

We're Working to Build a Better Future



Jack Johnston, CEO

When DMEA first set out to bring fiber internet to our members, the goal wasn't to make streaming movies easier or cut download times in half – those are really just icing on the cake. Our true purpose was to build a foundation to ensure our communities can thrive

now and well into the future. Eighty-five years ago, that foundation required reliable electricity; today, it also requires high-speed internet.

Over the past seven years, DMEA has expanded its fiber internet subsidiary, Elevate, to more than 26,000 member locations across Montrose and Delta counties. And as we work through our construction plan over next few years, Elevate's network will cover 95% of DMEA's footprint. That last 5% may be our hardest yet – but we will get there.

Elevate reaffirmed its commitment to the future last summer with the launch of larger-than-life multi-gig internet speeds in August 2021. Our consumers can now get 2 and 6 Gig internet speeds, the fastest service available in Colorado. But these speeds represent so much more than how fast you can surf the web. While most internet service providers wait until their network is antiquated and their speeds are too slow before investing in upgrades, Elevate is already setting the stage for our consumers' future bandwidth needs. The day will come much sooner than we think when 6 Gig or 10 Gig and beyond are the norm. I'm proud to say that Elevate is already ahead of that trend.

Our commitment to the future goes beyond fast speeds, though. This year, we also established the Foundations for the Future Youth Grant, dedicating \$60,000 to support local non-profit agencies that positively impact the quality of life for children in our communities. Today, I'm excited to announce the recipients of that grant. Please join me in celebrating the following organizations working to build a better future.

- Arts for All
- Solar Energy International
- Grand Mesa Arts and Events Center
- HopeWest
- Montrose Regional Library District
- Montrose Recreation District

Congratulations! It is our privilege to support you and all the communities in which we proudly serve.

Read more about the recipients and their winning applications on the back page!



COOPERATIVE SPIRIT SHINES BRIGHT FOR

Light Up Navajo

In modern America, we take a lot of things for granted – access to electricity being one of them. But for more than 13,000 families across the American West, electricity isn't a given.

The Navajo Nation covers an expansive 27,000 square miles in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. With more than 399,494 tribal members, it is one of the largest tribal nations in the United States. Yet, to this day, many live without electricity and other basic utilities.

In 2018, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority approached the American Public Power Association to discuss the lack of utility services in the Navajo Nation and address the challenge of building an electric grid through the Nation's complex mix of arid deserts, canyons, and mountain peaks. From that conversation, Light Up Navajo was born, and in 2019 the mutual aid program mobilized lineworkers from 28 different utilities in 13 states to build new lines and services in the Navajo Nation.



“Working on the Light Up Navajo project really gave me a better understanding of the culture and lifestyle of the Navajo people, as well as a deeper appreciation for our infrastructure and amenities here at home.”



Cody Manganello,
DMEA Line
Superintendent



DMEA PARTICIPANTS

Spencer Barnes, Zane Wilson, Wade Rowley, Nick Reich, Alan Gomez,



"Many are amazed that in this day and age in America, there is a region where thousands of American families are living without electricity. In our first year alone, we connected 233 homes," said Deenise Becenti, Government/Public Affairs Officer of NTUA.

While the project was halted in 2020 due to the pandemic, the planning never stopped, and in 2022 Light Up Navajo connected another 173 homes. In June 2023, DMEA joined the project's fourth phase as the first cooperative utility to participate.

"It becomes a united effort, having lineworkers from all types of utilities. The labels disappear, and it all becomes about bringing power to those living without it," stressed Becenti. "It's the spirit of America – the spirit of cooperation."

DMEA sent two lineworker crews to the Navajo Nation, each spending one week building power lines and short line extensions. One of the most memorable moments was when they connected and energized a tribal member's home.

"I'll never forget the moment when we heated up the meter and energized the home for a family who never had power. One of the women living there came to the door excitedly and exclaimed, 'The fan is turning!'"
said DMEA Safety Director
Chad Stickler.

Tim Brandon, JC Jimenez, Curtis McCall, Cody Carver, Cody Mangenello, Jack Johnston, and Chad Stickler



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

CONGRATULATIONS GRANT RECIPIENTS!

These six non-profits were chosen to receive \$10,000 each, which will fund programs that directly impact the quality of life for children in our local communities in a positive way.



ARTS FOR ALL

A year-long after-school collaboration with community producers and artists to teach various ages to compose, engineer, record, and produce an original music album.



MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT

For the expansion of the after-school program to the children of Centennial and Columbine middle schools.



GRAND MESA ARTS & EVENTS CENTER

Partnering with child-focused community groups to offer a STEAM Camp, Creede Student Outreach Repertory Theater, a Songwriting Camp, and Theater Camp.



MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Eight family STEAM programs in interactive and instructional settings incorporating subject matter experts with careers in the given field.



HOPE WEST

School Grief Groups in Delta and Montrose Counties will help kids suffering from severe illness or the death of a close friend or family member in a safe space amongst their peers.



SOLAR ENERGY INTERNATIONAL

An immersive introductory PV101- Solar Electric Design and Installation training and lab for five separate high schools, including support for future offerings.



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11925 6300 Road
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Read Office
21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416

M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

Contact Us:

877-687-3632 | dmea.com |



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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.

DO TELL



WORD ON THE STREET IS DMEA HAS QUESTIONS.

JEEPERS!



HELLO, IT'S US!

DMEA / Elevate is working with Pivot Group, a respected national research firm, to conduct an anonymous survey of some of our members. You may be emailed or called to provide candid answers so we can improve DMEA and Elevate services.

If you have any questions, please contact DMEA and Elevate at 877-687-3632.

LIGHT UP NAVAJO

662

families have received electricity since the project began



13,500

homes remain without electricity in the Navajo Nation



Electricity paves the way for water, phone service, and broadband.