

THE

PowerLines

REPORT



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July 2023

Boot Scootin' Good Time at DMEA Annual Meeting



Jack Johnston, CEO

While it might not have been my first cooperative annual meeting, it was my first annual meeting with DMEA and you, our members. It was a privilege to share some of DMEA's accomplishments in 2022 and highlight what's in store for the future.

I enjoyed interacting with all who joined us at Cedaredge High School last month for an evening of family fun. I hope the event also gave you a better understanding of how DMEA works to serve our communities.

2022 included numerous achievements for your cooperative. Number one on my list was that your electric rates have remained unchanged since the

latter part of 2019! And that trend will continue. **DMEA has no planned rate increase this year or next!**

During the meeting, we also concluded the annual Board of Directors election. Every year three seats are up for election as part of our 3-year rotation between DMEA's nine districts. Democratically-elected governance is one of the core principles of electric cooperatives that distinguishes them from investor-owned utilities. Please join me in thanking all our hardworking candidates and congratulating our winners.

For those who were unable to attend, we missed you and hope you can make it next year. A special thank you to members who turned out to support us and enjoyed DMEA's annual meeting. I hope to see you again next year – if not sooner!

2023 Annual Meeting Highlights

254 attendees enjoyed local BBQ and pie, card games, live music, and a photo booth

Another year of stable rates and no planned rate increase through 2024

Election results: Damon Lockhart won District 6 with 2,242 votes (71.2%), defeating Mark Youngwirth with 909 votes (28.8%); Enno Heuscher ran unopposed in District 7 and was re-elected; Stacia Cannon won the North Region with 2,343 votes (74%) defeating Paul Sweitzer with 822 votes (26%)

Elevate Internet offers future-proof internet, adding 2 Gig and 6 Gig to its speeds

Approximately 68% of DMEA's territory has access to Elevate's fiber network

Over the next three years, Elevate will expand to approximately 95% of DMEA's territory

DMEA celebrated a stellar safety record with 0 lost time injuries

Gerald Michael won DMEA's grand prize, a locally-made e-bike from Paonia-based Optibike

Paul Sweitzer won Elevate's grand prize, a PlayStation5 full-home setup, including a gaming station, headset, games, and virtual reality kit

Did you get your wanted poster photo taken?
Download it here!



WANTED

GET C RRENT

Keeping you plugged in to everything electric.

SOLAR PANELS & NET METERING

Looking to harness the power of the sun with solar panels? These user-friendly power units have seen significant advancements, now delivering greater efficiency even under cloudy conditions. They serve as a steady energy source for your home and potentially reduce energy bills.

One option for your solar electric setup is net metering, allowing you to use our electric grid to store and draw electricity. Any surplus power generated by your panels flows back to the grid, earning you credits in the process. You can also draw power from the grid in the evening hours when your panels are not producing energy.

Eager to explore these energy solutions further? Our Energy Services Specialist is happy to help. We'll help you understand your energy needs and navigate the specifics of net metering because not all solar programs are created equal. Read our safety tips on the opposite page and be sure to contact DMEA before you sign a contract.

Learn more: dmea.com/net-metering



-  **Eco-Friendly Power**
-  **Lower Energy Bills**
-  **Surplus Energy Credits**
-  **Minimal Maintenance**

ELEVATE[®]

NETWORK NEWS

Your Source for Elevate Construction Updates

Elevate is expanding its 100% fiber network into many new areas over the next few years. We're working hard to bring fiber to every corner of DMEA's service territory so all our community members can access the nation's fastest and most reliable internet. Follow our progress by visiting elevateinternet.com/network-news or scanning the QR code.





A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD

Free!

Feeling lost in our digital world? Elevate is here to help!

Learn the basics of streaming TV, smart devices, video chatting, and email through this 4-class series. All classes are held on Thursdays, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at DMEA's Office (11925 6300 Rd., Montrose, CO). Refreshments will be provided. Class is free of charge, but donations to Montrose Rec District's scholarship program are welcome!

