

THE PowerLines REPORT

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June 2017



Jasen Bronec, CEO

DMEA Earns National Recognition for Communications

This month, I ask you to join me in congratulating DMEA's marketing and communications team: Virginia Harman, VP of member relations and HR, Becky Mashburn, marketing supervisor, and Phil Sanchez, communications specialist. They were selected by the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) as the recipient of the 2017 Edgar F. Chesnutt Award for best total communication program. This is the highest honor NRECA awards to co-op communicators. DMEA received the award last month at the NRECA CONNECT conference, a national communications, marketing, and member services conference.

Earning this award is no small feat. Our team was in competition with co-ops of all sizes from around the nation. Ultimately, DMEA was selected for our enormously successful work on the launch of Elevate Fiber. NRECA noted the creativity and effectiveness of our communication efforts, particularly that we stayed true to the lifestyle of our members. I'll admit I was a bit hesitant when the team came to me asking for approval to brew the Elevate IPA, but what's more Colorado than a microbrew? Hopefully, you were able to sample it at last year's Montrose Oktoberfest or at Revolution Brewing in Paonia.

You might be asking, what does communication have to do with providing electric service or internet? The answer: a lot. This department is responsible for finding ways to keep you updated, informed, engaged, and educated. They navigate the constantly changing and growing world of how people get information—from newspapers, social media, press releases, events, websites, this newsletter, and more. They are the people that work to get you the information you want and need about energy efficiency or renewable energy. They are the people that dig deep into your feedback from public meetings and member surveys to develop new programs or new processes for reaching out to you. They are a big part of what makes it so special to belong to a cooperative, something we like to call the cooperative difference. Please help me in giving my sincerest congratulations; their recognition is well deserved.



DMEA's marketing and communications team celebrates their selection as the 2017 Edgar F. Chesnutt award recipient. They were recognized for their outstanding communication efforts for the launch of Elevate.

From left to right; Jasen Bronec, DMEA CEO, Becky Mashburn, marketing supervisor, Phil Sanchez, communications specialist, Virginia Harman, VP of member relations and HR.



THE RIGHT GEAR IS HERE

Elevate is bringing the BEST internet to town!

What is Elevate?

Elevate is a new broadband internet solution provided by DMEA. Since 1938, DMEA has provided Delta and Montrose counties with essential electric services, even in remote rural locations. Over the past few years, our members asked us to investigate the option of providing high-speed internet. We listened and launched Elevate Fiber—providing the fastest and most reliable internet speeds in our area.

Why fiber?

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. Fiber technology makes it possible to deliver speeds up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps, megabits per second)—this is 100x faster than what the average home or business can get currently. 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 3-5%.

How do I sign up?

Preregister for service at join.elevatefiber.com, call 877-687-3632, or stop by one of our local DMEA offices during regular business hours and we would be glad to help you.

The preregistration process is in place to assist us in deciding where to build. Once a community meets the set goals, we will communicate a build timeline to all those interested in service. Construction will begin by building the network in the community, followed by bringing fiber to actual homes and businesses. Once we have the fiber to the home or business, we will schedule an install to actually install the service inside the home or business. Installation will include all wiring and a powerful WiFi router.

Need more information?

Just stop by our Customer Experience Center at the Montrose DMEA office. Here you will be able to test a 1 Gig connection, ask questions, play with some of the latest technology gadgets, and preregister for service. Or visit join.elevatefiber.com and check out our FAQ guides.

▶ 100 Mbps for just \$49.95/mo.

2017 DMEA Scholarship Winners

This year, DMEA awarded \$37,000 in scholarships; all to local students pursuing a higher education. This was made possible through DMEA's unclaimed capital credits fund. As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, DMEA is unique in that if we collect excess revenue, above and beyond what it takes to operate the co-op, we give it back to our members, as capital credits. In some cases, members can't be reached to receive their capital credits. That money then goes into the unclaimed capital credits fund. These scholarships are just one method that DMEA uses to make sure that even unclaimed capital credits go back into our communities.

Additional funding for these scholarships is also made possible by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. They generously donate funds on our behalf to pass along to worthy students.

Join us in congratulating these students and their families. By supporting the academic goals of our youth, we help ensure the success of our future.

Cedaredge High school
Alexeea Wilson

Delta High School
Lydia Stalcup
Lily Lockhart

Delta Non-Traditional
Isaac Fuller

Hotchkiss High School
Gabriel Rodriguez

Olathe High School
Kacy Henwood

Montrose High School
Lauren Peterson
Jeremy Trujillo
Jessica Ennis
Mariah Trujillo

Paonia High School
Tim Helmer

DMTC
Conner Collins
Jasmine Velasquez
Josh Chartowic

Continuing Education
Emma Cooper
Sara Jurca
Jonathan Marker
Makenna Terrell

Colorado Mesa
Jenae DeZeeuw

Basin Electric
Meysa Mulford



Congratulations to the 2017 scholarship recipients.

