



CURRENT

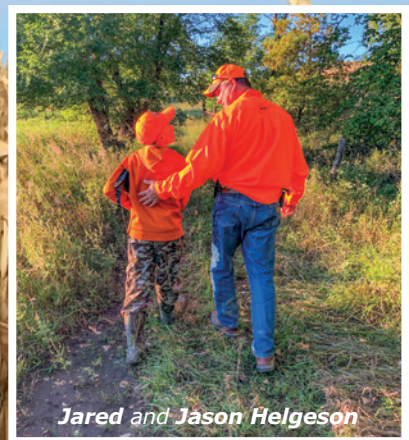
Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

NOVEMBER 2019

NEWS

‘At the heart of every family tradition is a meaningful experience.’

~ author unknown



Jared and Jason Helgeson

Jared Helgeson harvested this goose last year on one of many hunting trips with his family. Hunting, snowmobiling in the mountains, and helping to train the family's Sheyenne River Retrievers are just a few ways he enjoys the great outdoors. Jared is the son of Lynette and Jason Helgeson, who are Mor-Gran-Sou members from south Mandan. Jason is also Mor-Gran-Sou's senior engineering technician. Thank you for sharing this memory.

What's inside:

- **Carrie Roth powers New Leipzig community**
- **Celebrate Careers in Energy Week**
- **Inaugural ORU grant distribution helps Carson Food Pantry**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**



Carrie Roth powers New Leipzig community

Carrie Roth, full-time volunteer in her hometown of New Leipzig, was a nominee in the fourth-annual #WhoPowersYou contest. It honors people who inspire and power our local communities.

In partnership with the national brand alliance Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative supports the #WhoPowersYou contest to highlight some of the folks who are working hard and doing good deeds in our service area. Nominations were made from Aug. 5 through Sept. 6 online at www.whopowersyou.com.

Judges reviewed the nominations and chose the winners based on creativity and impact on the community. The winners (\$5,000 grand prize; \$2,000 second prize; \$1,500 third prize; \$500 honorable mention) were announced mid-October.

Across the United States, 200 people were nominated for this year's contest. Three nominees are doing amazing things right here in North Dakota. Carrie is the only nominee from the Mor-Gran-Sou service area.

While she didn't place in the top four and earn a monetary prize for her nomination, Carrie is certainly a winner in our book. Mor-Gran-Sou applauds her role in teaching safety and saving lives, and mentoring youth and others in the community to live what they have learned. Her letter of nomination is below. ■



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



'Relentless' work keeping small-town community alive

BY JULIE ARMIJO, MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES, MOR-GRAN-SOU

Carrie is a perfect example of community. She is a working wife and mother of five grown children and 15 grandchildren, previous business owner and pillar of the local ambulance service, as well as the local Lutheran church and various community organizations.

She has shown the younger members of the community many valid lessons in life, and lives what she teaches.

Her dedication in keeping the small community of New Leipzig alive is relentless. She spends countless hours providing CPR and first-aid training to the local fire departments, ambulance services and senior meal programs. She wants everyone to know what to do in case there is an emergency. ■



Live what you learn, and lead with a servant heart

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Born and raised in New Leipzig, Carrie Roth had opportunities to pursue career advancements and a much busier way of life. She and her husband, Arlen, chose to stay and raise their five children where they had a “village” to help watch and guide their paths. The kids knew their grandparents and stability — and Carrie and Arlen found jobs to build a strong foundation and future.

After they married, they farmed with family for 13 years before purchasing the local meat market and moving to town. They ran that business for 28 years before Arlen was diagnosed with cancer and needed to focus on treatment.

The couple sold the business, and Arlen took a job with the Census Bureau. Experienced in raising four daughters and a son, Carrie was asked by an area day care provider to fill a “temporary” gap in care. She ended up staying several years, and being part of a village herself.

Carrie’s full-time job is now volunteer, and the role she plays is vital to the residents in New Leipzig and beyond. She started helping the local ambulance service in 1978, and her work — and the town’s need — has escalated.

A nationally certified emergency medical technician (EMT), a state certified EMS instructor and an American Heart Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructor, Carrie is a squad leader who responds to a variety of accidents and emergencies. The ambulance service responds to an average of 120 to 150 calls each year; sometimes they receive as many as four calls per day. As one might imagine, they see some difficult situations, and it stretches their volunteer base very thin.

Carrie reports the ambulance service purchased a new ambulance and debuted it at Oktoberfest. With the new ambulance and current ambulance as a back-up, volunteers are maintaining the service.

