

Electricity Remains a Good Value

Also remember this: DMEA is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable, and affordable electric service in your home. DMEA's Board of Directors has put the cooperative in a position to secure more locally generated power. This helps two-fold because it protects the co-op from some of the risk of future wholesale cost increases and boosts our local economy. I must also give credit DMEA's employees. They've worked hard to set annual budgets that keep our operational costs low, while still providing excellent service. This is part of what I like to call the cooperative difference.

How does the cooperative difference affect how we operate? DMEA doesn't work to return profits to private stockholders. We are a not-for-profit local cooperative and are always working to provide you, our members, with both reliable and economical service. We set our rates to recover the cost of doing business, nothing more, nothing less. But sometimes, we collect excess revenue because our sales were higher or expenses were lower than anticipated. That excess revenue is called margins. Learn about what we do with those margins on the inside of this newsletter.

So, the next time you crave your favorite treat, remember your electric bill, and think about what a great deal you're getting for your dollar!

Home Cookin'

Cherry Salad Supreme - Darleen Carron, Montrose

Ingredients:

- 3 oz. pkg. raspberry Jell-O
- 21 oz. can cherry pie filling
- 3 oz. pkg. lemon Jell-O
- 3 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 crushed pineapple
- 1/2 cup whipping cream (whipped)
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 2 tbsp. chopped nuts

Directions:

Dissolve raspberry Jell-O in 1 cup boiling water. Stir in cherry pie filling. Pour into a 9"x9"x2" pan. Chill until set. Dissolve lemon Jell-O in 1 cup of boiling water. Blend cream cheese and mayonnaise and gradually add lemon Jell-O. Stir in pineapple and whipping cream, then the marshmallows. Spread on top of cherry layer. Top with chopped nuts and chill until set. Serves twelve.



APPLY NOW FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

DMEA is now accepting applications for our 2016 academic scholarship program. Applicants must be dependents of a DMEA member and planning to enroll in or be enrolled full-time in an accredited college, university, or vocational school.

Applications must be received by close of business (5:00pm) Friday, January 29, 2016. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Return completed applications to:

DMEA Scholarship Committee
Attn: Phil Sanchez
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402
Applications may be submitted electronically to phil.sanchez@dmea.com

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.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.



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Electricity: Providing Good Value for Your Money

Chief Executive Officer's Message to the Members



Jasen Bronec, CEO

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas, or a dozen eggs. But did you know that an average day's worth of electricity costs less than \$5? Even in our country's shifting energy climate, electricity remains a good value.

As CEO of Delta-Montrose Electric Association, I urge you to think about your daily necessities (electricity and gasoline, to name a few), and then think about the cost of the special treats we allow ourselves to purchase on a weekly or daily basis. We don't often question the cost of a value meal at a fast food restaurant – at \$5 to \$7 a meal; they cost \$2 more than a day's worth of power. And yet, we frequently become upset if our electricity rates rise.

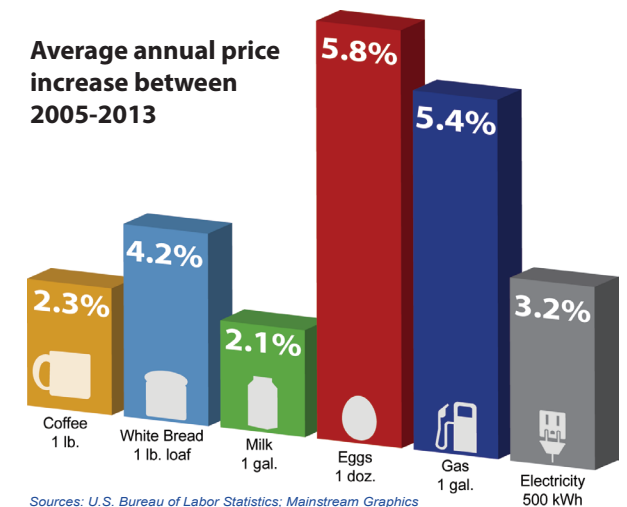
It makes sense; we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. It has gone from a luxury commodity to a necessity and an expectation. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and we expect our power to stay on during the best and worst conditions. How else would we keep our food fresh and our homes cool in the summer or warm in the winter?

