



CURRENT NEWS



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**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland "Judge" Barth
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer.....Bonnie Tomac

Directors:

Mark Doll, Vern Frederick
Lance Froelich, Chad Harrison,
Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Chris Baumgartner
Donald A. Franklund

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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 Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 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

Power cost increases present challenges

A message from Travis Kupper, Chief Financial Officer



Travis Kupper

It's fall, and your electric cooperative office staff is busy preparing for annual year-end reporting and completing next year's budget.

Budget preparation for 2017 has been especially trying this time around. Your cooperative has experienced two wholesale power cost increases this year. As you know, the first increase took place on Jan. 1. Recently, as anticipated by management and the board of directors, we received notification of a

second rate increase effective Aug. 1. Between these two rate adjustments, our major power supplier increased its overall rate by more than 20 percent. The cost of power, our single-largest expense, makes up about 45 percent of our annual operating cost. That is why an increase to our wholesale power cost has a large impact on our cost to serve you.

Thankfully, Mor-Gran-Sou has taken a number of steps in the past several years to lower that impact to the membership. We continue to share employees and resources with other cooperatives, consolidate positions and shift work duties where possible, and strategically plan for innovative ways to serve our members in a cost-effective manner.

One of more recent actions was the establishment of the revenue deferral program. This program allowed us to set aside a portion of our income over the past two years when we had increased sales and margins were larger-than-projected. It is like a savings account for your co-op. By deferring some income from the good years, we are able to buffer the not-so-good years; or, as we have done, use the program to offset a rate increase to our members. This is one of the issues that makes the new budget more challenging than prior years. How can we best use the deferral to have the most positive impact on the membership? This issue has been the topic of numerous management and board conversations.

Mor-Gran-Sou's dedication to its members is always a large consideration in its actions. This commitment is part of who we are. While we may not always be able to make a popular decision, you can be assured that the impact to each member has been discussed as part of the decision process. Please note that the recent increase in wholesale power cost and its future impact to the cooperative and its membership is currently being discussed by the board of directors and management.

While we have endured more than our share of struggles in the past year, our financial outlook remains stable. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. I look forward to speaking with you.

Raleigh native earns America's highest teaching honor

Loni Miller, a former teacher at Saxvik Elementary School and current assistant professor and elementary education program director at the University of Mary, both in Bismarck, earned one of the prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) from President Obama.



Loni Miller

PAEMST is awarded to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country.

Miller and fellow recipients received their awards at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 8 — which also includes a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. However, there is no greater reward for Miller than to see her students do their best, not to give up when they fail at a task and to find their passion.

The daughter of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Oscar and Rachel Miller from Raleigh, Loni grew up on a ranch, where she learned the value of hard work and problem solving.

Influenced by a family of teachers, Loni saw firsthand how hard they worked to help their students.

In the October local pages of North Dakota Living, read the full story and learn how Loni's family helped shape her career path.

Story courtesy, in part, by the University of Mary, Bismarck.

Also in the OCTOBER issue of North Dakota Living:

- Cold weather charges
- Happy Halloween! Oct. 31
- Meeting minutes & more



SYSTEM UPGRADES



YOUTH TOUR



SAFETY & TRAINING



CAREER FAIR

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

This year's theme is, "Cooperatives Build."



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

The seventh cooperative principle is *concern for community*. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative joins more than 40,000 cooperative businesses nationwide to work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for schools.

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NISC expands, grows with North Dakota talent

In addition to celebrating October is National Cooperative Month, NISC is commemorating a new building in Mandan.

NISC, or National Information Solutions Cooperative, is an information technology company that develops and supports software and hardware solutions for member-owners who are primarily utility cooperatives and telecommunications companies across the nation, in addition to America Samoa, Palau and Canada. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is one of its founding electric and telephone cooperatives partners.

This month, construction will be completed on a third building that will provide an additional 160 work spaces, board room, cafeteria and fitness center. It will also connect Capturis, the wholly owned subsidiary of NISC that provides energy bill management services, to the main NISC building via enclosed walkways.

"With the expansion, our campus will be tied together and give us a common infrastructure to convene. From an employee engagement and morale perspective, it gives us a unifying presence," says Jasper Schneider, vice president of member engagement. The new building will also be used as a gathering space to host membership meetings and trainings.

"It also shows our commitment to Mandan and to North Dakota," Schneider continues. "So often, we hear about diversifying our economy. These are national jobs, based here in Mandan, North Dakota. They aren't directly impacted by the fluctuation in commodity prices, whether it be oil or agriculture."

In the October local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, read why NISC still needs Mor-Gran-Sou nearly 50 years after its inception — and why Mor-Gran-Sou needs NISC's innovative products to simplify processes for our member-owners.



High school juniors and seniors:

Apply NOW for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

See the October local pages of *North Dakota Living* for information.

FALL BACK!

Daylight saving time ends this year on **Sunday, Nov. 6**. Don't forget to "fall back" one hour on Saturday evening before you go to bed.

