

THE PowerLines REPORT

DMEA

1 |  CEO Message

2 |  Get Current: Smart Irrigation

3 |  Fiber is the Future

4 |  Peer Kindness

MARCH 2023

A Message from Jack Johnston, CEO

Last month's edition featured a fun Q&A introduction about me. It's been a fantastic first month, so this time around, I wanted to provide a personal note with some initial thoughts and insights.

First and foremost, you have an electric cooperative of which to be very proud. Although it's been an active and challenging few years in multiple ways, the results have been impressive. For starters, member rates have remained steady since 2019. Meanwhile, Elevate has expanded rapidly, reaching more than 25,000 homes and businesses, and DMEA paid out capital credits this past December for the first time in seven years. Driving those successes was a member-focused Board of Directors with the support of an admirable group of employees, most of whom are also members dedicated to our mission and the communities we serve.

The momentum will continue, and we will likely experience one of the busiest years in our history, so expect to see and hear about lots of activity around our territory. Most of the action will be driven by Elevate construction projects as we work toward our goal of providing access to fiber-optic broadband to every DMEA member. We are also working in partnership with our wholesale power provider to build an agrovoltaic solar facility that will generate cost-effective, renewable energy for our local grid and preserve irrigated farm ground to support active sheep grazing. In addition, we will focus on our ever-present initiatives related to safety, system resiliency, resource adequacy, rate stability, and organizational development.

The often stagnate electric industry is experiencing some of its most dynamic times and will be for the

foreseeable future.

The broadband industry is simply booming and reshaping the core infrastructure that supports our lives and businesses.

We are lucky that the timing affords us the opportunity to both influence and experience this meaningful evolution.

This is nothing for DMEA, which has long been an example for peers at the state and national levels.

The cooperative business model is special, and like you, I have benefitted from the co-op framework. It's been personally fulfilling to be part of Colorado's electric cooperative industry for more than a decade in both governance and management. I couldn't be happier to now be a member and leader of DMEA/Elevate. On a personal note, my family appreciates everyone's thoughtful gestures in welcoming us in such a warm fashion.

So, at the end of the day, you can count on my enthusiasm and commitment to keep a constant focus on providing safe, reliable, and affordable power, plus the best broadband experience possible. I also plan to be a motivated and involved member of our communities. I look forward to the prospect of meeting you somewhere along the way.



Jack

GET C RRENT

Keeping you plugged in to everything electric.

SMART SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Are you tired of constantly adjusting your sprinkler system, only to find that you've either under- or overwatered your plants? It's time to upgrade to the world of smart sprinkler systems!

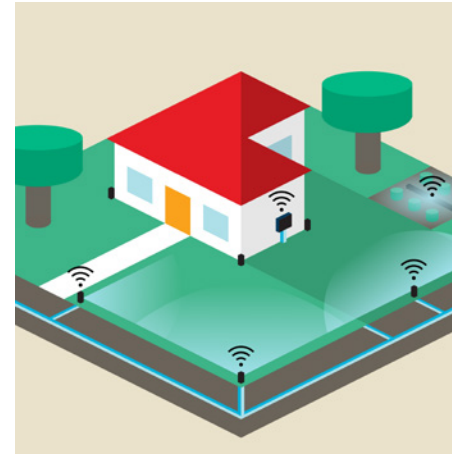
These systems only water your plants when they need it, reducing waste and saving you money on your water bill. Smart sprinkler systems can also be customized to fit the specific needs of your plants, taking into account the weather and soil moisture levels. Plus, with the ability to adjust watering schedules from anywhere with your phone app, you can make sure your plants get what they need when they need it, even when you're away.

Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just starting out, you'll love the ease, efficiency, and beauty that this innovative technology brings to your yard.

Where to buy: Local home improvement stores & online

Who it's for: Everyone from homeowners to master gardeners

Extras: Weather sensors & drip irrigation available



- ✓ Improved Plant Health
- ✓ Easy Installation
- ✓ Efficient Watering
- ✓ Customizable

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

▶ WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS?

This year, District 6, District 7, and North Region positions are up for election. In addition to living within one of these three open districts, members must also be 21 years of age or older and meet the criteria outlined in Article 4 of DMEA's Bylaws found at dmea.com/bylaws.

▶ HOW DO I RUN FOR THE BOARD?

If you're interested in serving on DMEA's Board of Directors, get started by submitting your information online at dmea.com/selfnomination. Once your membership is confirmed, we'll send you a nomination form and signature petition. Complete the form and collect at least 15 member signatures.

▶ WHEN CAN I SUBMIT MY PETITION?

Submit your nomination petition and signatures between March 13 and April 16, 2023.

▶ WHEN ARE THE ELECTIONS?