Safety training is vital to maintaining wellness, and Carrie is also instrumental in teaching people CPR and first-aid. She visits the schools, hospital in Elgin, area fire and ambulance districts, and with the general public to teach them what to do in the event of an emergency.

Carrie says her proudest moments come when she learns her former students have gone on to become paramedics, nurses or nurse practitioners.

“I’ve done a lot of mentoring, and I’m so happy that I could instill that love of medicine into other people,” she shares. “When I started out, my mom laughed and laughed. That was probably the last thing she thought I’d ever do with my life. Once I started, I just fell in love with it.”

Mentoring and saving lives is also linked to her service

in her hometown church. Carrie is president of the “Women of the Church” group. She’s also a lay minister, confirmation teacher and youth adviser.

In addition to teaching the 10 commandments, Nicene Creed and articles of Christian living, Carrie says it’s important to teach kids to lead and live what they have learned.

“Christianity isn’t only knowing things, it is living things,” she says. “We do a lot of service projects with the youth. At our Oktoberfest celebration, the kids set up tables and chairs in the community center. During our Old Fashioned Community Christmas, we have supper, light the Christmas tree in the middle of the street, and play bingo. My confirmation students serve and help with bingo. We also adopt a family from the Adult Abused Resource Center in Bismarck, and purchase items on a list for the family.”

She says sometimes students are shocked to learn the requests on the list are as basic as underwear. It is a humbling project, and it teaches the kids how to budget and shop wisely — and how to be Good Samaritans.

“I truly believe that you have to teach people how to live a Christian life. You can say I’m a Christian, but if you don’t show it, it means nothing,” Carrie says.

Julie Armijo, member services manager for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, has known Carrie all her life. Julie, who also grew up in the New Leipzig area, says Carrie would help Julie and her classmates with school and church projects. When Julie moved out of state for more than two decades, she always kept in touch with Carrie, who is dear to her heart.

“Carrie inspires me to mentor the younger generations to be caring, God-loving people,” Julie says. “She helps the older residents in our smaller community ... encourages and leads the younger members to go after their dreams. She leads with a servant heart.”

Julie says she nominated Carrie for the #WhoPowersYou award because she wants others to know there are unsung heroes in our small, local communities, who give their all for the betterment of the community.

“I believe God has given me these gifts to do, and I need to use them,” Carrie says.

“I don’t think about [volunteering for the ambulance service, at church, and in and around the community]; I just do ... it needs to be done. If we don’t take care of our rural communities, we’re going to see families continue to move away,” she concludes. “I don’t want to see that happen. It’s so important to keep our community alive. There is such a quality of life here.” ■

JUNE 20 TO 26, 2020

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

Win the Trip of a Lifetime!

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 at Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2020. You can e-mail entries to Julie Armijo at jarmijo@morgransou.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.

ESSAY QUESTION:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will travel to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

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

TOP 3 REASONS

TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget





PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVENEY

Mor-Gran-Sou celebrates Careers in Energy Week

The week of Oct. 14 to 18, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative celebrated Careers in Energy Week. Mor-Gran-Sou employs 23 people in Mandan, Flasher and Fort Yates who work a variety of jobs ranging from linemen and staking engineers to member service representatives, meter and facility technicians and more. Our extended co-op family, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, provides a secondary layer of specialized employees who work as engineers and in human resources, information technology, safety and more. Our goal at Mor-Gran-Sou is to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members-owners — and also improve the quality of life across our service area, when possible. A cooperative is unique because we belong to the communities we serve. This gives us better insight into meeting member needs.

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

If you are considering a career in the energy industry, consider working for an electric cooperative! If you asked our employees why they chose to start and stay with Mor-Gran-Sou, they might share some of these reasons:

- Local, community-focused organization
- Dynamic and exciting industry
- Competitive wages and benefits
- Challenging roles and fulfilling careers

They might also share that co-workers become family, and we are our brother's keeper.

Thank you, members, for supporting us and for helping us make progress possible in the energy industry. ■



OPERATION ROUND UP

Grant helps pantry volunteers give people food — and dignity — to get by

STORY AND PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY



*From left, **Barb and Ray Hintz and Trisha Zimmerman** are longtime volunteers with the Carson Food Pantry. They are assisted by Jean Woodbury and Gequita Edinger (not pictured). These volunteers receive nothing for their time, and in fact, spend their own time, gas and even money to make sure others less fortunate can eat. When Great Plains Food Bank delivers the food, they stock the shelves and open the pantry one time every six weeks, although they don't turn people away who have a great need between openings. The Bullseye Archery 4-H Club members also help stock shelves, as part of their service project. The pantry also receives assistance from members of the community who donate money or food.*

The shelves and freezer at the Carson Food Pantry were well-stocked with a variety of bottled and canned goods and meat the first week in October. Just days before, the pantry was nearly empty, and volunteers were digging into their own pockets to buy food for area residents who rely on donations to get by.

