



# POWERLINES

YOUR CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006

plugging into our core business

- Tri-State to Raise Wholesale Power Rates
- A Rough Ride Ahead

## 1-2

plugging into energy efficiency

- "Brightening Our Communities" 2006 Light Bulb Fundraiser

## 3

plugging into renewable energy

- Leadership in Renewable Earth Energy
- Tri-State Rebate
- Green Power Now More Affordable

## 4

home cookin' & bright ideas

- Noodle Casserole
- High Altitude Apple Cake
- Blue Ribbon Apple Chutney
- Bright Ideas

## 5

plugging into our communities

- Destination: Washington, DC

## 6

### Tri-State to Raise Wholesale Power Rates January 2007

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association generates the electricity that DMEA and 43 other distribution co-ops in four states purchase and deliver to their members. Tri-State's board of directors has announced approval of the power supplier's 2007 operating budget of \$991 million that includes an increase in their wholesale rate to DMEA and the other 43 member electric co-ops from 5.1 cents per kilowatt-hour to approximately 5.65 cents per kilowatt-hour effective January 1, 2007. Tri-State also reported that, as of January 1, they will reduce their "Green Power" rate from a \$2.50 per month premium to \$1.25.

Tri-State executive vice-president/general manager J.M. Shafer said that the constant increase in demand for electricity among the 44 member systems, combined with the fact that all of the association's existing baseload generation resources are fully committed, puts Tri-State in the unenviable position of having to raise rates in order to meet its obligations. "Until we get some new baseload generating facilities developed, we're going to have to buy expensive power on the open market to meet the growth.

*(continued on pg. 2)*



### A Rough Ride Ahead

*When we pull together, we will make a difference*

Out in rodeo land, there's a saying used by cowboys when things get tough: "cowboy up." Well, with regard to the electricity business I think that we as members of DMEA are going to have to "cowboy up" to get through the next few years.

Tri-State's increase in wholesale power cost means that DMEA and the other 43 Tri-State co-ops will be paying about 12% more in 2007 than they did in 2006 for wholesale power. On average, DMEA member rates will increase by about 9% beginning in February 2007.

Wholesale power is the largest component of DMEA's entire budget and is now approaching 70% of the total. This increase comes on the heels of a 30% increase in Tri-State's wholesale rates over the past four years. In addition, we have been told to expect significant increases from Tri-State through the year 2012.

DMEA's Board of Directors and staff are well aware of the hardship that rate increases of any kind impose on our members. We know it is our charge to do all we can to help our members, and we are taking that responsibility.

*(continued on pg. 2)*

plugging into our core business

## A Rough Ride Ahead

(Continued from pg. 1)

bility seriously.

While we understand Tri-State's rationale in planning to build generation facilities to meet the demand of growing loads, we are strongly encouraging Tri-State to thoroughly analyze their long-range construction plans. DMEA's Board and staff are doing everything possible to see that Tri-State 1) ensures that the most cost-effective financing is obtained to build new facilities; 2) expands their renewable energy facilities; 3) sponsors and implements energy efficiency programs to help their member systems save energy and money; and 4) considers allowing the 44 members the opportunity to purchase power from other sources like renewable generation projects in our local communities.

Although progress toward mutually acceptable solutions is slow and difficult, we are pleased to report that we see signs of change and more acceptance of these kinds of ideas. The DMEA Board and staff remain committed to protecting the interests of our member-owners and we will pursue every opportunity to help Tri-State hold the line on costs.

Generally speaking, it is true that our nation has entered a period where we will see increased demand for electricity and significantly rising costs to supply that growth. With this understanding, we should realize that change is necessary in order to meet our collective energy needs in the future. We can't continue to do things "the same old way." As your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooper-

ative, DMEA is committed to delivering electricity and good service at the lowest possible cost. We encourage innovation, new technologies, and better ways of doing things. We will continue to be one of the voices at Tri-State to hold them accountable and promote operational change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation.

In addition, we ask the members of DMEA to speak up and to participate by providing input at upcoming meetings. The method by which Tri-State increases are allocated on the DMEA side will be determined at a rate hearing scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28th at DMEA's Montrose office, 11925 6300 Road, Montrose. DMEA's Board members and staff will also seek member input at open forum meetings during the next few weeks that will be held in the communities in our service territory prior to the formal rate hearing. **Look for dates, times, and locations of these meetings on [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) and in area newspapers, or call DMEA.**

DMEA member-owners who are unable to attend any of the open forum meetings or the November 28th rate hearing can email their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to [public.relations@dmea.com](mailto:public.relations@dmea.com). Your input will be fully considered by DMEA's Board and become part of the rate hearing record.

Additionally, members of the Board of Directors and staff welcome the opportunity to speak to area service groups and others on energy and rate issues. Please call the co-op's Read or Montrose office at 249-4572 or 874-8081 and ask for Cindy Bischak

with regard to inviting a DMEA representative to talk at your next meeting.

**"Together, We Have the Power To Make A Difference"** is the message that co-ops across the country are taking to their memberships to help set the stage for solutions during this difficult time. I have no doubt that through our collective effort, we indeed will be able to "cowboy up" and get through this "ride" together.



