



THE PowerLines REPORT

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September 2017



Jasen Bronec, CEO

Celebrate National Co-op Month with Member Appreciation Night at the Rec!

The air gets crisp, the leaves burn brightly, and the Broncos games are in full swing—fall really is my favorite time of year; for more than one reason. October is National Cooperative Month and it's the perfect time for DMEA

to celebrate you, our members. In year's past we've invited you in to our offices for fellowship and refreshments, but this year, we're trying something new.

As a co-op, DMEA considers itself a family, which is why this year our member appreciation events involve your whole family. Join us for Member Appreciation Night at the Rec. Cut out the voucher below and head over to the Community Recreation Center in Montrose or the Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta on Friday, October 13 from 4:00pm to close. You and your family will get in free for the evening.

Whether you choose to shoot hoops, splash in the pool, or test out your climbing skills, just be sure you're enjoying Member Appreciation Night with the ones you love. Thank you for being a member.

The Value DMEA Membership

- ▶ DMEA is member owned
- ▶ DMEA is not-for-profit
- ▶ 27,704 members
- ▶ 79 years in operation
- ▶ 9 Board of Director Representatives
- ▶ 32,298 miles of power lines, to date
- ▶ 317 miles of fiber lines, to date
- ▶ \$39,500 in local scholarships annually
- ▶ \$160,000 in local community donations and sponsorships annually



Member Appreciation Night @ the Rec
Friday, October 13 | 4:00PM – Close

Montrose Community Recreation Center

16350 Woodgate Rd., Montrose

or

Bill Heddles Recreation Center

530 Gunnison River Dr., Delta

**FREE
FAMILY PASS**

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Redeem this voucher at the front desk at the rec center of your choice listed above and receive free admission for your family. Limited to 2 adults and 4 children. Not redeemable for cash. Valid 10/13/17 only. **Thank You Members!**

A NEW VIEW

for your business.

» 100 Mbps
\$79.95/mo.

» 300 Mbps
\$249.95/mo.

» 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps)
\$499.95/mo.

- » Don't settle for internet that's just OK. Make a commitment to better your business operations today. Elevate Fiber offers speeds up to 1 Gig—1,000 Mbps—giving you the fastest connection in town. With faster internet you can speed up online processes like running credit cards, ordering supplies, processing payroll, and more. Plus, you will be able to access cloud services without a hitch, and even better have a blazing fast WiFi network to support the needs of your employees and customers.
- » Ready to get more from your internet provider? Preregister for service at join.elevatefiber.com to show your interest and help bring fiber to your area sooner.
- » Remember, DMEA is building Elevate from the ground up. The interest we see at join.elevatefiber.com will help direct our construction plans. When you preregister, you'll be assigned to a zone. Each zone has a preregistration goal, so encourage fellow businesses in your area to get on the list too.

Get ready for a whole new experience!

Start today—call us at 877-687-3632 or visit join.elevatefiber.com.

» Preregistration goals must be met in your zone before service can be made available. The \$100 installation is available only to those who preregister for service and payment is required at the time your installation is scheduled. \$100 installation covers the first 300 feet of fiber; additional costs may be incurred after that. A 12-month contract is required. Internet service is required for voice service.

Retirement Spotlight: Dave Brown Caps Off 40-year Career

In 1976, a fresh-faced Dave Brown laced up his boots and walked in the door for his first day on the job at DMEA. Little did he know it would be this same place he'd hang up his working boots 40 years later. He started as a warehouseman and janitor, but quickly jumped over to meter reading and collections—the same position he retired from on July 27, 2017.

As a fourth generation Western Slope native, Dave can remember a time as a child when a portion of the highway between Delta and Grand Junction was only gravel. Just as much has changed at DMEA during his tenure too.

“When I started there were 14 meter readers. We manually read meters all over Delta and Montrose counties. I'd guess I've put in more than 1 million miles of windshield time in my 40 years,” said Dave.

Through the years, Dave has helped the co-op embrace new technologies and practices. He experienced the transition away

from paper, trading in pencils for tablets and laptops in the field. Online billing, net metering, automatic meter reading, LED lighting, energy efficiency rebates, and prepaid billing are just a few in a long list of changes Dave has been a part of. It may not have always been easy, but for Dave it all came down to one thing.

“Helping the people that needed help and taking care of our members. That's what really mattered most,” said Dave.

Dave and his sweetheart of 43 years, Deloris, live in Delta. Together they raised three daughters and are now enjoying the giggles of 8 grandkids. And that's exactly what Dave plans to continue doing in retirement.

“I have a house, cabin, and eight grandkids. I'm not going to have a day off,” laughed Dave.

Join us as we wish Dave a happy retirement. He's earned it!

WHAT HIS COWORKERS HAVE TO SAY:



“Dave always has a dry sense of humor and he was always willing to share his philosophical reasoning about how current topics should be addressed.”

~ Jim Thate, safety utility and compliance director

“He always has a smile or a laugh,”

~ Suzie Keenan, accounting clerk

“He really knows the members and the community. He truly worked for them,”

~ Greg Hobbs, member services supervisor



Facebook



YouTube

Get Social!