It is easy to cut the treats out of your spending routine here and there to save a few dollars. But, we cannot simply cut electricity out of our budgets if times get tough or if we

decide that we want to scale back our spending in order to save. Perhaps that is why it is so upsetting to us when our rates increase, even if only in small increments. It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like if we did not have electricity. If at times it doesn't seem that electricity is affordable, remember – even as the demand for electricity grows – annual cost increases still remain low.

This is especially true when compared to other consumer goods such as medical care, education, gasoline, and, yes, even fast food. Electricity is still a great bargain.

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Capital Credits Refund Checks Coming this Mo

Members will receive approximately \$2,000,000 in capital credit refund checks this month! The DMEA board approved a \$2.6 million capital credit retirement during their October meeting. "To really help our members when they need it most, we are issuing retirements in December. Everyone likes some extra money during the holiday season," explained Bill Patterson, DMEA Board President.

An exciting change in the retirement process is also taking place. DMEA will issue checks to members for their portion of the retirement, rather than only offering bill credits. "By giving the members their refunds in check form, we really put the money back into their pockets. Each member who receives a capital credit check can use their

money how they see fit. We feel that this will have a greater impact on our local economy rather than simply offering a bill credit as we have in the past," said Jasen Bronec, Chief Executive Officer of DMEA.

DMEA will be issuing checks because it is important for our members to understand the real benefits of cooperative membership. A capital credit check is a tangible example of what makes cooperatives different. Also, issuing checks allows you, our members, to decide how you want to use your money. Whether you buy a latte or fill up your car with gas, it's your money, and you should be able to choose how you spend it.



WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

Members often ask, "what are capital credits, and why haven't I received one?" DMEA is a not-for-profit, member owned cooperative. This means we don't work to earn profits for shareholders. We work for you, our members. This also means that any profits (or margins, as we call them in the co-op world) we earn are returned to you, our member-owners. We typically return these margins on an approximate 25-year schedule. So, newer members may not see a capital credit check every year. But remember, even though you may not receive a capital credit check this year, as a member, you will receive your annual allocation. It represents your ownership of the cooperative. Eventually, a portion of your share is returned, or retired, to you in the form of a capital credit check.

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How Does DMEA Determine How Much You Get?

At the end of each year, all of the margins DMEA has earned are allocated back to each active member from that year. The amount allocated to each member is based on the amount of investment they made into the cooperative through the purchase of electricity. The more electricity you purchased, the more you invested into DMEA, which means your allocation will be greater than another member who purchased less electricity. Once the margins have been allocated to the members, they are used by DMEA for a period of time. This is literally you investing into a company you own. DMEA uses the margins to make reliability and system improvements to keep your cooperative operating. At the end of a set period of time, your allocation is returned to you in the form of a capital credit retirement.

What Happened to the Additional \$600,000?



Wait a minute, if the board approved a \$2.6 million retirement and DMEA is mailing \$2 million in capital credit checks, what happened to the other \$600,000? Although the total amount retired is \$2.6 million, there are several reasons why the checks will total just shy of \$2 million.

- 📦 Members with a refund of less than \$10 will not receive a check; rather they will receive a bill credit. This accounts for \$4,500.
- 📦 If a member leaves DMEA with bad debt still on the books, their capital credit retirement goes against that bad debt. This accounts for \$71,000.
- 📦 If a member is inactive and has a past due bill (but not yet bad debt), their capital credit retirement goes against their past due bill. This accounts for \$4,000.
- 📦 Finally, members who have left the system and no longer have a correct address on file with DMEA account for \$579,000. DMEA will post listings of these members in an attempt to reach them, so we can return their capital credits. After a period of five years, any credits left unclaimed will be transferred into our unclaimed capital credit fund. This fund is used only for charitable and educational causes in our communities.

Questions? 1-877-687-3632 ext. 391 or capital.credits@dmea.com

Who Will get a Check in December?

DMEA is retiring capital credits that were allocated in 1990 and some from 1994. So, everyone who was a DMEA member in 1990 or 1994 will receive a capital credit retirement. If your retirement is \$10 or greater, you will receive a check. If your retirement is less than \$10, you will receive a bill credit. The total value of the checks we will mail out to our members is \$1,977,300.

Number of members	Capital Credit amount
	
1,518	\$10 - \$24.99
2,293	\$25 - \$49.99
3,342	\$50 - \$99.99
2,495	\$100 - \$199.99
676	\$200 - \$499.99
137	\$500 - \$999.99
116	\$1,000 - \$9,999.99
16	\$10,000 or above

We're Dishing Up Your Slice of the Co-op PIE!