Home COOKING

GARLIC SHRIMP WITH RICE

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. butter or margarine
- 6-8 cloves garlic
- 8 jumbo shrimp
- 1 cup cooked rice, any kind
- ½ can cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup milk

Directions:

Melt butter in skillet. Peel and smash garlic cloves with flat side of a knife. Sauté garlic in butter 3-4 minutes (don't brown). Add peeled and deveined shrimp to skillet with butter and garlic, sauté until pink. Mix soup and milk until smooth. Place cooked rice in small casserole dish. Arrange shrimp and garlic over top of rice. Pour soup mixture into skillet with drippings from garlic and shrimp, stir and heat. Pour soup over top of shrimp and rice.

Heat in 350-degree oven 15-20 minutes until hot. Serves two generously.

Special notes from Joy:

- I used jumbo raw tiger shrimp, but any shrimp would be OK.
- I used Rice-a-Roni "rice pilaf" that I had left from a previous meal. I think the wild rice mixture would be good, but you can use whatever rice you like.

- Joy Baird, Montrose

Be Aware of Hazards around Irrigation Equipment



Water and electricity is a dangerous combination. Make sure the sprays of water from your irrigation system aren't near overhead power lines or other energized equipment. Failure to do so could result in the water conducting electricity and energizing the irrigation system, something that could be deadly to you and other farm workers.

While irrigation equipment is a necessity for farmers to grow crops, it also introduces electrical hazards, including contact with overhead power lines, short circuits, and lighting strikes. DMEA wants farm owners and workers to be aware of potential hazards and take steps to stay safe. Take time to survey your surroundings. Look up and around, and make note of any power lines that could be close enough to come into contact with equipment. Always maintain proper clearances.

The combination of water and electricity is also hazardous. The sprays of water from irrigation systems should not be near overhead power lines. Because the impurities in water serve as conductors of electricity, a stream of water reaching non-insulated wires can become the path for the deadly voltage and energize the entire irrigation system.

Wiring maintenance should also be a safety priority. Read all operator manuals and follow the manufacturer's suggestions for inspection and maintenance. When working on the system, always turn the power off first. Also, make sure all equipment is grounded. Call a professional electrician to check the pump and wiring, and to complete any needed repairs.

Storms can also pose dangers for irrigation systems and those who operate them. Stay away from the piping during lightning activity. Keep an eye on weather forecasts and plan to stay safely indoors during a thunderstorm. If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from the pipe, and call DMEA immediately at 877-687-3632 for help. For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Making the Digital Switch. Upgrade Your Lights to LED Bulbs.

Just as you upgraded your TV/cable and phone from an analog system to digital for better sound and picture quality, the lighting industry has been modernizing its options and products in order to offer consumers greater energy efficiency. For the past several years, traditional incandescent bulbs have been phased out in favor of halogen and compact fluorescent (CFL) lights that offer greater efficiency. Even more recent innovations in technology have focused on Light Emitting Diode light sources, or LED bulbs, which are essentially digital light.

LONGEVITY AND EFFICIENCY IN ONE



Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED lights have an estimated operational life span of up to 50,000 hours. If you were to use an LED fixture for eight hours per day, it would take approximately 17 years before it would need to be replaced.

LED lights are different from fluorescent and incandescent light sources, as LEDs do not contain a gas or filament of any kind. Instead, the entire LED is made up of a semiconductor, which is solid in nature and makes LEDs more durable. LED lights are small, packed electronic chip devices where two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light. Unlike fluorescent lights that require a few minutes to warm up before reaching their full level of brightness, LEDs achieve full illumination immediately.

DON'T BE FOOLED



When purchasing an LED light, look for the Energy Star label to ensure you have a genuine product, as there are poor quality LED products in the marketplace. Some of these products are manufactured outside of the U.S. with components that produce low light levels, don't stand up on long service life, or have exaggerated energy saving claims. So like any other purchase, research before you buy! Visit energystar.gov for more information about Energy Star LED lights.

While it is true that LEDs generally cost more to purchase than fluorescent and incandescent lights, they are much less expensive to operate over time. Because their superb efficiency, the replacement and maintenance requirements are dramatically lower. In addition, as with other electronics, prices are expected to come down as more products enter the market.

IDEAL FOR OUTDOOR USE



LEDs are ideal for outdoor use because of their durability. LED lights are resistant to vibrations, shock and external impacts such as exposure to weather, wind, and rain. In addition, they are temperature resistant and operate in colder outdoor temperatures. In contrast, colder temperatures may affect operation of fluorescent lamps. LEDs can also be dimmed, allowing maximum flexibility in usage.

SMART CHOICE FOR EMERGENCY USE



If you have a portable generator or battery-back-up, in the event of a power outage or weather emergency, LED lights are a smart complement to your back-up power system. Because they draw so little power, using LED lights instead of CFL or traditional bulbs will allow you to illuminate more areas or channel the "saved" energy to other needed applications.

MAKING THE UPGRADE



Are you interested in learning more about LEDs and how they can fit with your home and lifestyle? Visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/lighting-choices-save-you-money> to compare LEDs to new energy-efficient incandescent bulbs and CFLs. You can talk to the energy experts at DMEA to learn about more ways to save energy around the home by calling 877-687-3632. DMEA also offers a rebate to members who purchase and install LED bulbs!

Visit www.dmea.com for full guidelines on how to apply for a rebate or contact our energy services representatives at 970-240-1273 or rebates@dmea.com.



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*
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.