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube so you see our latest news, outage updates, awesome photos, money saving tips, and more!

Like us!

www.facebook.com/DeltaMontroseElectricAssociation/

www.facebook.com/ElevateFiber/

www.youtube.com/channel/UCSNELvQ3jtbWdxvIPbwi3A



DMEA Helps You Manage Your Energy Use

There are a lot of useful technologies and gadgets out there that can help you save money, monitor your family's safety, and save on energy costs. Our favorite and the one we think helps DMEA members most is an online energy monitoring tool called SmartHub. You're most likely already familiar with this tool. If you've ever paid your DMEA bill online, you did so through SmartHub. But, what you may not know is that SmartHub is a comprehensive online account management tool. Sounds complicated, right? Think again.

Simply put, SmartHub lets you take a deeper look at your home's energy consumption. Not only can you pay your bill anytime from anywhere, you can also see monthly, weekly, daily, and even hourly breakdowns of your energy use. The first step in saving energy (and money) is to better understand how you use it. Identify the times of day when your family is using a lot of electricity and think about your—and their—behaviors. Often, you'll discover small, convenient changes you can make that will save you money. For example, are you leaving lights on, even when they aren't needed? Do you have a second fridge in the garage just for soda? Do you have a family member who takes extra long showers? Are you washing all of your laundry in hot water?

There are new innovations in electronics and technology every day and it can be hard to keep up and determine the systems that are right for your family. Our recommendation is to get started with DMEA's SmartHub application. Then, learn more about smart home technologies that will save energy and work best for your home by contacting the energy experts at DMEA. We're here to help you manage your energy use!

SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

with the Philips Hue smart light bulb kit.



The Philips Hue kit includes two light bulbs and the Hue Bridge control system. It lets you automate your lighting and save energy. Similar to your programmable thermostat, you can set timers and lighting schedules. Plus, no more worrying about your kids leaving the lights on because you can control your lights from your phone or any smart device. Lighting accounts for approximately 11% of your home electricity use, so by switching to LEDs and taking greater control with kits like this, you can save money.

Starter kit with bulbs only \$64.99. Check it out on Amazon!

DMEA and Elevate Fiber, harnessing today's technology to help you manage your energy use.

Manage your energy use with smart hub



- ▶ Visit www.dmea.com.
- ▶ Click on the My Account button on the homepage.
- ▶ Click on New User to setup your account. You'll need your billing account number, the last name or business on the account, and a valid email address.
- ▶ Once you're logged in, check out your energy consumption under the My Usage tab, set your account up on auto pay, and much more!



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.



Look up and Look out: Large Equipment Safety

When working with large equipment, there are hazards that come with the job. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 8.6% of the work fatalities in 2015 were electrocutions. DMEA reminds large equipment operators to **look up, look out**, and follow all safety procedures when working around overhead power lines.

Most large equipment requires a 10-foot clearance from overhead power lines. Cranes and derricks require an even greater distance for safe operation where overhead power lines are present. In such situations, OSHA requires that individuals, their tools, and their equipment must stay a minimum 20-foot distance away from power lines.

Visit www.OSHA.gov for a full list of regulations, voltages, and distances.

When working with large equipment, conduct a site survey to identify the location of overhead power lines. Make sure you know the maximum height of your machinery's extensions and be sure to take appropriate safety measures to prevent contacting the lines. If your project requires you to work or operate equipment under our power lines and you cannot maintain safe clearances, contact DMEA in advance at 877-687-3632. We will coordinate the appropriate trained personnel to make sure your project is completed safely.

It's also important to remember to lower any of your equipment's extensions while moving. Not doing so, puts you at risk of making contact with high voltage power lines and other utilities while you are driving. This can result in costly outages and repair work, as well as injuries or death. When possible, use a spotter. To help reduce the likelihood of an accident, never store machinery directly under a power line.

If your equipment makes contact with an overhead power line, the safest option is almost always to stay in the cab. Immediately call 911 and DMEA, warn others to stay away, and wait for DMEA to arrive on the scene and de-energize the lines. Never assume a line is de-energized. The only time you should leave the cab is in the rare case that the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without coming into contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, bunny hop away.

Home COOKING

Zucchini Pie

Ingredients:

- 4 cups thinly sliced unpeeled zucchini
- 1 cup coarsely chopped onion
- ½ cup butter
- 2 tbsp parsley flakes
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ¼ tsp sweet basil
- ¼ tsp oregano
- 2 eggs well beaten
- 8 oz shredded mozzarella
- 8 oz crescent rolls
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard

Directions:

Heat oven to 375 degrees, Cook zucchini and onion in butter until tender – approx. 10 minutes. Stir in parsley and remaining seasonings. In large bowl, blend eggs, cheese, and vegetable mixture. Separate dough into 8 triangles. Press into ungreased 10-inch pie plate. Spread crust with mustard. Pour vegetable mixture evenly into crust. Bake 20 to 25 min or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Let stand for a few minutes before cutting into wedges.

Watch liquids. If it seems like too much butter, spoon some off. Can double recipe and place in a 9x13 pan.

- Terri Leben, Montrose

