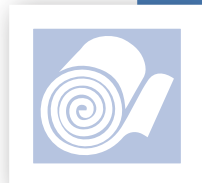




1 | Save the date for Member Appreciation Days



2 | Free home upgrades through weatherization assistance



4 | Stay safe around power lines



Powerlines

Your Delta-Montrose Electric Association Member Newsletter | September 2015

Cooperatives: Where Members Matter the Most

Chief Executive Officer's Message to the Members



Jasen Bronec, CEO

DMEA is your locally controlled, member-owned rural electric cooperative. You've probably heard, or read, this quite a few times by now. But what does that really mean to you?

It means you have the power to influence how we operate. As a member, you have the right to elect representatives to our board of directors, which governs the cooperative on your behalf. Through those directors, you can also voice your concerns, suggestions, and ideas about how we operate or

the services we provide. That's the power of your co-op membership, and we hope you take advantage of it.

Next month is National Cooperative Month, and we want to celebrate you, our members! Please join us for our second annual Member Appreciation Days on October 7 and 8. Stop by our offices for hot coffee, freshly baked treats, and your 2015 DMEA ceramic coffee mug. The event will take place at our Read Service Center on Wednesday, October 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and at our Montrose Headquarters Office on Thursday, October 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's our way of saying thank you for being a member and making DMEA a successful cooperative.

Your membership in DMEA means so much more than simply paying for electricity. Rural electric cooperatives across the country work to engage their members in all issues surrounding the co-op, because without members, co-ops can't exist. Your ideas become our ideas; your concerns, our concerns; your successes, our successes. So, embrace the power of your co-op membership. Our board and our employees know just how important you are, and hopefully you do too. You drive us to provide reliable, safe, and responsible service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thank you for being a part of our cooperative.

Save the date!

**MEMBERS
MATTER**

Member Appreciation Days

**October 7 • 10am - 3pm
Read Service Center**

**October 8 • 9am - 4pm
Montrose Headquarters**

Celebrate National Cooperative Month and the power of your membership. Join us for hot coffee, freshly baked treats, and your 2015 DMEA ceramic coffee mug. The event is free for DMEA members.

Free for members!

COMMERCIAL REBATES HELP BUSINESSES CONTROL COSTS

Energy costs are often one of the largest controllable expenses in business today. We understand that businesses have to pay close attention to their bottom line and decrease costs whenever possible. We want to be a part of your solution.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, DMEA appreciates your business, but we also want to make sure your business is running as efficiently as possible. That's why we offer energy efficiency programs targeted at helping our commercial members control their energy costs.

DMEA offers free on-site walk through energy audits. These audits are intended to assist you in determining the next steps in making your business more efficient. Our energy experts can typically recommend numerous low-cost or no-cost solutions to help you become more energy efficient. We also have rebates and incentives to help cover the cost of some of your energy efficiency upgrades. Our rebates include, but are not limited to:

- Commercial lighting
- Variable speed drives
- Exterior lighting
- High efficiency motors
- New construction lighting

Contact Phil at 240-1217 or Rod at 240-1258 today to learn more about how we can help your business get on the road to savings! Our energy services staff will be happy to help you.

POWERLINES POP QUIZ

Submit your answers, including your name, address, and phone number to: DMEA Newsletter, PO Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com. Winners are announced randomly at the bottom of the pop quiz activity. Winners must claim prize by calling (970) 240-1263 within 60 days.

1. What are the dates of Member Appreciation Days?
2. What free service does DMEA offer to businesses?
3. How many homes have been improved through the weatherization assistance program since July 2014?
4. How should you report power line issues?

Congratulations to July winner: Mary Parr, Montrose

Weatherization Assistance Improves Quality of Life

"It helps people. It makes their lives more comfortable. It allows them to stay in their home."

That's what first came to mind for weatherization administrative assistant, Debra Lueck, when talking about the weatherization assistance program. The weatherization assistance program, also called low-income weatherization, provides free efficiency and safety upgrades to the homes of low-income residents. But the program does more than just save energy.

"It's a quality of life program. For many of our senior citizen participants, the program has allowed them to stay in their home, rather than move to assisted living," said Lueck.

DMEA, the Colorado Energy Office, and Housing Resources of Western Colorado have partnered to provide the program. Eligible members receive a comprehensive energy audit on their home to determine needed improvements, which are then made at no cost to the homeowner. The audit also focuses on home safety.

"When we evaluate a home we look for health and safety issues in addition to conducting a comprehensive energy audit. We see a lot of situations where residents are unaware they have a carbon monoxide issue. CO detectors are a standard upgrade for almost all the homes we evaluate," said Lueck.

Lueck enters the information gathered during the audit into the program's database to determine what improvements can be made. The rule of thumb, she says, is dollar for dollar. All improvements must result in enough savings to offset the installation costs 100% in the first year. All weatherization upgrades that meet this requirement are completed free-of-charge.

Weatherization upgrades can include insulation, lighting, digital thermostats, and even new refrigerators. Since July of 2014, the program has improved 55 homes in Delta and Montrose counties. According to Lueck, the most common upgrade needed in DMEA's territory is insulation. Lueck also stressed "every home is different and every home has different needs. The upgrades are tailored to meet those needs."

DMEA members can determine their eligibility and apply by contacting Debra at Housing Resources of Western Colorado, Montrose Office, (970) 417-3436.



ENERGY AUDIT AND IMPROVEMENT TEAM

Mike, Chris, and Allen of Housing Resources of Western Colorado - Montrose conduct comprehensive energy audits on the homes of residents participating in the weatherization assistance program. The trio also performs the work to improve energy efficiency and home safety.



DEBRA LUECK

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Email: debral@housingresourceswc.org
www.housingresourceswc.org
242 W. Main Street, Suite 1, Montrose



COMMON WEATHERIZATION IMPROVEMENTS



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The higher the R-value, the better your insulation is at resisting heat transfer.



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LED bulbs use approximately 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs.



PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT
Automatically turn down the heat at night or when you're away from home.

Stay Away, Stay Safe Around Power Lines



HIGH VOLTAGE DEMO: DMEA apprentice lineman, Chance Stevens, conducts a high voltage safety demonstration. A cucumber simulating the human heart catches fire when the dummy comes in contact with a high voltage power line.

There's a reason DMEA's power lines are built high above the ground or buried deep below. The electricity they carry can be deadly. It's important to maintain a safe distance when working with equipment and tall objects near overhead wires – a minimum of 10 feet. Likewise, never attempt to touch or remove items that may be caught in a power line. Electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. It will travel through items that come in contact with the power line, through you, and into the ground. This can result in electric shock or death.

Extreme weather, accidents, and trees can bring down our overhead power lines. But just because a wire is lying on the ground, doesn't mean it's dead. Treat all wires and power lines, including those on the ground, as though they are live and deadly. Never touch downed

power lines or objects in contact with fallen lines. Report downed lines, broken poles, or trees touching wires immediately by calling DMEA. It is always best to be cautious, so call any time you see a questionable power line situation. Our operations personnel are specially trained to respond to these situations and have the proper safety equipment.

If you are involved in or come upon an accident involving a power line, stay in your vehicle or stay away from the accident. Do not attempt any rescue efforts. Call 911 for emergency assistance and notify DMEA.

Report all power lines issues directly to DMEA by calling 1-877-687-3632.

During non-business hours, your call will be answered by our 24-hour dispatch center.

SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

DMEA provides high voltage power line safety demonstrations for law enforcement, emergency responders, school functions, and local businesses. Our high voltage demonstration trailer illustrates the effects on the human body if it comes in contact with a power line. To schedule a demonstration call (970) 240-1216.

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.