



THE PowerLines REPORT

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May 2018

Looking Out For Your Best Interests Is The Cooperative Way By Jasen Bronec, CEO

I write a lot about the cooperative difference and the value of cooperative membership, but it's not always easy to put into words how we are looking out for your best interests. So this month, instead of words, I'm showing you how DMEA is putting the cooperative difference in action.



Last month, U.S. Senator Michael Bennet visited DMEA and Elevate Fiber to learn more about our efforts to advocate on our members' behalf regarding big issues like high-speed internet, power supply, and cybersecurity. DMEA board members and staff were able to share our powerful story with Senator Bennet. He said the examples he heard will influence his legislation to modernize and improve resilience of electric grids.

Senator Bennet also recently launched Connect Colorado, an initiative to help expand affordable, reliable broadband to every community, and will continue working with organizations like DMEA to ensure that federal programs are responsive to innovative, locally-driven broadband efforts like ours.



DMEA worked with lobbyists and legislators to draft amendments to Senate Bill 2. This bill specifically addresses the High Cost Support Mechanism, the fund we received monies from to build fiber to three rural zones. Sponsored by local Senator Don Coram, this bill funnels more money into the fund and will help advance the development of broadband in rural areas throughout Colorado. We worked closely with multiple legislators and senators to discuss the challenges of getting broadband in rural areas and help them better understand the real impact of Elevate Fiber. We are grateful for Senator Coram's support.



DMEA also testified in support of House Bill 1099, another bill aimed at improving access to high-speed internet in underserved areas. This bill also addresses funding for deploying broadband and helps level the playing field for small providers like Elevate Fiber. Essentially, it prevents larger incumbent providers (think Charter, TDS, and Century Link) from taking funding away from grant recipients through their right-of-first-refusal unless they will provide internet speeds equal to or faster than those proposed by the grant recipient. We are grateful to our bill co-sponsor, Representative Marc Catlin.

These are just a sampling of the efforts underway. But it's clear, your cooperative board members and staff have been busy advocating on your behalf. Our efforts are garnering the attention of legislators and changes are being made. DMEA will continue to work with elected officials to help draft legislation that helps rural Colorado.

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RUN IT YOUR WAY

with business internet and voice solutions powered by Elevate Fiber.

The reliability and consistency your business needs is here. Elevate Fiber's network can help your business get the most out of every interaction, by giving you consistent internet speeds on a fiber network that delivers 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps)—the fastest connection in DMEA's service territory. Plus, with crystal clear voice service (just like your phone system today), you can stay connected locally and internationally, and our packages come with a host of free features.

This is just where it starts—Elevate is standing by to create a custom package that can take your business forward for years to come.

We Are Here For You



Meet Jason Martin our Technical Sales Executive. Jason is here to get your business going with the services it needs. Give him a call or email him today to **setup your FREE business consult.**

Jason.martin@elevatefiber.com | 970.240.6884

Elevate Business Services

► Internet

100 Mbps internet	\$79 ⁹⁵
300 Mbps internet	\$249 ⁹⁵
1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) internet	\$499 ⁹⁵

► Voice

Business Voice	\$50
Custom Business Voice	Starts at \$64

- Reduce costs
- Only pay for what you need
- Customize as you grow

“Elevate has made the Apple Shed's mission a reality. With Elevate we can now communicate flawlessly with our customers and employees. Our work flow has doubled by being able to submit orders, send emails, invoices, and communicate with customers and vendors, over the fiber network. We are able to work smoothly in a fraction of the time compared to the last couple years. It has made the life of SO much easier, it just works. I am very impressed of the time and effort that DMEA and Elevate have put into this project to bring the best internet to our community.”



— Connie Williams, Apple Shed Owner, Cedaredge

GENERATION NEXT

Celebrate your cooperative membership, learn about new technologies, and find out what's next for your cooperative.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association Annual Meeting

JUNE 14

Montrose Pavilion
1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose
4:30 - 8:00 p.m.



ENJOY THE FUN

- Free BBQ & refreshments
- Elevate Fiber update
- Educational booths
- Meet your board representatives
- Vote in the board election
- Family fun
- Electric car show
- Bucket truck rides
- Great door prizes

DETAILS

4:30 p.m.

