



THE PowerLines REPORT

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August 2016

Co-ops – We’re more than Poles and Wires



Jasen Bronec, CEO

“What is DMEA?” That’s a question I hear frequently. The easy answer: we’re your electricity provider. But, DMEA is so much more than that. It’s true, electricity is the product we sell, but our bottom line is the people we serve.

We are your resource. As a member-owned cooperative, we pride ourselves on being your resource for expert advice on home and business efficiency and renewable energy generation. Our energy services department is available to help individuals determine where they might be wasting energy, find solutions to fix the issue, and select products and equipment just right for their home and budget. We also have a large

offering of rebate programs that help offset the costs of upgrading your appliances, lighting, HVAC systems, and much more.

We are your support network. For more than 75 years, we’ve worked to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. One of the most rewarding ways we do this is by sponsoring local events. From rodeos and festivals to science fairs and 5ks, the events we support are as eclectic as the people we serve. We believe that supporting such events strengthens the cultural fabric of our local communities, brings our members together, and lets us give back to the people and places that make us who we are.

We care about your bottom line. The cooperative business model is built upon the belief that people matter more than profits. It’s why we set our rates to recover the costs of doing business, not to pad the pockets of distant shareholders. If we collect any revenue above and beyond our costs, it goes back to our members. Each year we allocate our profits to the members who purchased electricity during that year. This money is eventually retired and paid back to members as capital credits.

We are here. DMEA is a local company, owned by the people we serve, and operated by the people that live, work, and play in the place we all call home. It doesn’t get much more local than that. Our employees are your friends, neighbors, and relatives. They are your volunteer firefighters, coaches, community board members, and mentors. Why does this matter? Because, our employees care about making, and keeping, the place we live great – it’s their home too. So, whether we’re on or off the clock, we’re always working to improve our community.

This short list is just a start to answering the question, “What is DMEA?” I could go on for pages. My hope is that you realize that as a member of a cooperative, you are receiving so much more than electricity. You’re actually receiving the attention of almost 100 community-minded individuals working to make your life better, all while keeping the lights on.

DMEA Member Forums

SAVE THE DATE

Let’s talk Elevate

September 28

4Bs Brewery
215 W. Main St., Cedaredge

September 29

2 Rascals Brewery
147 N. 1st St., Montrose

6:30 - 8:30pm

Light appetizers provided.





COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Internet speeds up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) and reliable voice (unlimited telephone) offerings were introduced for preregistration at the annual meeting with huge success. More than 1,000 members have preregistered for Elevate Fiber.

When can I get Elevate Fiber?

Member interest will drive the construction process. Preregistration goals must be met before construction plans can be finalized. Currently, Paonia and Orchard City are the top candidates. When these areas meet their preregistration goals, we will begin installing service. To get service to your area sooner, preregister today at join.elevatefiber.com.

How much will it cost?

