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the monthly newsletter of
DMEA
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Powerlines

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DMEA Welcomes New Board Member Chief Executive Officer's Message to the Members



Jasen Bronec
CEO, DMEA

More than one hundred members and guests came together last month on June 17 for the DMEA's Annual Meeting of Members. The annual meeting is one of the cooperative's most important events of the

year. It is a time to gather together with our membership, review our accomplishments, and talk about our goals for the future. But more than that, it also marks the conclusion of our annual board of director elections.

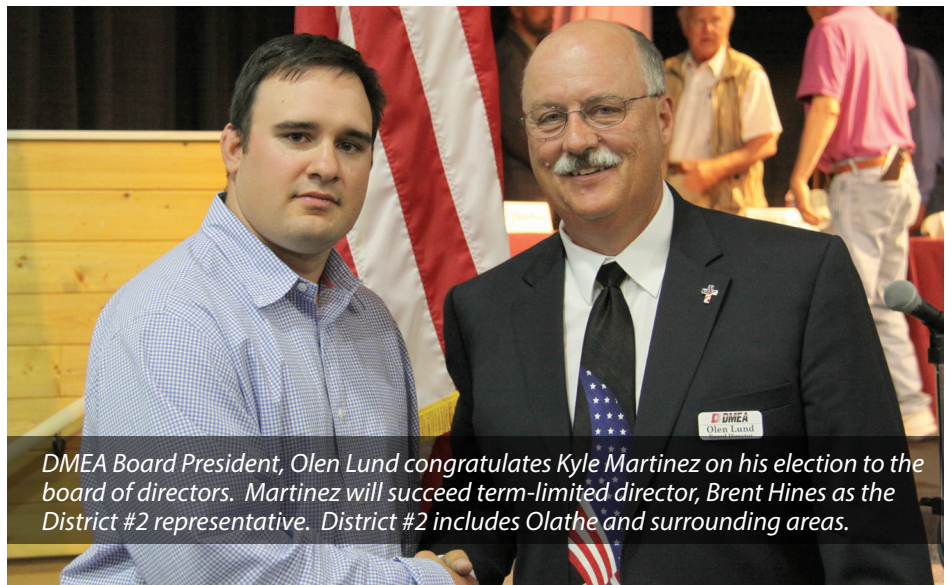
As a member-owned cooperative, DMEA is governed by a nine-member democratically elected board of directors. Those directors are elected by the membership, from the membership. Each year, three board seats are up for election. This year, you were asked to vote for your representatives in Districts 1, 2, and 5. In District 1 and 5, your choice was easy, as incumbents Bill Patterson and Marshall Collins ran unopposed. Four candidates vied for the District 2 seat. The results of that race are as follows:

Kyle Martinez -	1,862 votes
Mandy Norris-Snell -	1,515 votes
Tammy Theis -	1,052 votes
Richard Harding -	718 votes

Please join me as I officially welcome Kyle Martinez to the DMEA Board of Directors. Serving on the board is no small task. It is a three-year commitment to the membership. Board members are tasked with making tough decisions about rates, policies,

and the strategic direction of the co-op. I want to thank all of our 2015 candidates for being willing to serve their fellow co-op members.

I also ask that you join me in thanking outgoing board member Brent Hines. Brent was our District 2 representative for 12 years and reached his term limit this year. We thank Brent for his years of service to the cooperative and wish him well.



DMEA Board President, Olen Lund congratulates Kyle Martinez on his election to the board of directors. Martinez will succeed term-limited director, Brent Hines as the District #2 representative. District #2 includes Olathe and surrounding areas.

Montrose County Saves with SmartHub

In response to the citizen-driven strategic plan to be an efficient and effective government, Montrose County has been taking steps to cut energy consumption and save money over the past three years. Their goal is to reduce overall energy consumption by 1% by 2017. In order to track their progress and gain a better understanding of when and where they're using energy, the county signed up for SmartHub, DMEA's online account management tool. Montrose County was the first commercial customer to sign up for SmartHub at the urging of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners.

With all their facilities enrolled in SmartHub, the county is able to visually track their energy consumption. This turned out to be an eye-opener for the facilities department.

"We were trusting that our HVAC system controls were doing what they were supposed to be doing. But the SmartHub data proved differently," said facilities coordinator, Jennifer Deltonto.

In reality, many of the county's automatic control systems weren't performing as they expected. For example, at the 119,000 square foot Justice Center, heaters weren't ramping down during non-business hours. But, armed with the data from SmartHub, the county was able to work with vendors to adjust the controls and visually see if the changes were working.

"You can't truly control anything, unless you can measure it. We needed to support our efficiency efforts with data," said county manager, Ken Norris.



Montrose County facilities coordinator, Jennifer Deltonto, county manager, Ken Norris, and facilities director, Dave Laursen stand in front of the Montrose County Justice Center. The 119,000 square foot facility was a top priority for the county when they began their efficiency efforts.

And data they have. With all county facilities now on SmartHub, they can drill down the energy use at each location by the year, month, day, or hour. In addition to catching glitches with HVAC control systems, the county also used the data to identify facilities most in need of improvement. The Justice Center was one of those. Despite a major remodel in 2013 to the Justice Center, the county has been able to reduce consumption in order to offset the added space and people.

"SmartHub provided us the tools to effect a change in our facilities. We have data to move forward on and ultimately save tax-

payer dollars," said Dave Laursen, facilities director.

