



CURRENT NEWS

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

JULY 2019

“

Education is for improving the lives of others, and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

”

~ Marian Wright Edelman



The fifth cooperative principle is Education, Training and Information. At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, and at electric cooperatives across the state and nation, that means we provide education and training for our members, elected representatives, managers

and employees, so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public — particularly young people and opinion leaders — about the nature and benefits of cooperation. ■

What's inside:

- **Plan to attend your annual meeting**
- **Power supplier reports**
- **Bob Leingang earns Director Gold credential**
- **Meeting minutes, and more**



Annual Meeting 2019

JULY 19, 2019

Fort Yates, N.D.
Prairie Knights Pavilion

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



**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is Friday, July 19, at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort. The address is 7932 Hwy. 24, Fort Yates.

Please note the meeting schedule:

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. CT – Registration
- 5:30 p.m. CT – Business meeting call to order, election of candidates
- 6:00 p.m. CT – Business meeting recessed; annual meeting banquet served
- 7:00 p.m. CT – Business meeting reconvenes.

Mor-Gran-Sou continues to utilize the mail-in ballot to engage those members who are unable to attend the annual meeting. Members attending the July 19 meeting

must receive their ballots at the registration table by Call To Order at 5:30 p.m. CT. Ballots will be cast, collected and counted after the candidates have made their brief presentations to the membership. We must emphasize that if you know you will be attending the annual meeting, please do not vote by mail, since the mailed ballot will not be counted if you attend in person. However, if you know that you are unable to join us for the annual meeting, please take time today to vote on the director positions and mail your ballot.

We wish to stress that on July 19, when the meeting is called to order at 5:30 p.m. CT, no further ballots will be distributed at the registration table. However, meal tickets will be available until 6 p.m. Please plan on being there in time to vote. ■

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

Mor-Gran-Sou will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 19 at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort in Fort Yates. All high school seniors who graduated in the 2018-2019 school year and 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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Peltier, left, and Sukut

Message from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER PAUL SUKUT AND BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER

(Editor's note: Basin Electric Power Cooperative generates the majority of the power purchased by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. We asked Paul Sukut and Wayne Peltier to update our members on what is happening at Basin Electric.)

We are so proud of this cooperative. Understand, this was not an easy year for Basin Electric. We know clarity in focus is important; especially now.

As we look forward, the decisions we made in 2018 are helping lead us into 2019 stronger, more efficient, and ready to tackle what's next.

Our directors are holding ongoing strategic planning meetings to set a path forward for the cooperative. They take precious time, in addition to their Basin Electric, Class A, and distribution cooperative board

meetings to set a guiding goal for our workforce to head toward. The board has set 'Stability' as that goal, and three pillars meant to lead us there: member and employee focus, operational effectiveness/continuous improvement, and strategic direction/the forward look. Within these three pillars, we've developed the strategic objectives for 2019 and beyond. We know it's important that each employee can answer the question, "What can I do today that helps Basin Electric in its goal to be more stable?"

The reduction in force was one of the most difficult decisions we've had to make in our careers. As our senior staff gathered to talk through our options — how we would make sure employees were treated fairly, and how we would continue the work that is the mission of Basin Electric — it was clear that no one treated this lightly. Our forecasts showed a leaner workforce would save the cooperative millions of dollars. In fact, it was the last large step we could feasibly take to make sure we remain strong and hold solid 'A' ratings with the ratings agencies.

We knew it was the best decision, and the cooperative is better for it. Since then, our employees have pulled together in ways we didn't

anticipate. We are all taking a hard look at doing business differently, and those new ideas will pay us back for years to come.

The reduction in force helped us also make some hard decisions on how we would look at operating the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, and all of our facilities, differently. It's a culture shift from maintaining a high availability and full load 100 percent of the time, to running them as we always have when it comes to safety and efficiency, but with an eye on the market. It will take us awhile to get there, but our staff knows this is vitally important.

Basin Electric is changing the way we do business, and we are so grateful for the knowledge and tenacity of our employees. We have a workforce that is efficient, productive, well-rounded and resolute.

The way we generate and deliver electricity and the way our membership uses electricity will evolve as technology advances. Our load forecast shows much of the membership continuing to grow, while nearly one-fifth of our distribution cooperatives are holding steady or shrinking a bit, thanks to energy-efficient technology used in homes. Our employees keep us on the leading edge of providing the best service to our membership, and we appreciate their dedication to Basin Electric and the cooperative business model.