DMEA's Board of Directors Election will conclude with the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023. DMEA will mail ballots to all eligible DMEA members in mid-May. Members can vote by mail or in person at the Annual Meeting.

▶ ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

Starting March 13, visit dmea.com/selfnomination to request your self-nomination packet and begin your nomination!

FIBER IS THE FUTURE

and the future is here.



If your internet isn't faster than a cheetah driving a racecar, you may want to rethink your need for speed. Backed by a rock-solid fiber network, Elevate delivers the fastest internet speeds on an ultra-reliable connection. Plus, as your bandwidth demands keep on growing, we will too – **with internet speeds as fast as 6 GIG (6,000 Mbps), we're already there.**

ELEVATE®

elevateinternet.com • 844-386-8744

Elevate not yet available in all areas. Internet speeds up to 6 Gig and subject to wireless limitations.

Free!



A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD

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

INTRO TO SMART DEVICES

Learn the basics of using tablets and smart phones, the differences between Android and Apple brands, and gain confidence in getting the most out of your smart devices. Class is free of charge, but donations to Montrose Rec District's scholarship program are welcome.

When: April 27, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Where: DMEA, 11925 6300 Rd., Montrose

How: Register with Cindy at the Montrose Rec District: 970-252-4884 or email cindy@montroserec.com

Save these Dates:

- ▶ July 27: Intro to Video Chatting
- ▶ August 24: Intro to Email

ELEVATE®

FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)



CONCERN FOR *Community*

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

PEER kindness
Positive • Encouraging • Empathetic • Respectful

Shifting from cruel to kind

Peer Kindness was founded by the Haynes family after their daughter, Caitlyn Nell Haynes, died by suicide in 2015. Cait endured bullying for years, and after her passing, the Haynes family created Peer Kindness in hopes that no other child or family would face the same experience. They strive to raise awareness to prevent bullying, intervene when it is occurring, and foster a positive, encouraging, empathetic, and respectful (PEER) community culture. Peer Kindness works with all school-aged children, and their Align With Kind program is specifically for middle and high school students who wish to shift their environments, experiences, and mindsets from cruel to kind.

“ [DMEA’s] investment in Peer Kindness will help us continue to support children and youth experiencing the bullying circle, which includes the children being targeted, the children doing the bullying, and the children who witness bullying and don’t know how to help. ”

Joey Montoya Boese
Executive Director

How we helped

DMEA contributed \$20,000 from its Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund to help Peer Kindness purchase a permanent facility.

How you can help

GET INVOLVED OR DONATE

Community members interested in helping to reduce and prevent bullying with Peer Kindness can get involved by emailing info@peerkindness.net, calling 970-901-7744, or donating online at www.peerkindness.net.



Top Photo: Volunteers and staff planning Kind & Dine annual fundraiser and brainstorming other fundraising opportunities. Bottom Photo: Peer Kindness works with youth during the Young Adult Leadership Experience to better understand communication and connection through the lens of varied behavior/learning styles.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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
Ken Watson, 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

**SEND BACK
THE AMOUNT
OVERPAID.**

OOPS, I OVERPAID YOU

This scam predominantly targets local sellers and freelance workers. You're selling an item online, and the buyer sends you a check for much more than your asking price. Likewise, you're contracted to do a job, and the client sends you a check for much more than the agreed amount. In either case, the scammer is counting on you to reach out and let them know that they overpaid. They apologize and ask if you can refund them the

difference, most often by money wire. You're a good person, so you do. The problem comes later when their check doesn't clear because it wasn't real, and you're out the cash. Almost all of this communication will take place – you guessed it – online.

Never refund any payments until a check has cleared the bank. It's also OK to not accept check payments if you're selling something – cash or payment through a secure banking app like Venmo, PayPal, and Apple Pay are widely available and commonly used. If you're a freelancer, require a discovery call before any project so you can get to know your client and meet them on video beforehand. Scammers won't want you to see their faces.

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

Don't Be Fooled by **PHONE SCAMS**



Scammers are targeting energy consumers everywhere. They often call threatening to shut off power unless payment is made immediately. Or they may call saying you overpaid and ask for credit card or bank info to provide a credit.

Many of these scam attempts play out like this: the caller poses as a representative of your power provider, says you are behind on the bill and a truck is on the way to disconnect your service unless you pay your bill right now over the phone.

DON'T FALL FOR THESE SCAMS

Any possible disconnection would be preceded by notice in the mail or email and we use a secure automated system for phone payments.

DON'T GIVE OUT INFORMATION

Don't give out personal or financial information to anyone who calls even if they claim to be from DMEA or Elevate.

CHECK YOUR ACCOUNT

Use Smarthub to check your account status. **If in doubt, call us directly at 877-687-3632** --not the phone number a scammer provides.

REPORT IT

If you receive a scam call, report it to DMEA and local law enforcement immediately.

