members was appointed to represent each district within our service area based on residence. Those members include:

- Linda Urlacher, who represents the At-Large position and is the board president,
- Cherie Zenker, who represents Grant County and serves as vice-president,
- Linda Mindt, who represents the Mandan Area and serves as secretary,
- Chad Wild, who represents Morton County and serves as treasurer, and
- Serena Weinhandl, who represents Sioux County as a board director.

All Operation Round Up funds go into the Foundation's separate bank account at Flasher Community Credit Union and are used solely for the functions of the Foundation. Mor-Gran-Sou personnel administer the program as a complimentary service to the Foundation.

February 2018 was the first month members could opt in and donate to Operation Round Up. At this time, only 4 percent of the membership is participating.

The board had initially planned to ask for applications in 2018, but due to low member participation, the funds were allowed to grow until this year.

To jump-start the program, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors has gifted \$5,000 to the Foundation. As of June 30, 2019, the account balance was \$5,991.96.

Apply for a grant

Any person or group in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area, or providing a service to the area, may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant. Funds are disbursed in the general service area of Mor-Gran-Sou solely for charitable, educational, scientific, health or safety purposes.

To request an application, contact Jackie Miller or Julie Armijo by calling Mor-Gran-Sou at 663-0297, 597-3301 or 800-750-8212, or email jlmliller@morgransou.com or jarmijo@morgransou.com. If you have questions, you may also contact any of the board members directly.

Opt into Operation Round Up

On average, participating members donate about \$6 a year. The most a member would ever contribute a month is 99 cents. The donation will be tax-deductible, and members who participate will receive a summary on their last billing statement of the year.

At a prior Mor-Gran-Sou annual meeting, members voted to start and support this national cooperative program here in our service area. All of the 16 electric distribution cooperatives in North Dakota participate in this charitable program.

Members, now is the time to show your support and opt into the program. ALL the money raised by our member-owners stays in our local communities. Thank you for helping those in need! To opt in, please fill out and email the form on the next page:



Success stories from neighboring cooperatives

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

SLOPE ELECTRIC

Prior to his passing, Harold Narum gave to community ... and community was able to give back to him, in part, through Operation Round Up

Only a small part of Harold Narum's heart was working those last few weeks in June. But it was a large heart, and it did God's work. Long after the beating stopped, people will remember what it gave — and what they were able to give back to him through Operation Round Up.

Harold, a member of Slope Electric Cooperative, was a cornerstone in Slope County for most of his life. He and his wife, Linda, farmed in Connor Township on their third-generation farm until they retired, and became grandparents and full-time volunteers.

With faith in God as top priority, they spent their time caring for family members, friends, neighbors, area citizens and those living well beyond — and ultimately improving the quality of life for countless people in southwest North Dakota.

Harold served as president on the Southwest Public Transit board and the Amidon Prairie Senior Center, and was a member of the food pantry in Amidon. From feeding friends and strangers, to helping neighbors on the farm, to organizing fundraisers for those in need, Harold gave.

Before he passed on June 24, he was able to receive.

Harold had been fighting cancer for five years. He was diagnosed with cancer of the prostate, rectum, bladder and bone marrow, and had stage-four renal disease, along with congestive heart failure. He wasn't scared of cancer, and he wasn't scared of death.

"It keeps me busy," he joked in early June. "We just take each day as it comes."

One of the Narum's neighbors applied for an Operation Round Up grant, on Harold's behalf, to help them pay medical expenses. In August 2014 and again in November 2018, they received a \$1,000 grant from Slope Electric.

"I'm forever thankful," he said. ■



PHOTO BY LAWANNA WILHELM

On Jan. 13, Harold and Linda Narum attended a Celebration of Life in which the community pulled together to raise money and show support for Harold, who was being treated for several different types of cancer. He was so touched at how paying it forward had come full circle. Regardless of life's hurdles, he chose to keep a positive attitude. "A positive attitude makes it a whole lot easier to go through life," he said. He and Linda encouraged people to not focus on their ailments, but to reach out and do things for others, in believing it would make them feel better. For Harold, it did. He passed away on June 24 at the age of 77. In June, he told Slope Electric staff he wouldn't change one day of it if he could.

