



# Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Current News

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### Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland “Judge” Barth  
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Pam Geiger

#### Directors:

Mark Doll  
Vern Frederick  
Lance Froelich  
Robert Gaebe  
Chad Harrison  
Bob J. Leingang

#### Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Chris Baumgartner  
Donald A. Franklund

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)

#### “Like” us on Facebook

*Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.*

*We also aspire to meet the four Touchstone Energy core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.*

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

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**



## SAVE THE DATE!

**WHAT:**  
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting

**WHEN:**  
Friday, July 17, 2015

**WHERE:**  
Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, Fort Yates

**WHY:**  
To learn about co-op issues; to cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and to enjoy a hearty meal.

## THE FLOW OF ELECTRICITY

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative purchases its electricity from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (Western). Mor-Gran-Sou's purchased power is delivered along a number of transmission lines including a line that originates from the Leland Olds Station near Stanton and several that originate at Montana-Dakota Utilities' Heskett Station north of Mandan. The electric power is delivered to 21 substations within the Mor-Gran-Sou transmission grid, and distributed in different forms including three-phase, two-phase and single-phase along a number of main distribution lines. From that point forward, the distribution lines are tapped. The final point of delivery is to a member's individual service.



### *What happens when the lights go out?*

Mor-Gran-Sou strives to provide you, our member-owners, with the most reliable electric service. However, outages do occur and they are an unavoidable aspect of providing electricity.

With a typical outage, there are usually several areas affected at the same time. Mor-Gran-Sou follows a basic outage restoration principle when it comes to restoring power: Priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines from the substations that can affect 200 to 600 members. It continues out to tap lines that may affect 30 to 200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just one to five members.

In the March local pages of *North Dakota Living*, Mor-Gran-Sou examines the repair process in one isolated area, and shows the process of how we restore your power during an outage.

## 'Touchstone' employee set to return this spring

When an employee retires after nearly 40 years of service, it's a loss — both professionally and personally. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative said congratulations and farewell to mentor and friend Robert (Bob) Scholl when he retired in January. Our co-op hopes the farewell is temporary.



Bob graduated from Flasher High School and worked on the family farm for one year before going to line school. After he graduated, he took a job with KEM Electric Cooperative in Linton for 13 months. When a lineman position became available at Mor-Gran-Sou, Bob applied and was hired in 1975. He and his wife, Kim, moved to Mandan, where they raised two children.

Bob worked as a lineman for 27 years, building and maintaining the co-op's overhead and underground distribution lines and fixing occasional power outages. In 2002, he accepted a job in the staking department. He worked as an engineering technician for 12 ½ years, staking lines, lining up new services and working with some of the co-op's commercial accounts.

Athletic and strong, and with a love of the outdoors, Bob says the things he enjoyed most about his job were being outside in the fresh air; especially on the nice days. He also appreciated that Mor-Gran-Sou allowed him to do his own scheduling and line his jobs up for the contactors directly.

In the March local pages of *North Dakota Living*, read the entire story and learn how Bob influenced several of his co-workers over the years with his honesty and tremendous knowledge of the co-op's electrical system.

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### Also in the MARCH issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Scenic photo by member Becky Graner
- Be ready before a storm strikes
- Generator safety
- Meeting minutes & more

## Woodworker turns old into new — and beautiful *Hopfauf uses talent to benefit the community*

When a friend from the Soil Conservation District toured Jim Hopfauf's shop, she saw his custom cabinets and commented that they were nicer than the ones she has in her kitchen. If she had visited recently, she would have surely commented on the hand-crafted French doors that feature stained-glass windows, leading to the bathroom. It's not your ordinary shop — and Jim isn't your ordinary woodworker.

Jim, a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member from north of Flasher, started working with wood as a young boy.

His hobby developed while he attended Flasher Public School. It started with bird houses and benches, and evolved to hope chests, vanities, cabinets, sleigh beds, gun cases, and other items found on the Internet. As long as he has a picture of a product made with wood, Jim can custom-build it — and make it nicer. Many of the items he has made, he gives as gifts or to charities.

In the March local pages of *North Dakota Living*, read more about Jim's hobby, and how he lives the Touchstone Energy® value of commitment to community by serving on various boards of directors.



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### BYLAW/RESOLUTION MEETING SET

A bylaw/resolution meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular board meeting scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT) on Wednesday, March 25. The meeting will be held in the board room of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, located at 3201 Nygren Dr. N.W., Mandan.

If you have a bylaw/resolution to propose at the 2015 cooperative's annual meeting in July, but cannot make the scheduled meeting on March 25, please submit your information in writing to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative before March 24. Thank you.

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### Mor-Gran-Sou line crews patrol power lines

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews are currently patrolling power lines across our service area, looking for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards or other problems that may affect the distribution lines that bring power to your home or business. Because power lines are on and off the beaten path, you may see employees in a Mor-Gran-Sou line truck, an all-terrain vehicle or a snowmobile. If you see them, thank them! They are there for your safety.

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### Keeping our electric system reliable

Tree trimming is a regular part of your electric cooperative's operations.

Mor-Gran-Sou, like all electric utilities, is required to maintain appropriate clearance between trees and electric transmission and distribution lines. Trees need to be trimmed, and in some cases removed, to minimize potential power outages and to eliminate fire and safety hazards due to trees contacting energized electric lines.

Mor-Gran-Sou typically uses local contract tree-trimming crews to perform this task. Bullinger Tree Trimming will have crews operating within our service area again this year.

Please know that they are working on your cooperative's behalf to help keep our electric system as reliable and safe as possible.