We have a lot to be optimistic about, and our employees have accepted the challenge for innovation and growth, and are using it to shine. We are thankful for their dedication and loyalty, and know we have come through this year thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve our members.

The year hasn't been easy. But in looking to our future, we swell with pride. ■



Upholding our legacy while investing in our future

BY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER JODY SUNDSTED

(Editor's note: Western Area Power Administration also generates power purchased by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. We asked Jody Sundsted to update our members on what is happening at WAPA.)

The world in which we live in is becoming increasingly connected through technology and a desire for instantaneous information. This connectivity is affecting the electric grid as well, as it becomes more integrated with diverse generation and storage resources, supports an influx of new electrical devices including vehicles, and accommodates new technology such as artificial intelligence.

Working with our customers, we have created an enduring and successful legacy of providing hydropower and related services. Now we are looking toward the connected future and ensuring we are investing appropriately to preserve and strengthen our value for customers, neighboring utilities and the nation.

This year, WAPA recommitted its pledge to customers to be agile, integrated, responsive, engaged and resilient in the face of historic industry change. In January, we published the refreshed Tactical Action Plan, which identifies our priorities and activities for the next two to three years under Strategic Roadmap 2024. As stated in the TAP, we will continue to look toward the future of markets in the Western Interconnection, drawing on the successes and lessons from transitioning the Integrated System into Southwest Power Pool in 2015. We will also mature our asset management, security and workforce planning initiatives to ensure WAPA remains relevant and resilient in

the future.

Last year, we expanded upon transparency efforts by posting 10 years' worth of operational and financial information to The Source website. We provided this information based on multiple conversations with our customers and other stakeholders. The site and our additional transparency efforts were recently awarded a Corporate Social Responsibility award by a prominent international public relations organization and a Gears of Government award by the Department of Energy.

Strong water years drive increased benefits

Upper Great Plains had an exceptional water year in 2018. Snowpack in the mountains above the reservoirs was more than 150 percent of average and runoff was high, resulting in the third-highest water year in the past 120 years. Annual generation was about 24 percent higher than the previous year, increasing energy sales by more than 45 percent and allowing surplus sales into SPP's higher-priced market. The excellent conditions also reduced the region's purchase-power needs. The cumulative result of the surplus sales and reduced purchase power was a net market revenue of more than \$48 million.

Being able to sell excess generation into SPP and purchase energy from the market to meet contractual commitments has helped to keep WAPA's costs low and its firm power rates stable. UGP's composite rate for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program was reduced to 24.29 mills per kilowatt-hour in 2018. We expect this rate to hold steady for a few years though we study our



costs on an annual basis to support WAPA's mission.

The 2019 hydrology predictions from the Army Corps of Engineers continue to be positive despite a dry spring across much of North Dakota. The amount of runoff in March was four times higher than average — a new record — and the Corps is expecting the calendar year runoff to be 151 percent of average. At this time, we anticipate a water year slightly above average at about 11.9 million megawatt-hours.

Maintaining transmission assets

UGP is investing heavily in our transmission assets so we can continue delivering reliable and secure power to our electric cooperative customers. Last year, upgrades and replacements occurred at eight substations serving North Dakota cooperatives, including replacing a damaged piece of equipment at Custer Trail Substation. These activities extended the service life of the substation equipment, lessened environmental impact and supported growing communities. We also rebuilt 10 miles of the 230-kilovolt Jamestown-Grand Forks transmission line, extending the life



of this critical transmission line.

Several projects are underway this year, including replacing 17 structures on the Heskett-Devaul 69-kilovolt transmission line. We will also add optical groundwire on the new structures, enhancing our communications with substations and situational awareness. We expect to complete upgrades and replacements at 11 substations, replace more than 60 transmission structures and re-conductor the Mandan-to-Ward 230-kV transmission line.

Strengthening our security posture

In today's world, maintaining the poles and wires is no longer sufficient

to protect our electricity supply. Those wishing to harm America and its economy have decided the grid is a prime target for potential attack, either through physical action or cyber vulnerabilities.

We are also investing in grid resilience, physical security and cybersecurity to safeguard our valuable assets and improve the resilience of the entire system. In January 2019, WAPA initiated a new risk-based, graduated protection-level methodology to better align resources to asset criticality. By proportionately assigning resources to our most critical assets instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, we expect to realize more than \$1 million in savings over the next several years

while providing the most effective protection to our extensive assets.

