



Photo Contest Winner

Jacob Routzahn

Since I can remember, my father has had his boys involved with the Missouri outdoors. From fishing, hunting, hiking, to camping and backpacking, we were out in the elements doing it. As I grew older and left for college, replacing my hunting rifle for a camera, I found myself completely enveloped with trying to get that perfect shot of the most beautiful place, at the most beautiful time, my trophy.

During summer break, after my first year of college, my best friend and I made our way West to explore the Tetons. The first time we rose out of the valley and I saw The Grand towering over Snake River Basin, I knew once college ended, I would put Missouri behind me and make my way to the mountains.

The first opportunity that arose, the wife and I settled in Fort Collins. Although it is gorgeous, the mountains are plagued by college students, like cattle grazing in a field. Trying to escape and find your solitude is often next to impossible. It wasn't until the little lady and I had made a trip down to the Montrose area to explore and camp that we realized isolation and beauty could be had. Although it took nearly ten years for the right opportunities to present themselves, we are now fortunate in calling the valley home.

Now that we are here, we have begun to build our homestead as well as explore our surroundings with our two amazing kiddos. The vast landscapes this area offers are astounding, and over time, I can't wait to capture them and share my vision with others. My hope is that my images capture a mood, or feeling, that captivates the viewer and illicit a sense of want. Wanting to get out, wanting to explore for themselves, wanting a few more moments to look at my images, and at more of my work. I hope you all enjoy my photographs as much as I enjoy taking them, and I thank you for your time.

Currently my website www.jacobroutzahn.com is being revamped. In order to view my work, follow me on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/routzahn.photography/>

You Save. We Pay.

\$200K in Efficiency Rebates Returned to Members

In 2018, DMEA paid back almost \$200,000 to members in energy efficiency rebates. And, good news—funds are up for grabs again this year! DMEA's rebate program puts cash back into members' hands for purchasing and installing energy-saving appliances and equipment.

This year's program includes incentives for the following:

- Energy Star appliances
- LED lighting
- Heating and cooling systems
- Motors and pumps

A full listing of DMEA's rebates is available online at www.dmea.com under the efficiency section. Members are encouraged to review the applications and guidelines for each rebate. While rules can vary for each rebate, all programs require that the applicant be a DMEA member, provide proof of purchase, and request the rebate within 120 days of purchase.

In 2018 Members the top 3 DMEA Rebates awarded.



Energy Star Appliances
\$31,420



Home heating & cooling
\$19,732



LED Bulbs
\$11,556

Businesses Can Save Too

We also offer a variety of commercial rebate programs all aimed at helping you reduce your energy use and save money.

- LED lamps and fixtures
- Grow lighting
- Refrigerated case lighting
- Pole mount lighting
- Heat pumps
- Motors & variable speed drives
- ECM for refrigeration



Commercial Lighting
\$115,992

GET COZY NOT COSTLY

get smart with space heaters

When temperatures drop, it's an easy and common solution to plug in a portable space heater. Here are a few tips to get the most from your space heater:

- » Purchase only newer models with current safety features like tip-over and overheat protection
- » Choose a model with multiple temperature settings, and operate on the lowest setting
- » Only use to temporarily heat small spaces
- » Opt for models with a thermostat, timer, or WiFi capabilities

Smart space heaters allow you to set a schedule for your heater, operate it and monitor power consumption remotely. They can be expensive, so another option is to plug your standard model into a WiFi enabled plug like the Wemo plug (we highlighted this in our March 2018 issue).

Regular use of a space heater can cost you more than \$100 a month, so use them sparingly.

DMEA and Elevate, harnessing today's technology to help you manage your energy use.



THE PowerLines REPORT

Photo by Jacob Routzahn

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January 2019

Major Moves for the Future of Your Co-op



Jasen Bronec, CEO

Last month, DMEA exercised a right that we believe will positively impact this valley in a way we haven't seen since we put the first pole in the ground 80 years ago. On December 6, we reaffirmed our intent to exit Tri-State by filing a formal complaint with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In that complaint we ask the PUC to use its authority over Tri-State to determine a just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory exit charge for DMEA. In short, we intend to exit Tri-State and pay a fair price to do so.

