

THE

# PowerLines

REPORT



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DECEMBER 2022

## Co-op Membership Means More Than You Think Get Your Piece of the Pie with Capital Credits

*Kent Blackwell, Interim CEO and Chief Technology Officer*



With the Holiday season underway, I'm happy to report excellent news. At the October board meeting, the DMEA Board of Directors approved retirement of \$3.4 million in capital credits to members who purchased electricity in 1991 and 1992. Retirements will be paid to more than 8,000 active and

former members this month. Active DMEA members with a retirement of \$50 or less will receive a December bill credit, and checks will be mailed to all members receiving more than \$50.

### What are capital credits?

Capital credits are a benefit unique to cooperative members. Think of them as your piece of the pie – you invest in DMEA by paying an electric bill, and we are responsible for giving a portion of that investment back to you when financial condition allows. Unlike traditional for-profit businesses, cooperatives like DMEA are owned by the people we serve – that's you. We set our electric rates at a reasonable level to recoup the costs of operating the co-op, meet debt obligations, and reinvest in our electric grid. When our revenues exceed those costs during any given year, DMEA is left with operating margins.

We then allocate those margins back to the members who purchased electricity during the year. In other words, almost every year, some of the money you pay DMEA for electric service is allocated back to you as a capital credit. While allocations are made annually, your credits are retained for approximately 25 years before being paid back to you. DMEA retains the credits because they serve as a significant source of equity. We use them to improve our grid for reliability and expansion, maintain stable rates, and reduce debt.

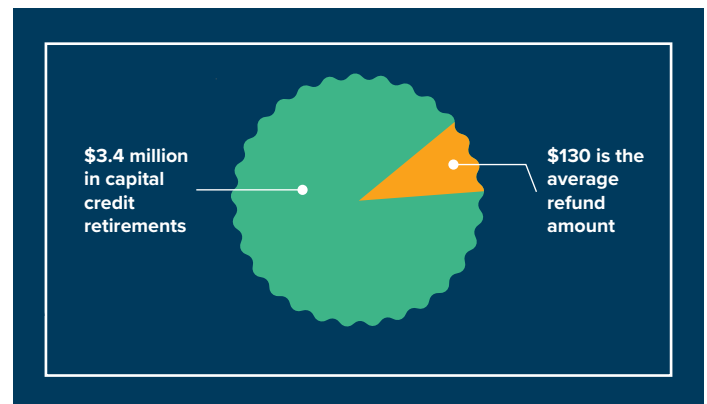
### How much will I get?

The average total refund for a residential member is approximately \$130. The amount of each member's capital credit refund is based on the amount of electricity each member purchased in 1991 and 1992, as well as the amount of our operating margins in those years.

### Why is DMEA returning capital credits now?

As a cooperative, it is our responsibility to return capital credits to our members. Over the past seven years, DMEA has embarked upon massive change: from launching Elevate, our fiber internet subsidiary, to solidifying a new power supply agreement. Not to mention the challenges we couldn't control, like the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 cyber-attack.

But we've weathered it all. Elevate is successfully operating with more than 12,000 DMEA members receiving high-speed internet service, and DMEA's financial condition is strong, thanks in part to our affordable power supply. We have chosen to return credits now to provide a little relief as the cold weather sets in and holiday spending increases. And in the spirit of the season, I wish you all a full heart, a happy home, a prosperous new year, and maybe a slice of pie or two.





# MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

DMEA awarded approximately \$20,000 in grants to three local organizations committed to improving mental health services for our members: CASA's Youth & Family Advocacy Services, The Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center, and Dream Catcher Therapy Center.

## CASA Youth and Family Advocacy Services



DMEA Board Member Ken Watson and DMEA Interim CEO Kent Blackwell (back row right) present a donation to Karin Slater, CASA CFO (back row left), Axia Powell, CASA CRO; Alex Gray, CASA Therapist; Chantel Martinez, CASA Youth Support Specialist; Chere' Fisher, CASA Program Manager; and Kaycee Maurer, CASA Therapist (front row).

CASA's teen center is located at the Montrose facility at 147 N. Townsend. It comes complete with a stage for live music and open mic nights, and a smoothie bar. Geared for ages 14 to 18, the center provides a safe after-school hangout where teens can do homework, seek counseling, and learn new skills. CASA also offers teen therapy sessions, confidential family visitations, and advocates for children in the foster or court system.

"We aim to build relationships with kids before a crisis hits, so they feel comfortable and confident in asking for help when they need it," says Karin Slater, CASA's Chief Financial Officer. "We're finding that teens are particularly struggling to come out of isolation and reconnect with their peers (after the pandemic). Our teen center and mental health services are helping teens reengage and learn coping skills."

**Support CASA:** [casa7jd.org/support-us-1](http://casa7jd.org/support-us-1)

**Volunteer:** [cfisher@casa7jd.org](mailto:cfisher@casa7jd.org) or 970-615-9163

## The Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center



DMEA Board Member Ken Watson and DMEA Interim CEO Kent Blackwell (back row) present a donation to Jenny Franklin, Forensic Interviewer, and Michelle Gottlieb, Executive Director of The Dolphin House (front row).

The unassuming bungalow on South First Street looks like the other homes on the block, but out of this small home comes immense services. The Dolphin House is a child-focused organization that supports child abuse victims and their non-offending family members.

