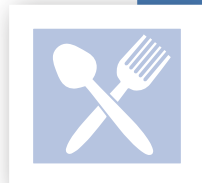




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Powerlines

Your Delta-Montrose Electric Association Member Newsletter | October 2015

Safety: Our Responsibility, Our Commitment

Chief Executive Officer's Message to the Members



Jasen Bronec, CEO

DMEA's most valuable asset is our people: Both the people who work to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service and the people we serve. When it comes to keeping those people safe, we set high standards for ourselves.

DMEA participates in the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP). This national program assesses and grades the safety culture within the cooperative. It focuses on assuring that proper policies and procedures are in place, facilities and equipment are properly maintained, the organizational communication and leadership promotes safety, and that a safety improvement plan is developed and implemented.

I'm proud to announce that as a result of our commitment to safety, DMEA recently received a No Lost-Time Accidents award for the second year in a row. The award recognizes the fact that none of our employees suffered injuries at work that resulted in days away from work. This award represents a challenging goal for businesses of any size.

DMEA recognizes the inherent risk of our industry. Electricity the backbone of our modern society, but it is also a destructive force that can change our lives for the worse in an instant. The U.S. Department of Labor has ranked electric



DMEA representatives (L to R) Jim Thate, safety and regulatory compliance director, and journeyman linemen, Wade Wilson and Erik Hall, accepted the No Lost-Time Accidents award from the Colorado Rural Electric Association last month.

lineman as one of the ten most dangerous jobs, on par with deep-sea fishermen and military servicemen. Plain and simple, when we make mistakes, they can be deadly.

Everyone within DMEA, from employees to board members, has a role and responsibility to keep the co-op and its members safe. Our board members ensure the equipment budget provides the correct safety gear to do the job. Our training programs ensure our employees have the proper education to work with electricity. Our community outreach programs work to educate our members on safety around high voltage equipment and at home.

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Restocking Freezers at Local Food Pantries

Thanks to a donation from DMEA, approximately 350 pounds of locally grown and processed sausage and bacon are now filling the freezers at the Hotchkiss Community Methodist Church Food Bank.

Each summer, DMEA participates in the Delta County Fair Junior 4H Livestock Sale. This year, we chose to process the animals we purchased at the sale and donate the meat to the Hotchkiss Food Bank serving Delta County.

Sharon Teter is the food bank administrator and church secretary. She is responsible for accepting donations and distributing food. For her, the mission is clear; serve the community.

“It’s my mission to serve the community. It’s the church’s mission. I do it because I love it. And, I get more hugs than anyone I know,” said Teter.

The Hotchkiss Community Methodist Church functions as a regional food bank for DMEA members in the North Fork Valley, providing food for individual citizens and distributing goods to the Paonia and Crawford food banks. It is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00am to noon. On average, it serves about 10 families each week, many of those elderly or with numerous children. The only requirement you must meet when you enter the Hotchkiss Food Bank is that you’re hungry.

“We feed anyone who comes in. There are no questions and no hoops they have to jump through. We don’t shut our doors to anyone,” said Teter.


The Hotchkiss Food Bank accepts donations during regular business hours, or arrangements can be made by calling (970) 872-3540.

DMEA also purchased two lambs and two hogs at the Montrose County Fair sale and donated approximately 320 pounds of meat to Sharing Ministries in Montrose. Sharing Ministries accepts donations during regular business hours, M-W, 9:30am – 12:30pm and Fri., 9:30am – 11:00am. Monetary donations can be made online at www.sharingministries.com.



Above: DMEA Board Member Terry Brown (R) delivers 350lb of pork to Sharon Teter, Hotchkiss Food Bank administrator.

Right: DMEA Board Members Bill Patterson (L) and Kyle Martinez (R) deliver 320lb of lamb and pork to Michelle Overmyer, Sharing Ministries assistant warehouse manager.

Be Sure of Your Target

DMEA's rights-of-way can provide attractive hunting grounds and easy passage, but they also contain our power lines, substations, and workers, day and night. Accidentally shooting and damaging our electric lines and equipment is dangerous to you and our workers and can result in costly outages.

DMEA reminds you: For the safety of our workers, our power system, other hunters, and yourself, be sure of your target and what lies beyond it, before you take your shot.

2015 YOUTH LEADERSHIP programs

WASHINGTON D.C. RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

DMEA will send one student to attend the Washington D.C. Rural Electric Youth Tour. You'll spend a week in the nation's capitol seeing government in action, shaking hands with senators and members of congress, and making lifelong memories. You'll also experience history outside of a textbook by visiting the many memorials and historical monuments. Plus, you'll rock it with 1,400 other students from across America on a dinner and dance cruise down the Potomac River.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

DMEA will send five students, one from each area high school, to the CEI Cooperative Youth Leadership camp in Clark CO, near Steamboat Springs. At camp, you'll set up a camp cooperative, learn about power when you visit a mine and coal plant, and participate in hands-on leadership and communication workshops. Plus, you'll float the Colorado River, hike to Fish Creek Falls, and ride the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants for both programs must be between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time of the programs, but not yet graduated from high school and be dependants of a DMEA member. Download your application at www.dmea.com or visit your high school guidance counselor. Complete and return your application by Friday, December 4, 2015.



Hit the Brakes Keep Us Safe



Orange cones, flashing lights, roadside flaggers, and warning signs can all indicate a work zone on the road ahead. Within these zones our employees are often doing work to install or repair power lines.

DMEA asks motorists to help us keep our workers safe by slowing down and paying attention while driving in work zones. Please remember to:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, equipment, and workers;
- Be patient, delays may happen;
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions;
- If required, merge early, and be courteous to other drivers.

Your patience in work zones helps us safely repair power lines during outages or conduct necessary maintenance. It also saves lives.

Visit safeelectricity.org for more work zone and electricity safety information.

Safety Commitment

Safety continued from page 1

So, the next time you ask an employee what the co-op is all about, I hope they say, "We're all about safety." When safety is the culture of an organization, good things happen, like high morale, more productivity, good customer service, and a lot of pride. Having a strong commitment to safety benefits the cooperative members and ensures that our employees return home safely every night. Please join me in commending DMEA's employees for two years in a row of having no lost-time accidents.

Home Cookin'

Charlotte's Chili - Charlotte Causey, Cedaredge, CO

Ingredients:

1 pkg. taco seasoning	1 lb ground beef
2 cans pinto beans, drained	1/2 onion, chopped
1 can black beans, drained	1 can diced tomatoes
3/4 can hominy, drained	1/2 c. Mexican-style tomato sauce
1/2 c. corn (frozen or canned)	Garlic salt, oregano to taste

Directions:

Brown ground beef with onion, garlic salt, & oregano. When browned, add taco seasoning, diced tomatoes, & remaining ingredients. Stir well and simmer with lid on for 20 - 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with additional chopped onions and grated cheese. Great with cornbread!

Submit your recipes to:

DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402
becky.mashburn@dmea.com

See your recipe printed here? Claim your prize within 60 days. Call (970) 240-1263.

Contact:

1-877-OUR-DMEA
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.ascrusda.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.