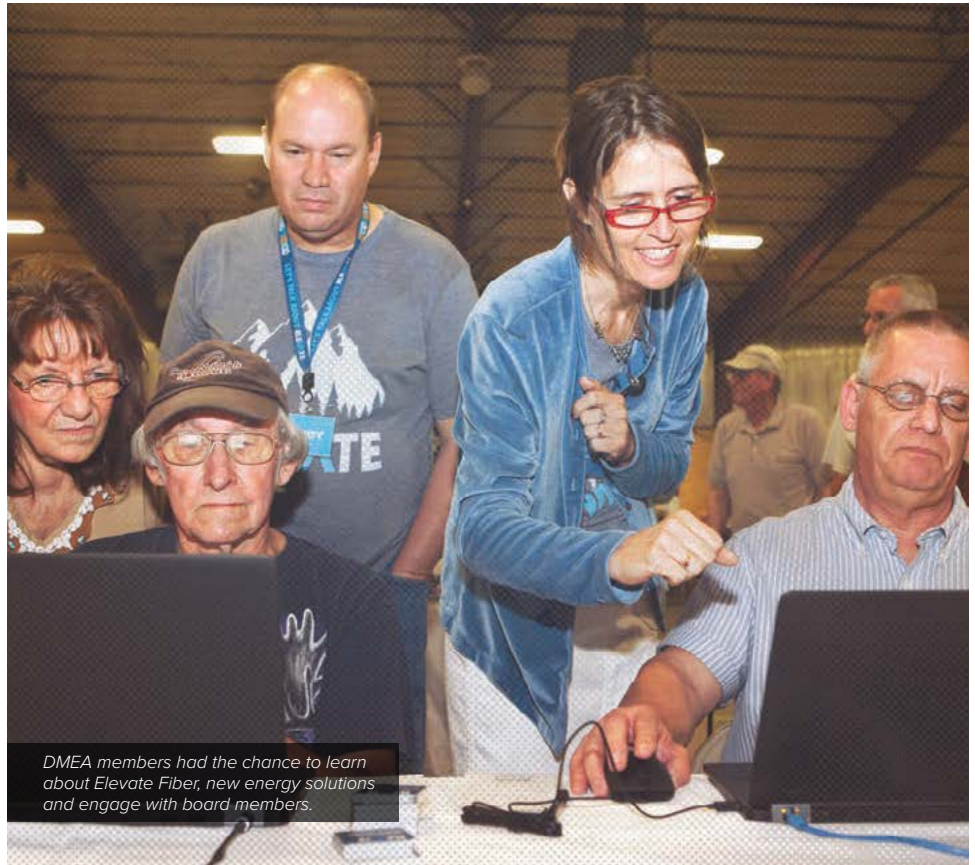
Pricing starts at just **\$49.95 for residential internet and \$79.95 for internet and voice service**. Our voice service is traditional telephone service with unlimited local and long distance calling and advanced features. Check out all your options and pricing at join.elevatefiber.com. By preregistering early you also guarantee **an installation rate of only \$100, which includes a free WiFi router**.

What is fiber service?

Fiber is known for being future-proof, meaning the fiber we install today will be able to handle increased data loads as the need for more and more speed grows. The technology makes it possible to deliver **speeds up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps)**—this is 100x faster than what the average home or business can get. Fiber is more reliable than other types of networks, less prone to interference and complications from lightning and other natural elements. Fiber also tends to **raise the property value of homes by as much as \$5,000**.



Members of all ages enjoyed bucket truck rides with DMEA linemen.



DMEA members had the chance to learn about Elevate Fiber, new energy solutions and engage with board members.

2016 DMEA Annual Meeting A Huge Success

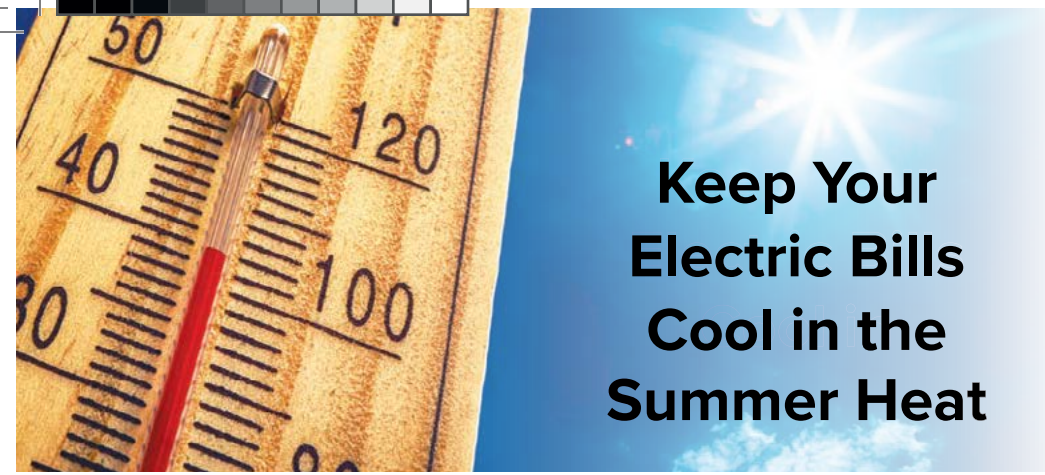
The 2016 DMEA Annual Meeting was held at Montrose County Friendship Hall on June 16. This year's annual meeting had the largest turn out in all of DMEA's history—huge thanks to all of our members.