SmartHub is an online account management tool available to all DMEA members, both residential and commercial. More than just an online bill-pay system, SmartHub offers detailed energy use information, as well as 24/7 bill pay, payment history information, budgeting assistance, bill comparison, and tools to understand your data. DMEA's energy services department is also available to help you understand your data and identify ways you can save energy and money. Sign up for SmartHub at dmea.smarthub.coop.



MyChoice Makes Sense for Busy Lives

DMEA member Tasha Todak is busy, as in three jobs busy. So, when the opportunity to enroll in My Choice, DMEA's new prepay billing program, came up, she jumped on it. The program's payment flexibility was a perfect fit for Tasha's lifestyle and budget.

Tasha now pays for her electricity up front. She decides when she makes a payment and how much to pay. Her payments give her a positive balance of energy, and as she uses that energy her balances goes down. As her balance gets low, the program sends her automatic notifications telling her approximately how many days of electricity she has left.

"I chose the text notifications because I'm busy. I get a text when I'm getting close to the end of my power. Then I can make a payment, and I'm good," said Tasha.

If the balance goes below zero, power is automatically disconnected. However, power can be turned back on in minutes by making a payment at any time of the day. Payments can be made 24/7 online, via a computer or smart device, at a DMEA self-serve kiosk, or by phone. Payments can also be made in person during business hours. There are no disconnect fees, reconnect fees, late fees, or collection fees.

My Choice participants have the option to receive alerts via text, email or an in-home-display (IHD). The IHD is programmed to a member's meter and plugged in at their location. It provides daily updated balance information.

Energy Outreach Colorado is partnering with DMEA to help members tran-

sition to My Choice. The initial change-over can be difficult for members who have past due balances, because they must reduce their past due balance and purchase their new energy upfront. Energy Outreach Colorado will help members in need pay off those past due balances.

"We are excited to work with [DMEA] on this new partnership to help families take more control of their energy use and ideally reduce their energy bills," said Jennifer Gremmert, deputy director at Energy Outreach Colorado.

Members are encouraged to sign up for My Choice in person at either DMEA office in order to receive a detailed account balance and apply for Energy Outreach Colorado funding.



DMEA member, Tasha Todak was an early participant in My Choice. She enjoys the payment flexibility and the ability to be more aware of her energy consumption.

Lineman Training

It's no secret that journeyman lineman is one of the most dangerous jobs a worker can have. These highly-trained professionals work in inclement weather, high above the ground and handle power lines that are pulsing with electricity.

Because the job involves such risk, DMEA emphasizes safety. Our crews undergo drills and tests every year to certify their abilities to perform rescue operations quickly and safely.



Fisk Descender: A lineman repels out of an inoperative bucket truck in order to save himself from a dangerous situation.



Pole-Top Rescue: A lineman safely brings an unconscious co-worker down from the pole top to ground level in order to begin CPR.

Watch DMEA linemen perform these drills on our YouTube Channel. Click on the "Videos and Podcasts" sidebar on www.dmea.com.

DMEA'S Don Blowers retires after 35 years of Service

Delta-Montrose Electric Association recently said goodbye to long-time employee Don Blowers who retired in May.

Don served DMEA for 35 years as an employee. He began his career at DMEA as a meter reader. During his career, Don held the positions of meter reader, meter reader collector, and apprentice system designer and concludes his career as a system designer.

Don's dedicated service is valued and appreciated. His work ethic, experience and knowledge will be sorely missed. His legacy will be a tough act to follow.

DMEA will miss Don's smile and positive attitude. We wish Don the very best as he embarks on a life of leisure and enjoyment of his family and hobbies.



System design supervisor, Shelby Bear (left) and engineering manager, Kent Davenport (right) congratulate Don Blowers (center) on his career.

New and improved website coming soon

Within the next month DMEA will launch a new and improved website that will be easy to navigate and user friendly. You'll still find us at www.dmea.com and all the important information will still be there. It will just be easier to find.

If we look a little bit different the next time you log on, it's OK. It's still us. You'll probably notice that we've got a simple and clean look. We know from member feedback and through our Member Advisory Committee, that our current site is just too busy.

Our website is a tool for you, our members. But if it's hard to use or confusing to navigate, you won't use it. So, if you haven't visited us online in a while, come back. Try us out. We think you'll like what we've done. Look for our new website this month!



Pop Quiz

Win a small appliance! Submit answers (with name & city) to: DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com. Winners must claim prizes within 60 days of publication. *Hint: All the answers are in this newsletter.*

1. How many members and guests attended the DMEA Annual Meeting last month?

2. By what percentage does Montrose County want to drop their energy consumption? _____
3. What organization will help members pay off past due balance prior to going on My Choice. _____
4. What is it called when a lineman must repel down from an inoperative bucket?

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Contact:

1-877-OUR-DMEA
(1-877-687-3632)

P.O. Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

www.dmea.com

Locations:

11925 6300 Road, Montrose
&
21191 H75 Road, Delta

DMEA Board Of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District #1*;
Kyle Martinez, *District #2*;
Olen Lund, *District #3*
Jim Elder, *District #4*;
Marshall Collins, *District #5*;
Terry Brown, *District #6*
Mark Eckhart, *District #7*;
Tony Prendergast, *South Region*
John Gavan, *North Region*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members. They are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.