



CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

JANUARY 2019

NEWS

Allen Scherr, Corey Eberle and Ethan Volk (a former employee with 3C) work on dressing a new pole, as Mor-Gran-Sou line crews set replacement poles in the background.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Partnerships — and the power of human connections — help keep Mor-Gran-Sou strong

What's inside:

When Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative experienced straight-line winds in May 2018 that toppled a line of power poles north of Solen, the operations department contacted 3C Construction. Several of their traveling line crews were pulled from a project near Lark to help Mor-Gran-Sou linemen restore the outage. In this month's local pages, learn about 3C Construction, a cooperative-owned business, and how this partnership adds a secondary layer of assistance.

- **Consider serving your cooperative as a board director**
- **Mor-Gran-Sou remembers former directors and employees**
- **SAFETY@MORGRANSOU.COM**
- **Student opportunities: Youth Tour, scholarships and safety posters**
- **Meetings minutes and more**



One of 3C Construction's specialties is its ability to plow cable relatively quickly with its plow train. Ron Roethlisberger, chief operations officer, hauls the equipment from site to site driving a semi that pulls a triple-axle tractor-trailer. Until you see the plow train in person, you may not realize the enormous size of the equipment — or the extraordinary narrow trench it leaves to lay cable. It performs a labor-intensive job, yet leaves a minimal footprint. Plowing cable for long stretches is an efficient and economical process.



3C Foreman **Doug Roethlisberger** walks behind the plow train to make sure the cable is placed as planned. The plow train rumbles along at a steady pace, unless it hits rock and needs to slow down to slice through the barrier.

3C Construction: a cooperative partnership that adds a secondary layer of assistance

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

The cooperative spirit of people working together for the greater good is as strong today as it was back in the 1940s, when our members pooled their \$5 donations to bring low-cost, dependable electric service to the counties of Morton, Grant and Sioux. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, and since that time we've worked in partnership with many cooperatives and businesses to build and maintain more than 3,000 miles of overhead line and 700 miles of buried cable that brings power to your homes, farms and businesses.

Partnerships — and the power of human connections — keep Mor-Gran-Sou strong.

In the June 2017 local pages of

the *North Dakota Living* magazine, we featured West Dakota Utility Services, or WDUS. Owned by Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives, WDUS is an independent business that services our utility vehicles and makes hydraulic repairs. Our members can also contact WDUS for vehicle service including N.D. Department of Transportation certification, or for repairs on welders, engines, crimpers, hydraulic tamps and other utility tools.

In the February 2018 local pages of *North Dakota Living*, we explained our relationship with Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative. Established in 2007 with neighboring cooperatives Roughrider Electric and Slope Electric, the alliance was created to share management services

with the intention of reducing costs and allowing the respective boards of directors to retain local control. KEM Electric Cooperative joined the alliance in 2012. The concept of sharing resources to streamline processes and add efficiencies gained momentum, and over the past 10 years, the alliance has provided substantial savings.

In this issue, we'd like to describe our relationship with 3C Construction, LLC, and how their employees are an extension of our manpower and equipment. 3C construction was established in 1996 among West Plains Electric Cooperative and Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative (based in Hazen and Dickinson; these co-ops merged in 2008 and are now known



as Roughrider Electric Cooperative), and McKenzie Electric Cooperative. McKenzie, based in Watford City, opted out over time, and Slope and Mor-Gran-Sou joined, based on geography and member needs.

3C Construction employs traveling line crews who help build and maintain the electric distribution and transmission system. They assist with projects during the construction season to help our linemen meet member requests and contractor deadlines, and assist with power-restoration situations when we need many hands to come together to make lighter work.

For instance, the Mor-Gran-Sou power system suffered damage in May 2018 when strong winds toppled a line of poles north of Solen. The town was out of power, including the school, so Mor-Gran-Sou contacted 3C Construction and requested assistance. Thanks to our partnership, several 3C crews were able to join multiple Mor-Gran-Sou crews, and power was restored in just a few hours.

While Mother Nature doesn't always allow Mor-Gran-Sou to plan ahead, there are times when we can identify destructive weather

conditions and mobilize help ahead of time. Because 3C is a traveling workforce, and the company is owned by three cooperatives, Mor-Gran-Sou has the ability to bring many linemen together relatively quickly.

Another bonus of our partnership with 3C Construction is their ability to plow cable. 3C owns a plow train that can install underground cable much faster than if it were trenched. Ron Roethlisberger, chief operations officer for 3C, explains that if a cooperative had a 14-mile stretch of line to install with a trencher, it would take a tremendous amount of time to dig and set the line, and then return and tamp the trench after the dirt settled. With the plow train, the path is dug relatively quickly, and the cable set at the same time.

"Per foot, it's a lot cheaper, and it's a huge time-saver," he says.

When Mor-Gran-Sou needs assistance with larger projects, they go through a bidding process with 3C Construction and other contractors. Sometimes the 3C crews are already scheduled with neighboring cooperatives and unable to assist. Other times, Roethlisberger says they simply can't be the lowest bid, and Mor-Gran-Sou will hire

another contractor. Even though Mor-Gran-Sou is part owner of 3C, the bidding process allows for checks and balances, so the membership can rest assured Mor-Gran-Sou is seeking the best investment for the money spent.