I wish to participate in Operation Round Up at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.



- Yes, I agree that Mor-Gran-Sou, through the Operation Round Up program, has my permission to round up my monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. I understand I have the option to opt out with a 30-day written notice to the co-op.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account #(s): _____

Email the form to jarmijo@morgransou.com; or mail to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. /
P.O. Box 297 / Flasher, ND 58535

Signature



ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC

Co-op grant helps injured veterans have ultimate North Dakota experience

How can you show your appreciation to injured veterans who have served our country and made many sacrifices so we may have our freedoms?

Say thank you.

And send them hunting in North Dakota — for free. The Injured Military Wildlife Project (IMWP) of North Dakota is doing just that. IMWP was established about 10 years ago by Glenn Gietzen, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran who wanted to provide hunting and fishing opportunities to military personnel who have been injured in the line of duty.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department provides 10 deer licenses each year to be used by these heroes. IMWP assists by providing lodging, a place to hunt, travel expenses and assistance before, during and after the hunt.

Roger Kadrmas, board president and a farmer/rancher from the Roughrider

Electric Cooperative service area, says the hunts not only show appreciation for everything these men and women have done for our country, but also help in their recovery process.

The members of Roughrider Electric are also contributing to their recovery process through Operation Round Up.

In July 2018, the pennies of participating members were used to award a \$1,000 grant to IMWP to fund more hunts. One-hundred percent of the donations accommodate the veterans during the hunt and give them the ultimate North Dakota experience.

“We take them on a hell of a hunt,” Kadrmas says. “The veterans are in awe, and it feels so good to give them that experience. You can’t put a saying on that feeling.” ■



*This nice deer was harvested by veteran **Matt Hargrave** near Killdeer. Roughrider Electric members supported the Injured Military Wildlife Project of North Dakota by awarding an Operation Round Up grant that gives injured veterans an opportunity to hunt and fish for free. The landowners who host these experiences are also Roughrider members.*

KEM ELECTRIC

ORU grant helps firefighters ‘be ready’

The Steele Fire and Rescue Department receives around 30 calls for emergency assistance each year. For the past couple years, about 10 of those were fire-related.

To better protect their volunteers, the department is looking to purchase several self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) devices. The equipment provides breathable air during a fire situation.

In January, the department received an Operation Round Up grant from KEM Electric in the amount of \$500.

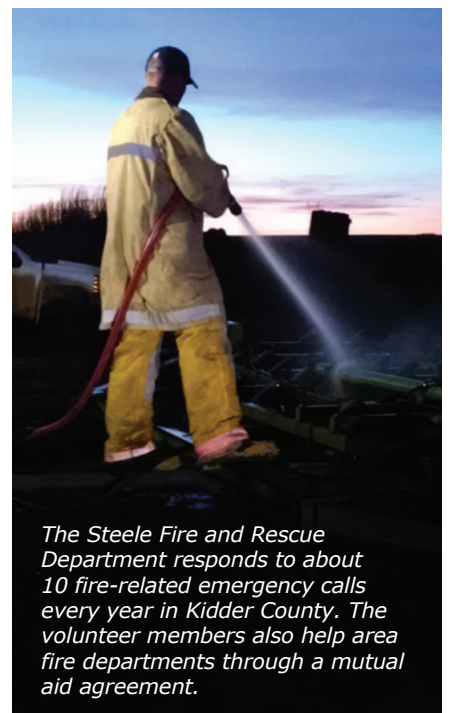
The cost of one SCBA is about \$5,000. The Steele Fire and Rescue Department bought a handful many years ago, and would like to upgrade to

have six modern units on-hand.

When fighting fires, Chief Phillip Porter says two firefighters can be inside a burning building wearing SCBAs, and two firefighters will be suited up outside, prepared to go in.

“That way when their air is running low, we have people ready to take their place,” he says. “You’ve got to be ready. If we can get a few more units, we can have more people ready to go in when we need it.”