This effort represents the culmination of more than a decade of trying to work with Tri-State to stabilize electric rates and pursue more local renewable generation. As you are well aware, Tri-State restricts DMEA's (and all its member co-ops') ability to generate local energy to just 5% of our load. We met this cap two years ago, and since then our ability to capitalize on our energy-rich territory has been limited.

Tri-State has always promised DMEA that voluntary membership is its very first "core principle" as a cooperative. DMEA has been working for years to hold Tri-State to its promise by giving us a fair exit charge, and we've exhausted all of Tri-State's internal processes to get that fair number. Therefore, we are seeking a determination from the Colorado PUC, which, under Colorado law, has jurisdiction over Tri-State. It is the only way we believe we will finally get a just and reasonable exit charge.

You may be wondering why DMEA is so strong on our stance to exit Tri-State. We have the potential to save millions of dollars on our power supply costs EVERY. SINGLE. YEAR. It is our responsibility to best serve you, and that means we cannot turn a blind eye to this opportunity to stabilize your rates, secure a more diverse energy mix, and increase local energy generation. While pursuing these objectives, on your behalf, with Tri-State, we have been met with roadblocks, resistance, and indifference.

You deserve better.

Since 2005, the average price paid by Tri-State's member co-ops (including DMEA) for wholesale power has increased by 56%. This is more than double the increase in the Consumer Price Index, and it stands in stark contrast to the energy market where prices have actually decreased over that same period of time.

Make no mistake, DMEA will honor and fulfill our obligations to both Tri-State and our fellow members. What we are seeking is simply fairness. We want to ensure that the exit charge we pay is both fair to Tri-State's remaining cooperatives and DMEA members. That is exactly what we are asking the PUC to determine.

A just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory exit charge (as required by state law) will allow DMEA to pay its fair share and only its fair share. It will also prevent Tri-State from holding you, our members, captive to higher rates and thwarting your desire for more cost-effective, local power. If we are able to obtain a just exit charge, we intend to move forward with Guzman Energy as our new wholesale power provider. With Guzman's support, we can then work to stabilize rates and drive local economic growth with the development of diverse, low-cost energy.

You read it earlier, but I believe it is worth stating again: You deserve better. And we're making sure you get it. Thank you for your continued support and here's to a strong future.

DEADLINES APPROACHING

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Application deadline:
Friday, January 18, 2019

2019 DMEA SCHOLARSHIPS

Application deadline:
Thursday, January 31, 2019



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Montrose Office

11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com |

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1	Kyle Martinez, District 2
Brad Harding, District 3	Ken Watson, District 4
Chris Hauck, District 5	Damon Lockhart, District 6
Mark Eckhart, District 7	John Gavan, North
Tony Prendergast, 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 specific dates, times, and locations.

Recipes Info:

Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:

DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.



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Reliable phone.

FIR REAL

when you choose Elevate.



Internet

100 Mbps (fast)	\$49 ⁹⁵
1 Gig (supersonic fast)	\$79 ⁹⁵



TV

Locals (20+ channels)	\$29 ⁹⁵
Expanded (70+ channels)	\$84 ⁹⁵
Extreme (120+ channels)	\$109 ⁹⁵



Home Phone

Unlimited Local + Long Distance	\$30 ⁰⁰
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No bundling or pricing games.
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Is Elevate available in my area? Visit join.elevatefiber.com to find out. If your neighborhood is still working towards its goal, preregister online to secure the discounted installation fee with FREE equipment. **If your neighborhood shows up in service, you can get service today—call 844-386-8744 to sign up and schedule your install!**

Preregistration goals must be met in your zone before service can be made available. Installation can be completed for \$0 upfront, by paying \$10 per month for 10 months, this will show on your first bill. If you would prefer to not be billed the installation at \$10 per month, you can pay \$100 upfront. A 12-month contract is required. Internet service is required for phone and TV service. Internet speeds are up to 1 Gig. Other terms apply.