Located on Main Street in Carson, the pantry is the only one in Grant County to be recognized by Great Plains Food Bank. It used to be open once a month, but the time was extended to once every six weeks because there wasn't enough money to replenish the goods on the shelves.

"We serve more than 70 families some days, and when they come, they need it," says volunteer Trisha Zimmerman.

In October, the pantry was full, thanks in great part to an Operation Round Up grant bestowed by the Charitable Trust, on behalf of participating Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members.

In its inaugural season, Operation Round Up is a program in which Mor-Gran-Sou members can choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies to the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc. The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in

our local communities.

"Thank you for the grant money. It's a blessing for us," says volunteer Barb Hintz. "With your funds, we can breathe easier for a little while. It doesn't take long for the food to be gone."

Hintz learned about Operation Round Up by reading Mor-Gran-Sou's local center pages in the *North Dakota Living* magazine. When Barb and her husband, Ray, attended the co-op's annual meeting in July and listened to a report on Operation Round Up, that's when she says she "woke up" and realized the importance of contributing to the program. The couple signed up that night.

"Those few cents you contribute, it's so easy to give — and when combined with all the others, it does so much good," she says.

All the money awarded through the grant was used to purchase food. In the application Barb wrote on behalf of the pantry, she noted the need for food is tremendous, and that people travel from the western edge of Grant County to shop.

"They need food that badly," she says. "We try to make sure these people get enough to justify the time and gas money they spend to get here," she says.

Barb and Trisha say the feedback they hear from people who use the pantry is that the variety is great, the space is clean and the volunteers are friendly.



“We greet them and tell them, ‘Come in and make yourselves at home. Walk around a couple times so you don’t miss anything,’” says Barb.

“We give them more than food,” Trisha says. “We give them dignity.”

The Operation Round Up program is relatively new

to Mor-Gran-Sou members, and it will take a larger portion of the membership to contribute and help the program thrive.

“I encourage everyone to please partake in it, because it is money that stays in the community,” Barb concludes. ■

Opt into Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up is a program in which Mor-Gran-Sou members can voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies to the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc. The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in our local communities.

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

statement of the year.

All rounded-up funds flow directly into the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc., and are overseen by the board of directors. Mor-Gran-Sou personnel will administer the program as a service to the foundation.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 663-0297, 597-3301 or 800-750-8212.

If you haven’t already signed up, please opt into the program and support your friends and neighbors in area communities. Please fill out the form below and return it to the co-op. ■

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 _____

Apply for a grant

Do you have a specific need and could use a boost? Operation Round Up 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.

Any person or group in the Mor-Gran-Sou 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. ■

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



Meeting date: Sept. 25, 2019

- Approved the Aug., 28, 2019, reorganization Board meeting minutes
- Reviewed and accepted the financial report
- Approved a special equipment and two work order inventories
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the director and attorney expense reports
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Reviewed update on WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Reviewed the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and heard reports on meetings they attended
- Heard reports from various meetings and events the directors had attended
- Confirmed director attendance at upcoming meetings
- Appointed voting delegates and alternates for upcoming meetings
- Appointed directors to various committees, and assigned a safety director from the Board
- Approved additional funding for 2019 capital credit retirements to estates and those age 80 and over
- Approved management authority for Basin Electric FERC filing
- Held annual review of governance policy for director compensation
- Held annual review of director meeting attendance guide
- Reviewed the preliminary 2020 operations budget
- Approved governance policy revision for capital credit refunds to terminated members with less than \$100 balance on file
- Informed the Board of the Real ID — North Dakota requirements and deadline
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

Nov. 20 in the board room at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Mandan

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at ctermes@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 Casey Wells 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.

Holiday Closings

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Gift certificates are available at Mor-Gran-Sou. Light up someone's holiday season!

How long is your Christmas list? If a certain someone on your list is a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and you need a bright idea on what to buy for Christmas ... why not wrap up a gift certificate he or she can use toward an electric bill?

Call Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 and ask for Julie or Jackie.

We can help you "lighten" up the holidays.

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

202 6th Ave. W. - PO Box 297
Flasher, ND 58535-0297
Phone: 701- 597-3301 Flasher
701- 663-0297 Mandan
Toll-free: 800-750-8212 Fax: 701-597-3915
Email us: info@morgransou.com
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Casey Wells
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Lance Froelich
Directors Mark Doll, Vernard Frederick, Pam Geiger, Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach

MANAGEMENT

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

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative