

THE PowerLines REPORT



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February 2024

Beyond Boundaries: DMEA Lineworker Helps Electrify Guatemala

Guest column by Larry Donathan, DMEA Equipment Technician Foreman

In December 2023, DMEA had the privilege of participating in NRECA International, a volunteer initiative that works to improve the quality of life around the world by providing millions of people with access to safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Larry Donathan, DMEA Equipment Technician Foreman, spent 12 days working in the rural mountainous villages of Guatemala, helping bring electricity and light to almost 200 different homes and families. Below is a brief preview from Larry's account of his travels. Read his full story at dmea.com/dmea-lineworker-helps-electrify-guatemala or scan the QR code below.

On December 3, 2023, I flew to Guatemala City, beginning a twelve-day journey I'll never forget. So how did I get here? Rewind to last summer when my supervisor asked if I would like to volunteer with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International and help wire homes in Guatemala. I was sold.

After arriving in Guatemala, I met the nine-member team from Arkansas that I would be working with. We rented pickup trucks and began our first five-hour drive to our stopover for the night. Here, we met the rest of our team from Oklahoma.

We made yet another five-hour journey the next day, reaching the town of Fray Bartolome De Las Casas in the Northern mountainous area of Guatemala. This would be our basecamp for the remainder of the trip.

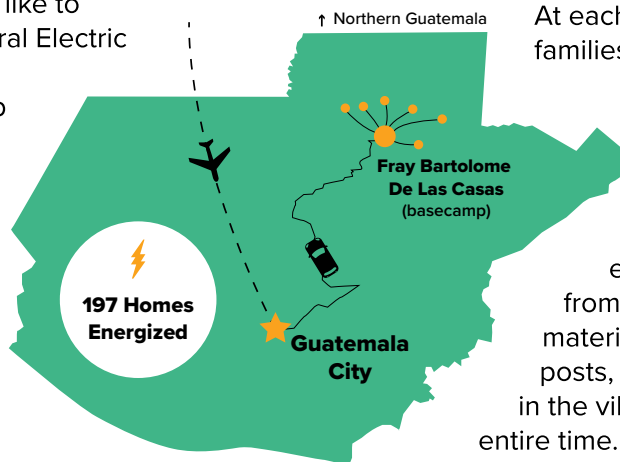
The following day, it was time to get to work.

We loaded the trucks with enough materials to wire ten houses and set out for a two-hour drive to one of the small villages.

At each home, we worked with the families, thanks to interpreters, to determine the location of the electrical panel, four light bulbs, two light switches, and two outlets.

It was incredible to see and experience a different way of life from back home. The men carried material, dug the holes for the power posts, and ran wire with us. Everyone in the village was happy and smiling the entire time. What a great group of people.

Between all crews on the trip, we brought electricity to 197 homes, but interacting with the villagers was the best part of my trip. I had a wonderful time on this trip and would go back and do it again if given the chance. I have great memories of the people I met, the work I did, and the experiences I had.



SCAN ME



CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

MHS Students Create Inclusive Winter Dance for Students with Special Needs

Last month, the Montrose High National Honor Society (NHS) hosted its second annual winter dance for students with special needs.

"While our students in mainstream classes organize several events throughout the year, [...] many students with special needs do not participate for a variety of reasons. As a chapter, we decided to host an event that would help these students feel comfortable and included," said NHS advisor Dan Herod.

While Herod provides direction as needed, the NHS students are responsible for all aspects of the event, from planning to implementation, including budgeting, decorations, refreshments, and music. The event is held off school grounds, making it that much more special for the students.

"I found the dance to be a surprising highlight of my year. It was one of the most memorable projects I've worked on in high school, and I hope that it continues to happen year after year," said Rhyan Neary, Montrose High NHS student.

How we helped

DMEA had the privilege of providing financial support for the 2024 dance in the amount of \$200 to help with rental fees, decorations, and food.

How you can help

You can support the Montrose High School National Honor Society by mailing a check to the National Honor Society in care of Montrose High School at 600 S. Selig Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. Or contact NHS Advisor Dan Herod at Daniel.herod@mcsd.org about opportunities for in-kind donations for events such as the winter dance.



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

Contact Us:
877-687-3632 | dmea.com | [f](#) [y](#) [t](#) [i](#)

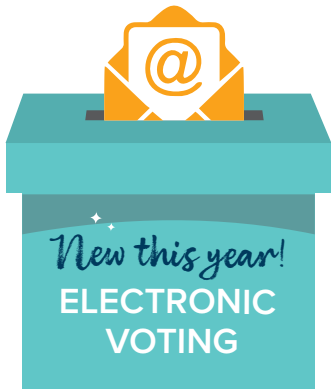
Read Office
21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1 *Steve Metheny, District 2*
Jacob Gray, District 3 *Emily Sanchez, 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 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.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 6!