STEVE METHENY

A DMEA ICON FOR OVER 37 YEARS



“I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

-Maya Angelou

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it”.

-Yogi Berra



Circa 1991

Ready to embrace the “What Ifs?,” “Why Nots,” and “Never say Nevers” Steve Metheny walked through the doors of DMEA in May of 1981 as the Utility System Engineer. Attracted by the lifestyle and amenities of the community with a new baby girl on the way, and turned off from his recent “corporate experiences” at large investor-owned utilities, Metheny accepted the challenge of helping modernize DMEA’S burgeoning electrical grid.

Since then, Steve’s job title has changed multiple times but the one thing that has remained constant is a culture that has fostered his visionary approach to the issues that arise in our communities. “The board and the cooperative’s leadership has always been forward thinking and encouraged thinking outside the box,” Steve stated. This top down support gave Steve the freedom to continually explore how DMEA could leverage its technology to better our community through ingenuity, flexibility, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

When asked what he was most proud to be leaving behind, Steve expressed pride in being part of the original design of DMEA’s electrical grid; being one of the first distribution cooperatives in the country to implement SCADA (Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition) to control and monitor our electrical network; DMEA’s top-notch safety record; and helping bring fiber optics to the Western Slope of Colorado.

He also has a deep connection and feeling of responsibility to this community, including raising the bar when it comes to education. Steve encouraged, “Engage yourself in the community- volunteer on the school board or coach a local kids sport team. Whatever your thing is, do something!”

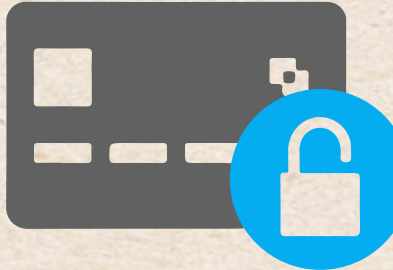
When asked what he thought others would remember from his tenure at DMEA, Steve admits to over using his favorite Yogi Berra quote and added that he thought he made people feel challenged and that collectively we can get anything done.

In retirement, Steve plans on taking on a larger role teaching at Colorado Mesa University where he has served as an adjunct professor since 1991; learning more about electrical transportation systems and storage batteries; taking his family on vacation to Mexico; and taking on his neglected chores.

Steve will miss the quality people and teams he has been honored to work with over the years the most.

Steve has served DMEA as an inspirational leader that continually explored the possibilities of “What If?” and “Why Not?” for 37.5 years and heads into retirement as our Chief Power Supply Officer. He leaves us with a quick word of advice “Keep evolving, being responsive, and thinking outside the box to solve the problems and better our future communities”.

CURBING CREDIT CARD FRAUD



brings changes for DMEA members

Companies and organizations like DMEA that handle a lot of credit card transactions are all required to operate under a set of guidelines that help protect you from credit card fraud. These guidelines are federally mandated by the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council and ultimately help protect cardholder data.

But, these standards don’t come without disruptions, some of which you may now notice when calling DMEA. We wanted to take a moment to explain the changes.

The biggest impact to DMEA members is that we are no longer allowed to verbally take credit card or check payments over the phone. PCI compliance standards require that our customer service representatives do not “handle” your card in any way, even if you are willing to give it to them. Instead, if you call in to make a payment, you must enter your card information through our secure interactive phone system using your phone’s keypad. Exceptions can not be made.

We recognize this may be frustrating for some of our members. If you’re struggling to make your payments over the phone, we do have other options for you to consider:

- Self-serve payment kiosks located in our front lobbies and the Hotchkiss Chamber of Commerce
- In person at 11925 6300 Rd., Montrose or 21191 H75 Rd., Delta
- By mail using the return envelope provided in your bill
- Online at www.dmea.com
- Drop boxes located outside each office, City Market (Delta, Montrose and Hotchkiss), Don’s Market (Paonia), and Food Town (Cedaredge)
- Automatically deduct your payment each month from your bank account

If you are interested in learning more about these payment options or signing your account up for auto draft, please reach out to us at csrs@dmea.com or 877-687-3632.