This is an exciting time to be part of the energy industry. Through this change, we remain committed to sustaining and increasing the value of WAPA in this dynamic energy frontier. Working together with customers, we will keep pace with industry change, invest in a connected energy future, strengthen grid resilience, optimize our operations and maintain affordable costs for customers. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you, our customers, to create a successful future supporting the rural electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. ■

Protect your livelihood — and your life

Stacking hay under electrical infrastructure can be dangerous, if not deadly.

Imagine up to 115,000 volts of electricity running through the power lines directly above the hay you just stacked. Highly loaded, those aluminum wires get hot — and the warmer the temperature — the more the lines sag. There needs to be at least 10 feet of clearance between the neutral line and the top of your hay bales. Did you plan for sag and leave adequate space?

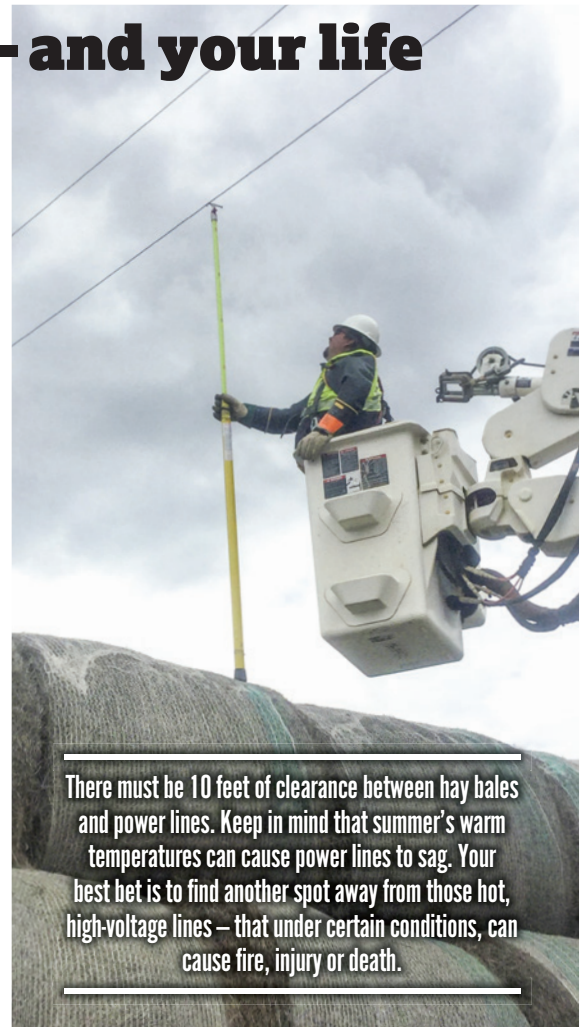
As amps travel the circuit, the wires get warm. If you back your equipment into a guy wire and a pole bends or breaks, or if you hit an overhead line with the loader, the line could fall on the hay and ignite. The hay you need to feed your cattle — and the provisions you made to feed your family — just went up in smoke.

And that could be the best-case scenario. If you or your equipment comes into contact with a power line, you could receive an electric shock that could cause injury and even death.

Protect your livelihood and your life, and stay away from power lines and poles. If you do make contact with a power line, call 911. Remain seated, warn others to stay away, and wait for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric linemen to de-energize the lines. Do not move from the equipment.

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 info@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! ■



There must be 10 feet of clearance between hay bales and power lines. Keep in mind that summer's warm temperatures can cause power lines to sag. Your best bet is to find another spot away from those hot, high-voltage lines — that under certain conditions, can cause fire, injury or death.



Mor-Gran-Sou remembers Lyla Schreiner

BY JACKIE MILLER

Mor-Gran-Sou was saddened by the loss of Lyla Schreiner, who passed away on April 29. Lyla worked as a custodian for Mor-Gran-Sou from October 2008 until the spring of 2019. For many years, Lyla’s work ethic, in part, was dedicated to ensuring the Flasher and Fort Yates offices were kept neat and tidy. With a dust cloth in her hand, she would love to catch up weekly with the office staff. She and Member Services Manager Julie Armijo had a shared annoyance with boxelder bugs.

Lyla grew up in Raleigh and remained in the area, where she spent most of her time in the country living setting. Those who knew her best explained how Lyla’s ultimate passion was horses. She trained horses, barrel-raced in local rodeos, and was involved with the Raleigh Saddle Club. Lyla was a part of the West River Teamsters and also rode with the Pony Express.

Lyla was an outdoors person, where you might have seen her spending countless hours tending to her

flower and vegetable gardens. In the summer months, a number of Mor-Gran-Sou employees benefited from those gardens. Her yard was neat and meticulous, with unique rock or pieces of driftwood strategically placed.