The 2024 DMEA annual election is right around the corner, with candidate nominations for Districts 1, 2, and 5 opening March 4.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS?

District 1, District 2, and District 5 seats 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?

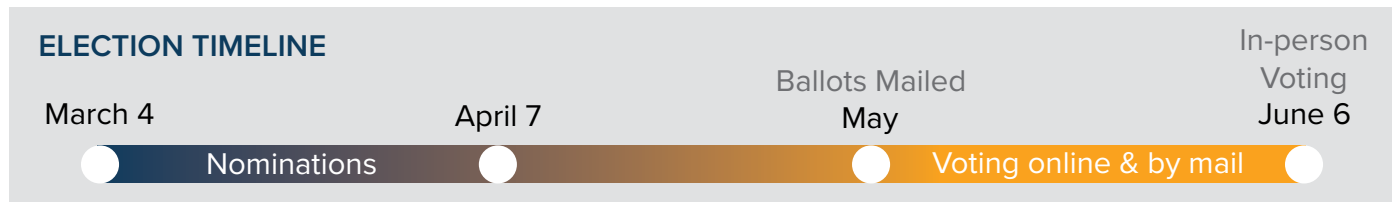
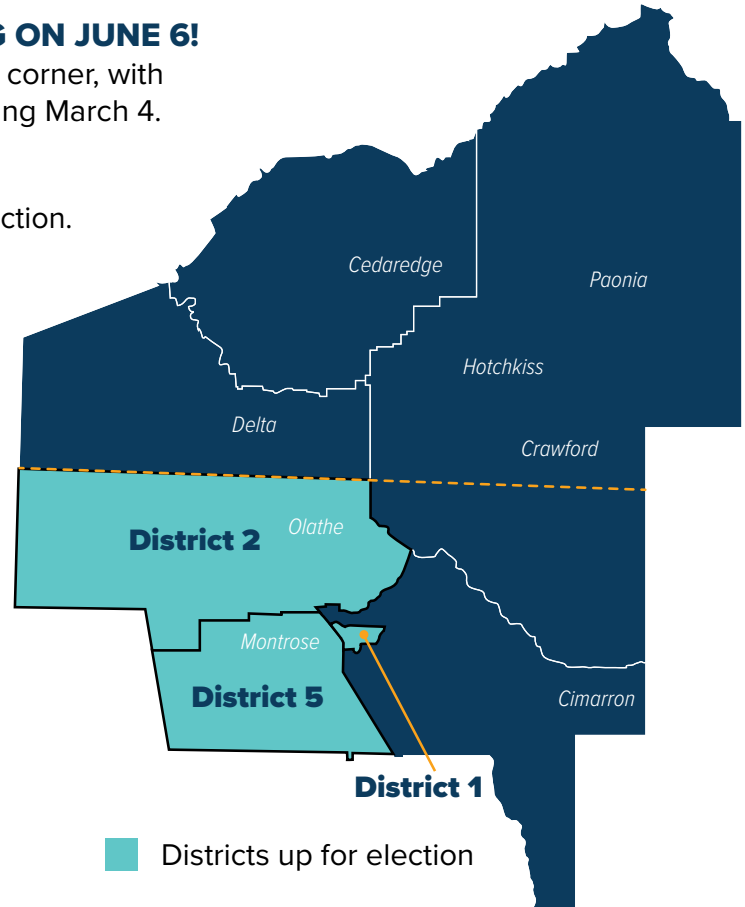
Starting March 4, submit your information online at dmea.com/selfnomination. Once your membership is confirmed, we'll send you a nomination form and signature petition. Complete the form and collect at least 15 member signatures.

WHEN CAN I SUBMIT MY PETITION?

Submit your nomination petition and signatures between March 4 and April 7, 2024.

WHEN ARE THE ELECTIONS?

DMEA's Board of Directors Election will conclude with the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2024. DMEA will mail ballots to all eligible DMEA members in mid-May. Members can vote online, by mail, or in person at the Annual Meeting.



Drop by for free food, awesome gifts, and one-on-one time with your DMEA and Elevate board and leadership team.

- Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Sugar Mamas' Bakeshop
250 South Grand Mesa Dr., Cedaredge
- Thursday, February 15, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Sweetgrass
120 Grand Ave., Paonia



A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD

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

Free!