"Our children come to us from law enforcement or child welfare referrals, and we focus on ensuring they are protected and supported. Our center is a neutral and, more importantly, safe space for them to share their story and get help. We need the community to understand the importance of reporting suspected abuse. If you see something, say something," says Michelle Gottlieb, Executive Director.

**Support Dolphin House:**

[Coloradogives.org/organization/DolphinHouse](http://Coloradogives.org/organization/DolphinHouse)

**Volunteers and In-kind Contributions:** [casa7jd.org/home](http://casa7jd.org/home)

**Report Suspected or known abuse and neglect:**

844-CO-4-KIDS (844-364-5437) or 911.

## Dream Catcher Therapy Center



From L to R: DMEA Board Member Kevin Williams and DMEA Interim CEO Kent Blackwell present a donation to Lori Silver and Ferrari of Dream Catcher Therapy.

Dream Catcher lies on 36 acres just west of Montrose, and is an animal-assisted therapy facility that brings horses and patients together for healing. The center is a licensed, certified mental health clinic offering hippotherapy and equine-assisted therapy for individuals with mental and physical challenges, trauma and sexual abuse victims, and veterans. The center takes client referrals from organizations across Western Colorado and also supports walk-ins.

With two licensed therapists on staff and 45 horses dedicated to therapy, the center currently supports more than 50 clients, mostly children. Founder Kathy Hamm is working hard to expand services to local veterans.

"Community partnership is key to the center's success," says Hamm. "This is hard work, keeping mental health funded. I can't control the trauma people go through. But I can be here to pick up the pieces."

**Support Dream Catcher:** [dctc.org](http://dctc.org)

Monetary, pasture or hay donations, and volunteers needed.



**ELEVATE**

FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

# \$0 HOME INTERNET FOR STUDENTS

During the '22 - '23 school year, Montrose County School District and Elevate Internet are providing high-speed internet to students and their families. Through the end of the school year (May 2023), families with MCS D students who qualify for Free and Reduced Price Meals can get FREE internet + FREE installation.

**FREE INTERNET & \$0 INSTALL**  
for the '22/'23 School Year

Sign up today at:  
[elevateinternet.com/mcsdfund](http://elevateinternet.com/mcsdfund)

**844-386-8744**  
**¡Hablamos Español!**

\$0 installation and FREE 150 Mbps internet service available to eligible homes only through May 2023. Regular pricing applies for service provided after May 31, 2023. Eligibility must be determined by Free & Reduced Price Meal participation. Elevate is not available in all areas. Initial 12-month contract is required. Internet service required for TV and phone. Speeds are up to 1 Gig and subject to wireless limitations.



**Montrose Office**  
11925 6300 Road  
Montrose, CO 81401  
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm  
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

**Read Office**  
21191 H 75 Road  
Delta, CO 81416  
W; 8:00am-5:00pm

**Contact Us:**  
1-877-687-3632 | [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) |

**Your Board of Directors:**

*Bill Patterson, District 1*     *Kyle Martinez, District 2*  
*Jacob Gray, District 3*     *Ken Watson, District 4*  
*Kevin Williams, District 5*     *Damon Lockhart, District 6*  
*Enno Heuscher, District 7*     *Stacia Cannon, North*  
*Jock Fleming, South*

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 date, time, and location.

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 [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](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 USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.instate@usda.gov](mailto:program.instate@usda.gov).

# DMEA

## Destinations

Seasonal adventures,  
right in your backyard.

### WINTER WONDERLAND

It's time to bundle up and find some snow! Our mountains and mesas offer some of the best playgrounds in Colorado.

#### Grand Mesa

#### Grand Mesa National Forest

Ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and sledding are just a few of the activities that happen on Grand Mesa. Travel north on Highway 65 from Cedaredge to find trails and hills. More info at [Colorado.com/articles/your-guide-winter-grand-mesa](https://colorado.com/articles/your-guide-winter-grand-mesa).

#### Paonia

#### Stevens Gulch

A groomed trail offers cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling for powder-seekers in the North Fork Valley. From Highway 133, turn north onto Stevens Gulch Road and travel 13 miles to the Stevens Gulch Winter Trailhead. The trail is 15.7 miles long.

#### Montrose

#### Cerro Summit

Enough snow falls in the winter to support sledding, cross-country skiing, and family style downhill skiing and snowboarding. Travel 13 miles east of Montrose along Highway 50 and turn left on County Road P 77. More info can be found at [Visitmontrose.com/listing/cerro-summit/526/](https://visitmontrose.com/listing/cerro-summit/526/).

# Scholarships

Coming January 1, 2023

Each year, DMEA offers \$50,000 in college scholarships to local graduating seniors and continuing education students.

#### \$3,000 High School Graduate

Ten scholarships awarded to applicants from high schools within DMEA service territory.

#### \$2,000 Continuing Education

Three scholarships awarded to applicants who are attending or planning to attend an accredited post high-school educational institution full-time.

#### \$2,000 Technical College of the Rockies

Two scholarships awarded to applicants who are attending or planning to attend full-time at TCR.

#### \$2,000 Colorado Mesa University - Montrose

Two scholarships awarded to applicants who are attending or planning to attend full-time at CMU-Montrose.

#### \$2,000 Line Worker

Two scholarships awarded to applicants enrolled in or planning to enroll in a lineworker school.

#### \$3,000 Guzman Character

One scholarship awarded to a high school graduate applicant showing exceptional character.

Apply by March 1, 2023 at [www.dmea.com/scholarships](https://www.dmea.com/scholarships)

