



# CURRENT NEWS

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**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland "Judge" Barth

Vice Chair.....Casey Wells

Secretary-Treasurer..... Lance Froelich

## Directors:

Mark Doll, Vern Frederick,  
Robert Gaebe, Chad Harrison,  
Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

## Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund  
Travis Kupper

[www.morgransou.com](http://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, employer and lender.

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**

## Attend — and vote — at the annual meeting

At the annual meeting on **July 19** at **Prairie Knights Pavilion** near Fort Yates, eight Mor-Gran-Sou members will vie for one of four board director positions including: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan-Area position, and two for the Morton County positions. The candidates include:

### Grant County:

Vernard Frederick, Flasher

### Mandan Area:

Pam Geiger, Mandan

Cody Hatzenbuehler, Mandan

Bonnie Tomac, Mandan

### Morton County (2-year):

Eric Schultz, Almont

Kathy Tokach, St. Anthony

Travis Wilkens, New Salem

### Morton County (3-year):

Jay Larson, Almont

Vote 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.** Meal tickets will be available until 6 p.m. Please plan on being there in time to vote.

### Please note the meeting schedule:

3:30 p.m. CT — Registration begins

5:30 p.m. CT — Business meeting call to order; election of candidates

6:00 p.m. CT — Business meeting recessed; banquet served

7:00 p.m. CT — Business meeting reconvenes

## Director Leingang earns Director Gold status

Mor-Gran-Sou Board Director Bob Leingang has completed the top tier of the Director Education Program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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 board service.



## Safety tip by Joe Meier, West Dakota Utility Services

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.

If West Dakota Utility Services or Joe Meier can help you with a project or repair, call 701-663-4365 or email [wdus@btinet.net](mailto:wdus@btinet.net).



## Stacking hay under electrical infrastructure can be deadly

Imagine up to 115,000 volts of electricity running through the power lines directly above the hay you just stacked. 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?

If your equipment comes into contact with a power line, the line could fall on the hay and ignite. You could also receive an electric shock.

Stay away from power lines and poles. If you 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 at 1-800-750-8212 or email [info@morgransou.com](mailto:info@morgransou.com). Include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

## JULY 24 is KX/CO-OP DAY at the N.D. State Fair in Minot

Stop by the Mor-Gran-Sou Flasher or Mandan offices and pick up reduced-price tickets for gate admission, a free breakfast, \$5 off carnival rides, \$1 off the Ranch Rodeo and free ice cream social.

## G&T REPORTS

*Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative asks our power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), to update our members on the accomplishments and challenges of our generation and transmission cooperatives. The following is a condensed update. The full reports can be read in the July local pages of North Dakota Living.*

### BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

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

Our directors are holding strategic planning meetings to set a guiding goal for our workforce. The board has set 'Stability' as that goal, and three pillars lead us there: member and employee focus, operational effectiveness/continuous improvement, and strategic direction/the forward look. Within these pillars, we've developed strategic objectives for 2019 and beyond.

The reduction in force was a difficult decision. Forecasts showed a leaner workforce would save the cooperative millions of dollars, and help Basin Electric remain strong and hold solid ratings. While difficult, it was the right decision for Basin Electric and our members.

We also made changes in the way we operate the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, and all our facilities. 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.

The way we generate and deliver electricity and the way our membership uses electricity will evolve as technology advances.

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.

### WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION (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 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.

WAPA 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. We will also mature our asset management, security and workforce planning initiatives to ensure WAPA remains relevant and resilient.

In the July local pages, read about these extensive updates:

- Seeing increased benefits due to strong water years;
- Maintaining transmission assets;
- Investing in grid resilience, physical security and cybersecurity.

This is an exciting time to be part of the energy industry. We remain committed to sustaining and increasing the value of WAPA in this dynamic energy frontier. Working together with customers, we will create a successful future that supports rural electric cooperatives and the communities they serve.

### Also in the July issue of North Dakota Living:

- Still to come ... Luck of the Draw scholarships!
- Electrical infrastructure may be closer than you think
- Mor-Gran-Sou remembers Lyla Schreiner, board meeting minutes and more