

THE PowerLines REPORT

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June 2018

A Look Back: The Cooperative Legacy Lives On By Jasen Bronec, CEO

It is this time of year, surrounding our Annual Meeting and elections, when my mind always goes back; back to a time when electricity was in short supply all across rural America. Back to a time where members like you and me were denied a necessity of modern life.

I want to take a moment to share that cooperative story with you. It's a favorite; I hope you'll indulge me. America in the 1930s was rough. The stock market had crashed in 1929. Couple that with years of the worst drought in American history, and we ended up in the Great Depression. Rural America wasn't immune to the crisis and, in fact, had already been struggling; crop prices had remained low throughout the 1920s and would plummet even further as we sank into the Depression.

Things began to change in 1932 when Americans elected Franklin Delano Roosevelt and he put the New Deal programs in place. A significant part of this included improving the rural economy. But how do you grow the economy in places that lacked electricity – something that was necessary for progress? FDR's solution: you create a way for the farmers, ranchers, and citizens of small towns to build their own power systems. On May 11, 1935, FDR created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This program provided low-interest federal loans to build power systems in rural areas of the United States through cooperative organizations, like DMEA.

After years of being told no by the major electricity providers, the members in our area took it upon themselves to find a solution. They formed a cooperative and applied to the REA for a loan. It was because of the REA, and that unbeatable rural spirit, that DMEA incorporated in August of 1938, originally named Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines Association. Electricity first flowed through our lines in May 1939, serving just 250 members in the Pea Green area. Members in Delta, Hotchkiss, and Paonia soon followed. It wasn't until the 70s when we added the Montrose area that we dropped "Rural Power Lines" from our name and became known as DMEA.

By lighting up this valley, our founding members improved the quality of life for all who lived here and the future generations. I know many of you, myself included, can't remember a time when electricity wasn't a given. And sadly, we are saying goodbye to the generation that lived out this story. We may never truly appreciate what it means to flip a switch and have light. We may never quite understand how much life changed for a homestead when it hooked up to the co-op's power lines. But we can honor the work and accomplishments of those that came before us by continuing to live out their original mission.

As we move closer to our 80th anniversary, I know one thing for sure: DMEA will continue to improve our members' quality of life, today and tomorrow.

- 1929 - Great Depression
- 1932 - FDR Elected
- 1935 - REA Created
- 1938 - Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines Founded
- 1939 - First Members Energized
- 1970s - Montrose Area Added
- 2018
80th
ANNIVERSARY



WITHIN REACH

Elevate Fiber internet and voice are now available in multiple communities. Check it out!

Moving at the speed you need is within reach in many areas across DMEA's service territory—all thanks to our amazing members! Fourteen zones now have live service and our members are enjoying a whole new internet experience. If you live in any of the zones listed below and haven't signed up for Elevate, give us a call today to learn more about the benefits of fiber internet. Plus, we offer other services like home phone and we are working to provide our members TV service this fall.

Elevate is here—sign your contract and get service now!

- Cedaredge 125
- Hotchkiss 48
- Montrose 336 | 415 | 417 | 418 | 425 | 426 | 427 | 721 | 813
- Orchard City 104
- Paonia 45 | 47

Don't live in one of the zones listed above? Don't worry! Our project is driven by member interest, so tell your neighbors to get signed up today and help bring fiber to your community.

- Sign up or check your community's status today:
- » visit join.elevatefiber.com
 - » call 877-687-3632
 - » or stop by your local DMEA office

Get Elevate:

1. Sign up at join.elevatefiber.com or give us a call at **877-687-3632**.
2. Sign your service contract (once your zone has met its goal).
3. Our scheduling team will call you to set up your install. Pay your \$100 install fee now, or opt for no money down and pay **\$10/month for 12 months**.
4. During your install, our technician will install your equipment and get your WiFi network up and running.
5. Then, sit back, relax, and surf, stream, and work at your speed! Thank you for choosing Elevate.

Putting People First for Forty Years

For the past 40 years, it has all come down to one thing for Doug Cox, the people. The people are the one thing that brought him back day after day with a smile on his face since 1978.

Born and raised in Montrose, Doug, his wife of nearly 40 years, two boys, and grandchildren still call DMEA's service territory home.

In May of 1978, Doug was newly married and in need of employment when he walked through the doors of DMEA. After landing a temporary groundsman position, his career took off and has been chalk-full of operations' experience. Doug has held jobs from lineman to foreman, manager to VP. This May, he retires as the VP of Operations after 40 years of service. It is unquestionable that his knowledge and experience will be sorely missed.

In addition to the wealth of knowledge that Doug brought with him, his sincere care for others will be looked back on fondly and hard to replicate. When asked what he would wish for if a genie granted him three wishes, Doug, without hesitation, wished for long, happy and successful lives for his wife, children, and grandchildren; for all of our employees to go home safe every night, and for folks to be kind to one another.

In retirement Doug plans to travel with his wife more; and stay busy working on his cabin, hunting with his sons, and chasing around his grandkids.

As Doug enters into retirement, we wish him exactly what he does others: a long, happy and successful life, a safe return home every night, and kindness from others.



