

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 Manager/CEO:

Donald A. Franklund

www.morgransou.com

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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

The season of gratitude – and snowstorms – is on the horizon

By Don Franklund, Co-General Manager and Chief Executive Officer

For electric cooperatives, those two seem to go hand in hand.

Many of us look forward to getting together with family for Thanksgiving to eat, watch football and enjoy being together. If you're a lineman who works for an electric cooperative, you may or may not get to eat that pumpkin pie.

This is the time of year when temperatures hover around freezing. If we get moisture that clings and builds on the power lines, conditions are prime for a power outage. Regardless of the holiday or family celebration, our staff immediately goes to work.

Most of our members can understand the time it takes to drive to a location, assess the situation, make a plan and fix the system. When they see crews working near their homes, they offer a thermos of coffee. They help clear roads to provide access to broken lines and poles. They post on Mor-Gran-Sou's Facebook page to say thanks. Now it's our turn to say thank YOU, for waiting, and helping, and trying to understand.

Sometimes the wait is longer than others. When snow is blinding. When roads are blocked. When no travel is advised. That means no travel is advised for our linemen, too. They can't restore power if they can't see to drive, or if their truck gets lodged in snow. Then, someone else who shouldn't be on the road needs to come to their rescue, and it puts another life in danger.

At Mor-Gran-Sou, we have a culture of safety. We are our brother's keeper, always looking out for one another at the office and in the field. That goes for our members, as well. Your safety matters. Nothing matters more to your family than having you home and safe.

Thankfully, most power outages, even during difficult conditions, last only a few hours. If you are concerned about being out of power this winter, now's the time to look into getting a portable generator and having a licensed electrician install a transfer switch. If you could use advice on what to buy, consider calling our friends at West Dakota Utility Services in Mandan. They can help you assess your family's needs and order equipment delivered to your door.

As we approach this season of thanksgiving, I want to thank our linemen and staff for always going above and beyond to serve our member-owners.

This is a condensed version. Read the complete column in the November local pages of North Dakota Living.



WDUS offers generator sales and service

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative works hard to build what Mother Nature tears down — but in the meantime, electrical service can still be interrupted. While line crews make every effort to keep these interruptions brief, natural disasters and North Dakota's unpredictable weather may cause extended power outages when people need electric service the most.

If going without power is a concern, you can take a simple, proactive step to avoid lapses by installing an automatic standby power generator.

West Dakota Utility Services in Mandan can work with members to assess their needs and size a generator properly. It is important to have the unit sized appropriately, so it does not create issues with appliances. It also needs to be installed by a qualified technician, so it does not backfeed electricity into the power grid, and harm the linemen or the general public.

WDUS technicians can also inspect the generator annually, to make sure the electrical components are in working order.

WDUS 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 can help you with a project or repair, or fix you up with a generator, call 701-663-4365 or email wdus@btinet.net.

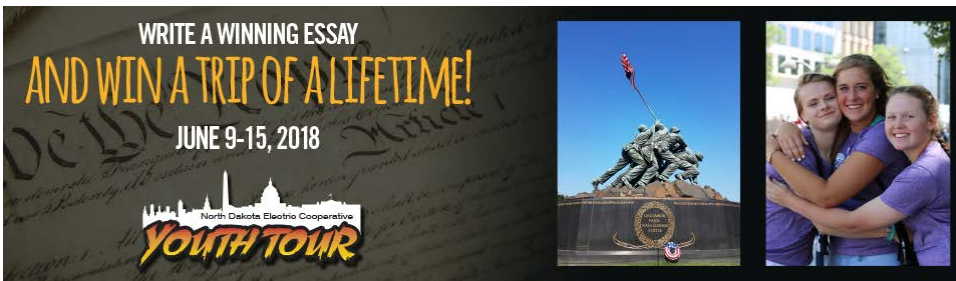
Also in the NOVEMBER issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Heating assistance may be available
- Cold weather charges
- Board meeting minutes & more

Holiday closings

Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving. Please keep our military in mind as we celebrate the holidays.

Linemen will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.



2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is sponsoring a student on the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

From June 9 to 15, students nationwide will spend a week learning about history and American government; visiting with their state's congressional delegation; becoming more knowledgeable about the cooperative business model; and touring museums, national monuments and memorials. They will also develop leadership skills and a national network of peers.

To earn the trip, students must enter an essay-writing contest. To qualify, the winning student must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and his or her family or guardian must receive electric service from Mor-Gran-Sou.

The deadline to enter is **Jan. 31, 2018**. For instructions on how to apply, read the November local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine or call Mor-Gran-Sou at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

For more information on the tour, visit www.ndyouthtour.com.

REBECCA THIEM: committed personally and professionally to the wellbeing of the cooperative

In commemoration of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's 70th anniversary, we looked back on the meager beginnings of rural electrification in July, and why women were perhaps the most motivated to get central station electricity in their homes. In November, we feature Rebecca Thiem, the attorney who works for the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors. By making sure what happens in the board room reflects the best interest of the members, she is a powerhouse who continues to advance the electric cooperative movement.



Rebecca Thiem holds a regular presence in the Mor-Gran-Sou board room every month. An attorney with Serkland Law Firm, Thiem was hired in 1991 to provide legal counsel to the board of directors.

Mor-Gran-Sou is overseen by a board of nine directors who have a fiduciary responsibility to the cooperative. They exercise care, time and responsibility in reviewing co-op matters. Because they are also owners of the cooperative, they treat the business like their own.

Thiem attends board meetings, reports on what she's been working on, and listens to the issues. She says she sees her role as a risk manager.

"It is important to the board that they are getting proper advice, and fulfilling their fiduciary duty to do what's in the best interest of the cooperative, its members and its assets. They are the ones who make the decisions," she says.

Thiem says she strongly believes in the cooperative business model of serving the member-owners, and appreciates the opportunity to visit with members.

"I'm emotionally tied," she says. "I care about how the cooperative is doing and how the members are doing. When I hear talk about ice storms coming, I worry about it all weekend. It's more than a job. I'm really committed personally and professionally to the wellbeing of the cooperative."

This story has been condensed. Read the complete feature in the November local pages of North Dakota Living.