

THE PowerLines REPORT

1 |  2017 Annual Meeting

2 |  Construction Updates

3 |  Stepping up for STEM

4 |  Efficiency for Those in Need

July 2017



Jasen Bronec, CEO

Cooperative Spirit Shines Bright at Annual Meeting

Last month marked the passing of our 2017 Annual Meeting of Members. It was a night full of camaraderie, education, and fun. For me personally, it was a special night because it marked a year since the launch of Elevate. One year since the spark that powers our rural communities was reignited. One year of watching our members champion a movement that will connect our area to the world. All proof the cooperative spirit is alive, well, and relevant.

Thank you to all who turned out for our Annual Meeting of Members. It is only because of informed and passionate members like you that DMEA has been able to accomplish so much in the past 79 years.



Annual Meeting Highlights

- ▶ 300+ members in attendance
- ▶ Damon Lockhart, John Gavan, and Mark Eckhart elected as DMEA Board Members
- ▶ DMEA researching ways to provide service at lowest possible cost by evaluating wholesale power supply
- ▶ Premiered “Are You Ready?” video to strengthen regional efforts for economical development
- ▶ Tony Neal-Graves, executive director of Colorado’s Broadband Office, stressed importance of access to broadband statewide
- ▶ Keynote speaker, Diane Smith, spoke about how a strong and fast internet connection is vital to the future of rural America
- ▶ Members enjoyed booths where they learned about internet streaming options, educational programs, and how to manage their energy use



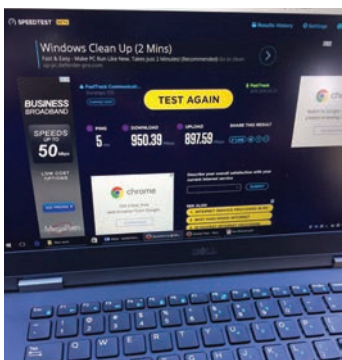
ELEVATE INTERNET

One Year in the Making



1,000+ customers installed

Elevate Fiber, powered by DMEA, was introduced one year ago at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members. The introduction of the project was one of the most exciting moments for DMEA and our members. The story has always been the same—our members asked us to provide high-speed internet to our area. We listened, and we acted. Fiber builds are expensive, time-consuming, frustrating, rewarding, and more. Every day brings something new and it is not always easy making sure all members have the chance to be involved in the project updates. We send a sincere thanks to every single member for their continued support, even during the challenges and frustrations.



We are proud to say that before we hit one year of the project being live, we have connected more than 1,000 members to Elevate Fiber. To continue to be successful, we will constantly evaluate the construction process, how we install the fiber to communities (boring underground vs. aerial, as an example), the equipment we use, the speeds we offer, new solutions that may be offered, the actual in-home installation process, and much more.



Which zones will be next?

Fiber is being delivered first to communities who have shown the most interest by preregistering at join.elevatefiber.com. We also evaluate factors that influence overall costs, such as a community's geography and the timeline for seeing a positive financial return on our investment, among other factors.

An entire fiber project cannot be built overnight or even within 2 years. The continued patience and support of our members is what will make Elevate a long-term success.



Communities in construction

Home and business installations are currently taking place in multiple zones. If you live in one of the zones listed below, it is extremely important to contact us as soon as possible. Call **877-687-3632**, visit join.elevatefiber.com, or stop by one of our local DMEA offices during normal business hours to get signed up for service.

- » Paonia 45
- » Montrose 721
- » Orchard City 104
- » Paonia 47

Communities coming soon – make ready

Our goal is to get multiple zones to this stage over the next few months. The make ready stage is when our crews come into the area, lay the main network and bring fiber to each meter on the outside of a home or business.

- » Hotchkiss 48
- » Montrose 418
- » Cedaredge 125
- » Montrose 425

Construction summary

If your community is not listed above, do not worry, with continued support from you and your neighbors you may be next. You can follow how close your community is to reaching its goal by visiting join.elevatefiber.com and clicking on the **Zones** tab. The first step to bringing fiber to your community is to reach the set goal; Become a champion for your community to help spread the word—just ask us how.

This is a long road, and we need our members' support to make Elevate Fiber a reality for all our communities. Having a solid, reliable, future-proof network will change the way we live, work, and play. Elevate Fiber is here and moving at 1 Gig speeds.

Stepping Up For STEM

“When people talk about STEM in schools in Colorado, I want Olathe to be one they name,” emphasized Olathe principal, Scot Brown, when talking about Olathe’s growing initiative.

With nine year’s under his belt as principal, Brown has had the opportunity to watch both the students and community embrace a new way of learning about subject matter often considered to be exclusive. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. A new wave of enthusiasm for these topics hit schools across the United States when teachers began incorporating more hands-on and problem-based learning into their traditional curriculum.

DMEA was able to support these efforts across their service territory through CoBank’s Sharing Success program. After securing a \$5,000 matching grant from CoBank, DMEA donated \$10,000 to the STEM programs at Montrose County School District, Olathe Middle/High School, and Delta County School District.