WHAT HIS CO-WORKERS HAVE TO SAY

“Doug is a cornerstone employee with DMEA, well-respected by his coworkers and a valued asset to the DMEA community. His knowledge and contribution to DMEA members and employees will be missed. Thank you Doug.”

- Judy Moore

“Doug Cox is a great leader with a good sense of humor.”

- Guy Guard

“Doug always took the time to listen to my questions and concerns: He listened first, then answered. (Usually with a “smart” remark, which I enjoyed reciprocating). I will miss trading jabs with Doug on the way into a meeting.”

- Phil Zimmer

“Doug is a crazy nice guy. Very approachable about anything you may ask, even if it may seem silly. He has a great sense of humor and was great to work with – he will be missed!”

- Amy Taylor

“Doug is genuinely humble and kind, a hard attribute to find in this world. I'll miss his even-keeled nature.”

- Wade Pynes

“Doug has a genuine concern for our members, communities and employees. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with him”





- Virginia Harman

Turn Your Coins into Change: Operation Round Up

Eyeglasses. Travel for medical treatments. School supplies. Car troubles. These are just a few of the items DMEA's Operation Round Up program helps people with each year. And it's all thanks to members like you. Each month, 24% of DMEA's membership rounds up their electric bill to the next nearest dollar. That money goes to our Operation Round Up Charitable Trust to be given back to families and organizations in need within our communities.

As a round up participant, on average, you'll spend just 50 cents/month, or \$6/year. Add that change up with the rest of the membership and the impact is huge – in 2017, Operation Round Up granted \$56,143 in charitable donations. And remember, when you participate in Operation Round Up all your donations stay local, helping your friends, neighbors, and family get through tough times.

Sign up today by calling 877-687-3632, visit www.dmea.com/signupforORU, or complete and return the form below with your bill payment.

			
50¢	\$6	24%	\$56,143
Average monthly donation	Average annual donation	DMEA members who participate	2017 Donations

SIGN UP FOR OPERATION ROUND UP

Name <i>(as shown on your electric bill)</i>	
Account # <i>(if known)</i>	
Street address	
City / State / Zip	

I agree to participate in DMEA's Operation Round Up program and have my monthly bill rounded up to the next nearest dollar for charitable purposes.

Signature: _____



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
Ken Watson, 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.



SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

with WiFi windows and WiFi tint.

WiFi windows and tint are not new, but are most certainly becoming more in reach for consumers. These products allow for you to change your window from transparent to opaque to block light and heat, and even help you control privacy. If you're in the market for new windows, there are vendors who make complete WiFi windows or there are also options to install films and tints on your existing windows. Once installed, you can "control your windows" from anywhere at anytime.

Smart Tint's technology—one of the options out there—blocks 98% of UV rays and solar heat! Visit www.smarttint.com to learn more.

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



KEEPING IT STRONG

Tips for creating strong passwords.



Passwords can be a pain. But they serve as your lock and key for all your digital information and having weak passwords makes you an easy target. Here are some tips for creating strong passwords:

- » Passwords should use a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols. Don't give someone easy access.
- » Use a password that is at least eight characters in length.
- » Don't use your name or email address in the password, or common words. That's an easy place for hackers to start.
- » Change the password every 90 days.
- » Consider using two-factor authentication for added security. Having a second security component increases the chance a hacker won't get access.

Keeping track of the all your passwords can cause even more pain—we recommend checking out Dashlane or Keeper to help you manage and protect your passwords.

DMEA and Elevate Fiber; together we're looking out for your best interests.

Home COOKING

Whole-Grain Raspberry Energy Bar

Serves 24 | Prep time: 30 min. | Cook time: 25 min.

Ingredients:

- Cooking oil spray
- 2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1/2 cup wheat germ
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 sticks butter, cut into 16 pieces and softened
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup walnut pieces
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons ground flax seeds
- 3/4 cup sugar-free raspberry jam
- 3/4 cup fresh raspberries
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a 13 x 9-inch pan with foil by spreading two sheets of foil perpendicular to each other over the pan, with extra foil hanging over the edges. Grease the foil with cooking spray.

Whisk the flour, wheat germ, granulated sugar and salt in a large bowl. Beat in 14 tablespoons of butter with an electric mixer on low until the mixture looks like wet sand, about 1½ minutes. Reserve ¼ cups of the mixture for the topping and put the rest into the pan. Use the bottom of a measuring cup to press it into an even layer. Bake the crust until the edges begin to brown, about 14-18 minutes.

Mix the reserved flour mixture with the oats, nuts, brown sugar and flax seeds. Add the remaining butter and pinch the mixture with your fingers into small clumps.

In a separate bowl, lightly smash the raspberries, jam and lemon juice together. Spread the berry mixture over the hot crust and sprinkle the crumb streusel on top. Bake until golden brown, about 22-25 minutes. Let the bars cool completely in the pan. Remove bars from pan by lifting up the foil edges. Cut into 24 squares.

Source: <http://dailyburn.com/life/recipes/raspberry-energy-bars-recipe/>