Randy Ressler, manager of operations for Mor-Gran-Sou, knows members may ask why the cooperative is a joint owner of 3C Construction, and why hire additional linemen for projects that Mor-Gran-Sou linemen could also complete.

"Time and money," Ressler simply says. "It wouldn't be feasible for Mor-Gran-Sou to invest money in its own plow train, so sharing the expense and gaining the benefits makes a lot of sense. And yes, our linemen could perform the work of the 3C line crews we hire. During the busy construction season, we have members and contractors requesting new services. They do not want to wait for our linemen to complete projects that were already scheduled. Having the ability to call in more crews — and get the jobs done in a timely manner — it's a partnership that benefits all of our member-owners." ■

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 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 this 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. ■



Remembering those before us

BY JACKIE MILLER



Allen Opp



Del Petrick



Darlene Bohl



Pauline Erhardt

Although it is time to focus our attention on 2019, we wanted to take some time to look back on 2018 and pay tribute to those we lost and who were part of the Mor-Gran-Sou family.

Allen Opp, who passed away March 31, 2018, served as a Mor-Gran-Sou Morton County director from 1985 to 1988. Allen graduated from Hebron High School and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1955. He married his wife, Fern Just, in 1957. Together they raised two daughters on the Just family farm near New Salem. Allen spent many years raising Angus cattle, and he and his family traveled across the country showing their cattle. He also enjoyed training horses to ride

and drive, and participated in many events. Allen and Fern eventually retired and moved to the city of New Salem.

Del Petrick, who passed away May 11, 2018, served as a Mor-Gran-Sou Grant County director from 1992 to 2004. During his tenure on the board of directors, Del served in the capacities of board chairman and secretary/treasurer. Del graduated from Makoti High School and attended the University of North Dakota, Grand Fork, where he earned his degree in accounting in 1974. He married his wife, Gail Hintz, and together they started their family in Bismarck. They later moved to the Elgin area, where they farmed and raised their three children. Del spent lots of time in the bleachers watching his children play sports. He and his family also traveled extensively. Del was a steward of the land, and continued farming until the time of his passing.

Darlene Bohl, who passed away Sept. 25, 2018, was employed with Mor-Gran-Sou from 1968 to 1976. She began her career as the cashier receptionist, and eventually took on the task of accounts receivable at the cooperative. Darlene grew up in Brisbane and received her education in Carson. She married her husband, Larry, and together they farmed and ranched in the Flasher/Fallon area where they raised their five children.

Darlene was dedicated to her family and also served as a member of area board of directors including the Morton County Crop Improvement and the Mandan Railroad Museum. After the loss of her husband, Darlene eventually moved to Mandan where she remained active in the community.

Pauline Erhardt, who passed away Oct. 19, 2018, worked as a janitor at Mor-Gran-Sou from 1980 to 1982. Pauline graduated from Flasher High School in 1942 and went on to obtain her teaching certificate from Dickinson State College. She and her husband, George, moved to their farm southwest of Flasher where they worked side-by-side and raised six children. She kept herself busy with community activities, and was known for her baking and the mending of many articles of clothing for her family. After the loss of her husband, she eventually moved to Bismarck where she remained active.

In their own unique way, Allen, Del, Darlene and Pauline went about their day unassumingly; working hard, raising a family and contributing to their communities. Mor-Gran-Sou was blessed to have been a part of their life journey. To their family and friends, please know how much we appreciated their shared time and talent, and that the board of directors and staff express our heartfelt condolences. ■

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews patrol power lines

As time allows, the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative line crews set aside time to patrol line. Our linemen concentrate on certain areas of the Mor-Gran-Sou power system and look for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards or other problems that may affect the distribution lines that bring power to your home or business.

Line crews are currently patrolling line throughout the system. Because power lines are on and off the beaten path, you may see employees in a Mor-Gran-Sou truck, an all-terrain vehicle or a snowmobile. When you see them out and about patrolling line, thank them! They are out there for your safety.



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 posters 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!**

- 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.

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



HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Nov. 28, 2018

- Approved the Oct. 31, 2018, regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved the Nov. 19, 2018, special Board meeting minutes
- Approved two work order inventories and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the October financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the director and attorney expense reports for October
- Approved the Mor-Gran-Sou 2019 Budget as presented
- Reviewed and approved the Mor-Gran-Sou Load Forecast
- Heard update on the Southwest Power Pool
- Approved Amendment to Agreement for Shared Mobile Transformer
- Per policy, performed annual Legal Counsel Evaluation
- Renewed Legal Counsel Retainer
- Designated various Board representatives as voting delegates and alternates for upcoming meetings
- 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 date:

Jan. 28, 2019, at NDAREC 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.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY)

or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



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..... Lance Froelich
Directors Mark Doll,
Bernard Frederick, 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 