In the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative values of integrity and accountability, Lyla was dedicated to the cooperative. In late 2018, she began to struggle with health issues and learned she was in a battle with lung cancer. Lyla had scheduling conflicts, and called and offered to come in to clean on a different day than was typical for her. With that busy schedule, Lyla once forgot and missed coming in to clean. Upon her realization of what transpired, she called, and of course, apologized. Lyla was emphatically told not to worry, and that the ladies at the office would tidy things up the next morning. Upon office staff arrival at 6 a.m., they found the office smelling fresh and clean. No, it was not the cleaning fairy; somewhere in between 7 p.m. and the following morning, Lyla came in to clean.



Lyla continued to clean while she was going through chemo and radiation — a testament to her dedication, work ethic and loyalty. She stopped cleaning only when she went into the hospital, and was still concerned about who was going to take over the cleaning, since this was her responsibility. Her daughter, Kelly Turnam, expressed how much she enjoyed working with the Mor-Gran-Sou employees.

Lyla leaves behind two wonderful daughters and two grandchildren, whom she loved spending time with. Mor-Gran-Sou was blessed to have known Lyla. To her family and friends, please know how much we appreciated her shared time and talent, and that the board of directors and staff express our heartfelt condolences. ■



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY

Safety tip

BY JOE MEIER, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER FOR WDUS, MANDAN

Check to see if your equipment is ready to do the work it is designed to do. Do a safety check by walking around your equipment to see if there are spots on the ground or concrete that may indicate leaks like transmission oil, engine oil or antifreeze. Check your air conditioning units to make sure filters are clean, because this will restrict flow on the unit and dirt will prevent it from cooling properly.

West Dakota Utility Services, or WDUS, is an independent business owned by Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives. It services utility trucks, in addition to contractors and customers who have vehicles that need hydraulic repairs or N.D. Department of Transportation certification. WDUS also repairs welders, engines and utility tools including crimpers and hydraulic tamps, and is a distributor that can order hydraulic tools and generators.

If WDUS or Joe Meier can help you with a project or repair, call 701-663-4365 or email wdus@btinet.net.



Director Leingang earns Director Gold status

Bob Leingang has completed the top tier of the Director Education Program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Leingang, a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board member from Mandan, received the Director Gold certificate in May.

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors who have earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate and Board Leadership Certificate credentials, and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the cooperative board.

Pamela Clark-Stein, education and member services director for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, says directors pursue this prestigious credential to continue building and expanding their knowledge of the changing industry and its complex issues, so they can be the most effective director for their cooperative and its members. ■



Bob Leingang (left) accepts his Director Gold award from **Leland "Judge" Barth**, chairman of the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors.

Electrical infrastructure may be closer than you think

Take a few moments to look around, noting electrical infrastructure including pad-mounted transformers near fields and around your property and home. As the grass grows, the cans may become more difficult to see. Know their placement, and keep a safe distance.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative linemen need room to work safely on this device. Please keep shrubs and structures 10 feet from the side that opens, and three feet from the other sides.

An obstruction may cause a power outage or may cause delays when restoring electric service.

For planting instructions, call Mor-Gran-Sou at 1-800-750-8212. ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *board meeting highlights*



Meeting date: May 22, 2019

- Approved the April 24, 2019, regular Board meeting minutes
- Reviewed and accepted the financial report
- Approved a work order inventory and 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
- Discussed a REDLG loan application
- Approved National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Integrity Fund support for 2020
- Approved the audit services contract
- Reviewed and discussed an Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) Cooperative Bylaw amendment
- Approved the overhead charge percentage for billing
- Heard update on WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Heard highlights from Maintenance Solutions Cooperative and IEA Board meetings
- Presented Director Leingang with a Director Gold certificate
- 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:

July 19 at Prairie Knights Casino & Resort, Fort Yates

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.

HEAD WEST FOR LESS

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2019** at the door.

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2019**, make reservations and receive your savings.



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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, Robert Gaebe,
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 

JULY 24

KX/CO-OP DAY at the N.D. State Fair

The KX/Co-op Day at the N.D. State Fair will be held July 24 in Minot.

If you plan to attend the fair on July 24, please stop by the Flasher or Mandan offices and pick up reduced-price tickets for \$1 off gate admission, a free breakfast served near the Commercial II Building on the fairgrounds, \$5 off unlimited-ride wristbands for carnival rides, \$1 off the Ranch Rodeo admission and a free ice cream social from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the KX/co-op tent.