Having just launched its official program with the 2016 school year, Olathe’s STEM effort is still in its infancy. But, the excitement came easy for students according to Brown—no surprise when Brown describes the types of activities the students are exposed to.

“They get to work with drones and underwater robotics. They’ve even been able to use their STEM skills to solve problems in the community. The kids are diving into the hands-on activities with enthusiasm,” said Brown.



CoBank is a cooperative bank that provides loans, leases, export financing, and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water, and communications providers in all 50 states. Each year they partner with their cooperative customers to build vibrant rural communities through a matching grant program called Sharing Success. In 2017, DMEA secured \$5,000 in matching funds to give back to local high school STEM programs.



Kyle Martinez, DMEA board member, presents a \$3,000 donation to Scot Brown, Olathe High School principal.



Jim Elder, DMEA board member, presents a \$3,000 donation to Heidi Voehringer, Montrose High School assistant principal. Also pictured Kathylyne Gaber (left) and Joseph Donohue



STEM BEFORE STEM WAS COOL

Tony Prendergast (middle), DMEA board member, presents a \$4,000 donation to Kurt Clay (L), Delta County Schools assistant superintendent, and Caryn Gibson (R), Delta County Schools superintendent. Delta County School District has long been a proponent of integrating technology and problem based learning in the classroom. A notable achievement was Delta High School’s recent state championship in the Samsung Tech Contest, winning \$25,000 to implement their solution for noise pollution in a school cafeteria. “[STEM] has re-energized what we were already doing. I’m a firm believer. You give kids a problem and the time and tools they need and they’ll blow you away with their creativity and solutions,” said Gibson in reference to the positive impact STEM has on students.

Helping Families in Need Manage Their Energy Use

Thanks to a generous partnership with the Colorado Energy Office and Housing Resources of Western Colorado, DMEA members in need can take advantage of a free weatherization program. Through the program, income qualified members can receive free energy efficiency, health, and safety upgrades to their homes.

Major weatherization improvements can include insulation, furnace replacements, safety testing, refrigerator/appliance replacement, sealing air leaks, LED light bulbs, storm windows, and general energy conservation education. The program is open to both homeowners and renters. Homes may be stick-built or manufactured.



How do I know if I qualify?

Housing Resources of Western Colorado administers the program and is responsible for determining an applicant's eligibility. DMEA members can find out if they are eligible by contacting Housing Resources of Western Colorado, Montrose office at 970-417-3436 or try stopping by their local office at 460 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO.

Where can I learn more?

Learn more online at www.hrwco.org/what_we_do/weatherization.html.



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:

Bill Patterson, *District 1*
Brad Harding, *District 3*
Marshall Collins, *District 5*
Mark Eckhart, *District 7*
Tony Prendergast, *South*

Kyle Martinez, *District 2*
Jim Elder, *District 4*
Damon Lockhart, *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.

Home COOKING

ALMOND GREEN PEPPER DINNER

Ingredients:

- 4 large green peppers
- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 can (15 oz.) kidney beans, drained
- 1/2 cup chopped almonds, toasted*
- 1/3 cup sliced green onions
- 1 can (4 oz.) diced green chiles
- 1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
- Salt, to taste
- 2 tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 tbsp. flour
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp. sliced almonds, toasted*

Directions:

Halve peppers lengthwise; remove seeds and membranes, rinse. In the Dutch oven, cook peppers 10 minutes in boiling water to cover. Drain. In a large bowl, combine rice, beans, chopped almonds, onions, chiles, tomato sauce, and salt. Mix to blend thoroughly. Spoon into pepper cavities.

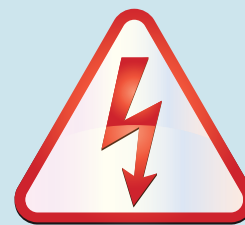
Place in the shallow baking pan containing 1/2 inch boiling water. Cover lightly with aluminum foil. Bake in 350-degree oven about 20 minutes, until heated through.

Meanwhile, melt butter in 1-qt. saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour; cook 1 minute. Gradually whisk in milk. Cook and stir until mixture is smooth and thickened - about 3 minutes. Gradually stir in cheese. Cook and stir until cheese is melted and the mixture is bubbly.

To serve, pour hot cheese sauce over stuffed peppers and sprinkle with sliced almonds. Makes 4 main dish servings.

*To toast almonds: Spread in an ungreased baking pan or skillet. Place in 350-degree oven or over medium-low heat on the stovetop for 5 to 10 minutes. This depends on the form of almonds that you are using (chopped or sliced). Almonds should be light brown, stirring once or twice to assure even browning. Almonds continue browning slightly after being removed from heat. Watch them carefully.

- Gloria Slaker, Montrose



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Make sure that any lighting equipment in your pool is up to code and regularly examined by a professional. To change or repair a light, ensure the electricity to the pool is first turned off at the circuit breaker.

If you are in the water and feel electric current, which can cause a tingling sensation, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. **Do not use a metal ladder to exit the pool.**

Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix, even outside the pool. **Never touch any electrical appliances or outlets when you are wet or standing in water.**

Learn more at

 Safe
Electricity.org®