Learn the basics of streaming TV, smart devices, video chatting, and internet safety through this 4-class series. All classes are from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Delta Public Library (Delta, CO) on the dates below. Refreshments will be provided. Class is free of charge!

Intro to Streaming TV

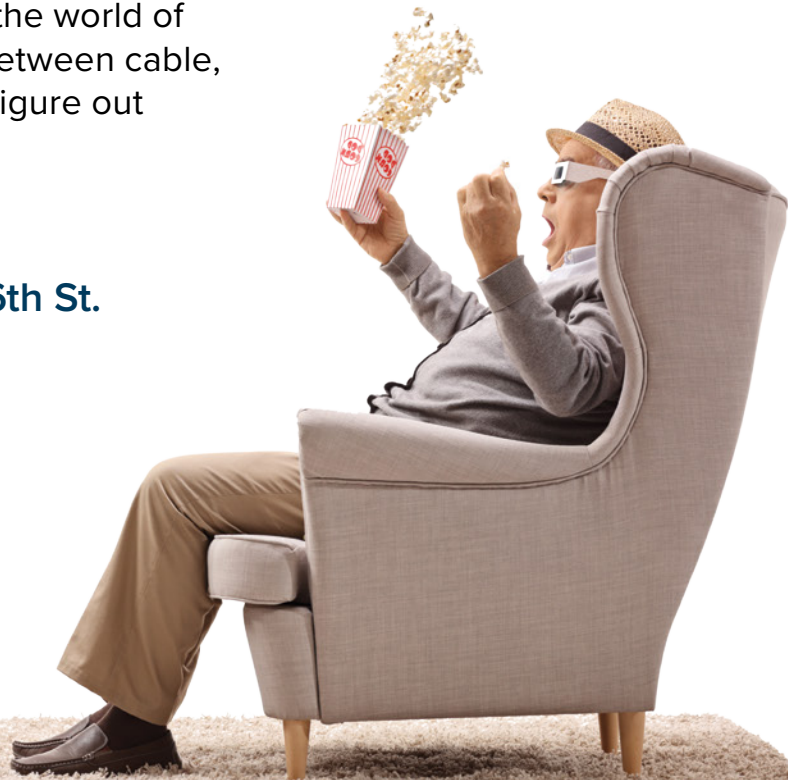
Join Elevate Internet experts to tap into the world of online TV. Learn about the differences between cable, live streaming, and on-demand TV, and figure out what's best for you.

When: March 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: Delta Public Library, 124 E 6th St.

How: Register at:

- ▶ elevateinternet.com/101
- ▶ 844-386-8744
- ▶ or scan here:



Attend all four sessions
and you'll be entered to
win a Kindle or an iPad!

Save these Dates:

- ▶ April 11: Intro to Video Chatting
- ▶ August 15: Intro to Smart Devices
- ▶ September 19: Internet Safety

ELEVATE
FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)



ONLINE PARENTAL CONTROLS MADE EASY

The internet is a powerful tool. It brings a whole new world of learning opportunities, but with it comes the dangers of screentime overload, inappropriate content, and predators. So, how do you keep your kids safe while they're online? Let us help.

Get easy-to-use parental controls, like content filters, screentime limits, and website blocking with the all-new ElevateIQ app. This free app is automatically included with your Elevate internet service, no strings attached.

Download the app today and get peace of mind knowing you're managing what your kids can – and can't – see online.



Content Filters: Set custom content filters to limit and block your kids' access to violent or pornographic content, file sharing, social networks, gambling sites, and more.



Screentime Limits: Shut down the Wi-Fi to your kids' devices at bedtime, set pre-determined time limits, or simply change the Wi-Fi password in exchange for chores.



Notifications: Get automatically notified if your child tries to visit somewhere they shouldn't online, whether on purpose or not.

**GET THE FREE
APP TODAY!**



STAY WHERE YOU ARE



Beware of Winter

POWER POLE COLLISIONS

You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life.

In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved. DMEA lineworkers will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.

There is no way to tell if a downed line is energized by looking. Always assume a downed line (or any line) is live, even if it is not buzzing or sparking. Wait to exit the car until you receive the all clear from utility or emergency personnel.

If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out with feet together and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.

Did you know?

Not only are auto accidents involving DMEA power poles potentially dangerous for drivers and passengers, they often cause extended outages and costly repairs. Drive safe out there!

Find more information at
dmea.com | 877-687-3632