Thanks to generous volunteers and donations, the Steele Fire and Rescue Department is able to provide valuable services across Kidder County. ■



The Steele Fire and Rescue Department responds to about 10 fire-related emergency calls every year in Kidder County. The volunteer members also help area fire departments through a mutual aid agreement.



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



Jason Jahner



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.

Kale Ohlhauser



Cody Graetz



**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Ambrotypist
Shane Balkowitsch at podium

PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY



The cover of the first edition, featuring Ernie LaPointe, great-grandson of Sitting Bull. What was once obsolete photographic technology, wet plate photography involves shooting a photo in near-total darkness minus a crimson light, and then turning on the lights and exposing for 10 seconds. This image was captured in June 2014 and was Plate 821.

Wet plate photography project preserves Native American culture and heritage

On June 23, Mor-Gran-Sou had the honor of attending the pre-launch book party and signing of *Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective* by ambrotypist Shane Balkowitsch. It was held at the N.D. Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck.

A self-taught “image-maker” and one of fewer than 1,000 wet plate collodion artists practicing around the world, Balkowitsch is recreating and preserving Native American culture and heritage through wet plate photos. His artwork highlights

the dignity of his subjects, depicting them as individuals of contemporary identities with historical legacies.

Ernie LaPointe, great-grandson of Sitting Bull, is featured on the cover of this volume. “Our story is being told in photographs,” he said to those in attendance. “We are still here.”

The celebration was held in honor of the first volume, which contains 250 images. Balkowitsch’s project aims to capture 1,000 wet plate portraits.

Many, many Mor-Gran-Sou members from Standing Rock have participated in this project.

As we consider the co-op principle of Education, Training and Information, we thank those of you who took part in this process, for giving us a glimpse of your history and future. Mr. Balkowitsch, congratulations on this milestone achievement. Your vision and talent, and desire to build rapport, is an inspiration. ■

Thanks, members, for attending your annual meeting

The Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board of directors, management staff and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending the 72nd annual meeting of the membership held July 19. We appreciate the interest you continue to show in your electric cooperative.

This year, Mor-Gran-Sou members were asked to vote for four board directors: one for the

Grant County position, one for the Mandan-Area position, and two for the Morton County positions. Incumbent Vernard Frederick from Flasher retained the Grant County position. Pam Geiger from Mandan was elected to fill the Mandan-Area position. Kathy Tokach from St. Anthony was elected to serve the two-year Morton County position, and Jay Larson from Almont was re-elected to fill the three-year

Morton County position. We thank Cody Hatzenbuhler and Bonnie Tomac from Mandan, Eric Schultz from Almont, and Travis Wilkens from New Salem for campaigning to serve their electric cooperative.

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



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.

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



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

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@morgransou.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 24, 2019

- Approved the May 22, 2019, regular Board meeting minutes
- Reviewed and accepted the financial report
- Approved a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates, and those members age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the director and attorney expense reports
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Heard reports on area cooperative annual meetings
- Heard update on WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Assigned members to the 2019 Election Committee
- Assigned director to serve as liaison to the Election Committee
- Reviewed the working agenda for the 2019 Annual Meeting
- Approved allocation of 2018 margins
- Approved side agreement for loan guarantee
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on meetings they attended
- Heard reports from various meetings the directors had attended
- Confirmed director attendance at upcoming meetings and assigned voting delegates/alternates
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Aug. 28 at NDAREC, Mandan

Sept. 25 at the Mor-Gran-Sou Fort Yates Service Center

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 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 701-597-3301 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 contact the Flasher office to request a copy.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

The billing statement you received on or around Aug. 2 contains a line item indicating your 2018 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 2018 capital credit allocation. Please retain the August billing statement as a permanent record of your 2018 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.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: MONDAY, SEPT. 2

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2. Line crews will be available for emergencies and power outages by calling 1-800-750-8212, 597-3301 or 663-0297. Please call any of these numbers to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.



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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..... Lance Froelich
Directors Mark Doll, Vernard Frederick,
Pam Geiger, Chad Harrison, Jay Larson,
Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach

MANAGEMENT

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

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