Registration and voting opens

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Family activities, booths

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Jimmer's BBQ dinner

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Business meeting, polls close

OUR GIFT TO YOU!

Registered DMEA members will receive a camping mug* and be entered to win a variety of door prizes. You'll also be treated to a free dinner and family-friendly entertainment. *while supplies last

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We believe we have a compelling story to tell and the star of that story is you. Which means we may call on you to help us from time to time and when we do, we ask that you speak up and help us represent Montrose and Delta counties. We, from your DMEA Board of Directors to all cooperative employees, are grateful for the work you've already done. Thank you for supporting and encouraging legislation that furthers access to broadband in our communities.

For our part, DMEA will continue to make sure the voice of our membership is heard. **We take pride in our responsibility of looking out for your best interests.**

Let the Sun Shine

Installing solar electric or thermal panels on your home or business can be a great way to reduce your bill and take advantage of a local renewable resource.

Solar electric, known as solar photovoltaic, converts the sun's energy directly into electricity. This power is then consumed on site directly by your home or business. Solar thermal captures the sun's energy and converts it to thermal energy or heat. Most often this system is used to heat water.

DMEA's energy services team can help you determine what system is right for you. Contact them today at 877-687-3632 or email rod.geiger@dmea.com. In addition, we also offer net metering for solar electric systems. Unlike a traditional electric meter, net meters measure the amount of electricity you consume from DMEA's grid as well as the amount of electricity you put back onto the grid when your system produces power.

HOW *Net Metering* WORKS

The solar panels receive energy from the sun and convert it to electricity.

The energy is used in your home.

A net meter measures any excess energy you generate (and don't consume) and the energy you purchase from DMEA.

Your excess energy is sent to DMEA's grid. You get to "bank" these kilowatt hours as net accumulated generation.

SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

with the Zmodo Smart Greet WiFi Doorbell Bundle

Take control of your home and add a little protection with Zmodo Smart Greet WiFi Doorbell Bundle. Answer the door even when you are not home from your smartphone or tablet, plus have the ability to talk to the visitor; "please leave the package next to the garage." The bundle also comes with a smart home hub and 2 door/window sensors for added protection. A smart doorbell paired with motion sensors can even control lighting when visitors approach. This not only helps keep your home safe, but can result in energy savings too.

There are lots of smart doorbells out there—Zmodo bundle starts at just \$59.99 on Amazon—check it out.

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

Home COOKING

Black Bean Burgers

Ingredients:

- 1 - 15-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 - 14.5-ounce can tomatoes with mild chilies
- 1 garlic clove, minced or 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 cup chopped carrots (2 small or 1 large)
- 1 cup cilantro or parsley
- 2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Process first seven ingredients in a food processor until blended. Add oats and stir.

Form into patties, put on a baking sheet and bake for 8 minutes.

Turn oven up and broil about 2 minutes, until tops are nicely browned. You can also fry the burgers in a nonstick pan with no oil until both sides are browned or grill them. Serve on whole-grain burger buns with lettuce, tomato, onion, mustard, ketchup, or hummus.

Makes 6-10 burgers.

- Viva Kellogg, Paonia
Prevent and Reverse Heart Disease by Caldwell B Esselstyn, Jr, MD

THE SCOOP ON SCAMS

According to the Federal Trade Commission, thousands of people fall victim to phone scams every year, losing money from just a few dollars to a life savings. Take note of the tips below to make sure you don't become a victim.

Listen to the signs: Scammers often have a sales pitch that leads to you giving up info, such as "You've been specially selected," "You've won," "You'll get a free bonus reward," or "We need to collect now."

Identify their hook: Scammers often use exaggerated and fake offers such as travel packages, advanced loans, or offers that just seem too good to be true. Listen for words like "free," "low cost," and offers to lower interest rates.

Don't be scared: One of the most popular scams targeting DMEA members is the threat of disconnecting power. Callers claim to work for DMEA (or other companies you trust). They may threaten to cancel service or use industry lingo to trick you into providing information or sending money.



In the event you get a call similar to those listed above, particularly if they pressure you for personal information, such as a credit card or social security number, or immediate action, it's a scam. Hang up and report it to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.

Also, report any scams involving DMEA to us immediately so we can spread the word to help protect our members. Check out more information about protecting yourself and loved ones from phone scams online at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>.



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.

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.ascr.usda.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.