“ Our members requested high-speed internet so the annual meeting was the perfect opportunity to launch Elevate Fiber. DMEA has a proud history of bringing power to the area, and we look forward to the future as we bring fiber to the communities we know and love. Thank you again to all of our members who made this event a success. ”

— Jasen Bronec, CEO

Annual Meeting Announcements

- ▶ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules Tri-State fee on local renewable power violates federal law. DMEA may buy from local qualifying facilities at negotiated rates. Victory for DMEA!
- ▶ Due primarily to rising wholesale power and operational costs, DMEA anticipates the need for rate increase in 2017.
- ▶ More than \$112,000 was funneled back to members through DMEA's energy efficiency rebate program, which also resulted in an estimated energy reduction of 1,098,769 kWh per year.
- ▶ Brad Harding wins District 3 with 2,792 votes; Jim Elder wins District 4 with 3,929 votes; Tony Prendergast wins South Region with 3,586 votes.



Keep Your Electric Bills Cool in the Summer Heat

Long hot summer days are great, but when the temperature rises, so can your electric bill. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 9% of American's summer energy costs are due to air conditioning. However, there are numerous low and not cost ways to beat the heat and control your bill.

Adjust your thermostat: Set your thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. This could be as warm as 75 degrees. Program your thermostat to a warmer temperature when you are away at work or on vacation. The less your system runs, the less energy it will consume.

Keep it closed: If you have refrigerated air conditioning, remind everyone in the house to close up windows, drapery, and blinds during the day to prevent the sun from warming the home. Most, importantly, close the door behind you! Don't forget to enjoy our cool evening air.

Check your filters: Change your filter every few months or more often if it is dirty. Don't forget to check your evaporator (inside) coil on your unit every year and clean when necessary. Carefully clean the condensing coil each year and when you see debris on the outside of the coil.

Use your fans: Ceiling fans are one of the most efficient ways to move air through your home. In the summer, be sure to adjust the direction of your ceiling fan so the air blows down. Most fans come equipped with a small switch that lets you select clockwise or counterclockwise. To determine the right direction, stand beneath your fan and turn it on. If you immediately feel a breeze, it is on summer setting.

Upgrade: The cheapest form of air conditioning is none at all. However, if you're planning on adding an air conditioning system, consider split system or heat pump units. DMEA has numerous rebates available to help offset the cost of these items and can help you determine the right system for your home of business. For more information about DMEA's rebate programs visit www.dmea.com.

Home Cookin'

Colorado Peach Cobbler

- Emily Sommers, Montrose

Cobbler Ingredients:

3/4 cup sugar
2 tbs all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp nutmeg
4 cups sliced, peeled fresh peaches.

Directions:

Combine sugar, flour, and nutmeg in a bowl. Add peaches. Pour into a 7x11 greased pan.

Topping Ingredients:

3/4 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
1/3 cup cold butter
1 egg beaten

Directions:

Combine dry topping ingredients, cut in butter. Stir in egg. Spoon mixture over peaches. Bake at 375 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or milk.

DMEA is conducting random customer satisfaction phone surveys throughout the year with our members. We appreciate your help in completing these surveys as they will help us better serve you in the future. Thank you for participating!



The DMEA PowerLines Report is printed on paper that has 10% post consumer waste and is Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certified.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Montrose Office

11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com



Your Board of Directors:

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Marshall Collins, *District 5*
Mark Eckhart, *District 7*
Tony Prendergast, *South*

Kyle Martinez, *District 2*
Jim Elder, *District 4*
Terry Brown, *District 6*
John Gavan, *North*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly, beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call (970) 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

Recipes Info:

Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:

DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.