Intro to Email

Next Class!

Join Elevate Internet experts to level up your email skills. Learn about the differences between email platforms, tricks and tips for cyber safety, and how to choose the best email service for you.

When:

August 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where:

DMEA
11925 6300 Rd.
Montrose

Register:

Montrose Rec. District
Cindy Marino
970-252-4884
cindy@montroserec.com



Attend all four sessions and you'll be entered to win a streaming TV package!

ELEVATE[®]
FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)



CONCERN FOR *Community*

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7



Students Take Part in Global Competition

Destination Imagination is a global youth STEM competition that encourages students to develop solutions to complicated problems using creativity, engineering, teamwork, and time management skills.

Paonia's K-8 Inertia Team placed first during the regional competition, second at the state competition, and 13th in their division at the global finals, held May 20-23 in Kansas City, Missouri. The competition was truly global, with more than ten countries represented, allowing the Inertia team to participate on a world stage.

Students had the opportunity to understand problems, ask effective questions, present solutions, learn from failure, and celebrate their achievements. The participants learned vital life and career skills—creative and critical thinking, public speaking, and collaborative problem-solving—that set them up for future success.

“DMEA's Operation Round Up helped foster huge student growth through Destination Imagination! I saw shy students find their voices, use feedback to determine adjustments that would have the most impact to their solution, and get celebrated for their unique skills.”

Sara A. Puharich, Coach

How we helped

Team Inertia needed to raise \$10,500 to attend the global finals competition. DMEA's Operation Round Up helped by contributing \$500. Students worked hard repairing and cleaning up a donated vehicle to sell, started a Gofundme campaign, and hosted a car wash, bake sale, and yard sale to raise the remaining funds.

How you can help

Keep your eyes open for fundraisers or other opportunities as the Paonia K-8 Destination Imagination team participates next year!



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:
877-687-3632 | dmea.com |    

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1
Jacob Gray, District 3
Kevin Williams, District 5
Enno Heuscher, District 7
Jock Fleming, South
Kyle Martinez, District 2
Emily Sanchez, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, 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 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 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.

Cyber Safety

BE AWARE:
Don't fall victim to
cyber scams

CONGRATS! YOU WON A CONTEST YOU DIDN'T ENTER

This scam often comes as a pop-up, email, or even phone call. Pop-ups that contain too-good-to-be-true prizes are just that – too-good-to-be-true. Instead, they are a ploy to capture your information for illegal use or install a virus on your device (computer, smartphone, laptop, tablet).

The same is true for emails and phone calls. Remember, if you didn't enter a contest, you probably didn't win it! And if the first step to winning a contest is to provide personal and financial information, you know it's not legit. Never pay money or give out sensitive information to claim a prize.

There are many legitimate giveaways and raffle programs offered by many legitimate businesses, Elevate included. Scammers may even try to use the names of businesses and organizations you know to trick you. No genuine company will ask you to pay money to claim your prize, and if you're still unsure, contact the company directly to speak with their staff. Be sure to look up the company's contact information on your own, and don't rely on what's included in the email, pop-up, or by the caller.

Read more at elevateinternet.com/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month



Watch Out for **SOLAR SCAMS**

Members Beware: Don't fall for deceptive solar sales scams. Salespeople and ads are circulating claiming false information about pricing and rebates in association with DMEA. Watch out for:



PUSHY SALES

Don't let anyone pressure you with deadlines or urgent messaging.



NAME DROPPING

Just because a salesperson says they are working with us, it isn't necessarily so.



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

If something seems too-good-to-be-true, it probably is. Confirm rebates and tax credits with the state or U.S. Government.



SOCIAL MEDIA ADS

Don't click on the ad - verify information on ads by researching the company through a third party website.



BEFORE YOU SIGN

Call DMEA before you sign a solar contract to make sure we are able to accommodate you and your solar contractor.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Rod Geiger, Energy Services Specialist
rod.geiger@dmea.com
877-687-3632

Find more information at
dmea.com/scam-alert-door-door-solar-sales