**Dan McClendon**  
General Manager

---

## Tri-State

(Continued from pg. 1)

Because of that, our purchased power costs are projected to increase from \$204 million this year to nearly \$247 million in 2007, which makes up a significant portion of our operating budget," Shafer said in a recent news release.

"Along with rapid system growth, comes increased financial obligations, which must be met to maintain our fiscal stability and the continued health of our power supply infrastructure," Shafer continued. "We're working toward a period of operational stability by building additional facilities to meet the growing loads, but in the meantime, we're facing numerous challenges - and pressure on rates is primary among them. To move forward and return to an era punctuated by reasonably stable member rates, we must take action to strengthen our financial standing in order to acquire the necessary funds to develop these much-needed additional facilities."



## "Brightening Our Communities" 2006 Light Bulb Fundraiser

**D**MEA invites you to participate in the **ENERGY STAR® Change a Light, Change the World** campaign - and help your favorite non-profit group, too!

Delta-Montrose Electric Association is an **ENERGY STAR®** partner and participates as a pledge-driver in the national campaign to "**Change a Light, Change the World**" campaign. DMEA also supports local non-profit groups this month in their "**Brightening Our Communities**" **Light Bulb Fund Raiser** - a hit last year with local non-profit groups as well as DMEA members - to encourage co-op members to replace their most-used incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's). Last year, 3,000 CFL's were sold by 15 non-profit groups, earning them a total of approximately \$6,000 for their charitable causes.

This year's campaign is even more exciting. In addition to compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's), local participating groups are offering 50-light LED (light emitting diode) holiday light strings in multicolor and white.

One of the best ways to save money on your electric bill is to replace your most used standard (incandescent) bulbs with high-quality compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) that have earned the government's **ENERGY STAR®** rating.

### Compact fluorescent light bulbs:

- ✦ **Use 75% less energy**
- ✦ **Provide warm, white light**
- ✦ **Last 13 times longer**
- ✦ **Are "instant on"**
- ✦ **Fit in any standard socket (but not dimmers)**
- ✦ **Reduce pollution**

The CFL's sold by these groups come in equivalents of 60-watt (uses only 14 watts), 75-watt (uses only 20 watts), and 100-watt (uses only 23 watts) sizes. Since one CFL lasts



*New this year - Holiday LED's!*

13 times longer, you won't have to buy 13 standard light bulbs, providing an estimated cost savings of about \$5 for each CFL. Additionally, as CFL's use about 75% less energy, you could save around \$5 every year in energy costs for each CFL at today's DMEA rates. Your total energy cost savings over time could be about \$50 for each frequently used incandescent light bulb you replace.

The LED holiday lights, a new addition this year, come in multicolor or white. LED's are ideal for indoor and outdoor applications, last about 10 times longer and use over 95% less energy than traditional holiday lights. They also have an advantage over regular holiday lights in that if one light goes out, the rest of the string stays on.

The CFL's and holiday lights you order from non-profit groups and pay for during the first 2 weeks of October are scheduled to be delivered to you by the participating group in mid-November.

For more details, and for a list of all the groups participating in the **Light Bulb Fund Raiser**, go to [www.lightbulbfundraiser.com](http://www.lightbulbfundraiser.com). The Fund Raiser ends on October 15th, so if you would like to purchase CFL's or LED holiday lights after that date, ask for them at your local retail dealer.



### ENERGY SAVING TIP:

DMEA members can save energy and help protect the environment by logging onto [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and taking the **ENERGY STAR® "Change a Light"** pledge."

WIN\* Pauline A. Cunningham, Crawford

# Builders Win Awards for Leadership in Renewable Earth Energy

Three local builders received recognition at DMEA's annual **Comfort Club Dinner** in August:

**Jason Byler of Byler Homes** in Montrose, Paonia architect **Bob McHugh**, and **Dan Piencikowski of G&D Built Rite Construction** of Montrose. The leadership awards, presented by DMEA, were for excellence in the use of design and construction methods that incorporate energy efficiency, including GeoExchange technology.

The **Comfort Club** event, hosted by Chief Operating Manager and GeoExchange

owner Steve Metheny and his wife Brenda at their home near Montrose, drew nearly 300 guests who enjoyed burgers, hot dogs and ice cream in celebration of the benefits of affordable, earth-friendly comfort. Now more than 500 strong, the **Comfort Club** is growing steadily with systems installed within the co-op's service territory and in surrounding areas.

GeoExchange systems provide affordable comfort all year round. For more details about the program, call DMEA's Energy Services team at 249-4572 or 874-8081.



*GeoExchange Program Manager Phil Zimmer (left) presents a leadership award to Dan Piencikowski of G&D Built Rite Construction.*

## Tri-State Rebate for Bridges' Clubhouse

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Board member Nancy Hovde recently presented a \$10,875 rebate check to Mark Renninger, General Manager of the Bridges Golf & Country Club, for the GeoExchange installation at The Bridges' 23,000 square foot clubhouse. "Tri-State's support of renewable energy, through their rebate program for GeoExchange owners, has helped the co-op make this technology, which uses renewable earth energy, available to hundreds of homes and businesses on the Western Slope," said Nancy, who is DMEA's Board Member for District 9, Director-at-Large.



WIN\* Andrew Farnese, Montrose



### GREEN POWER IS NOW EVEN MORE AFFORDABLE

Effective January 1, 2007, renewable energy through DMEA's "Green Power" program will be available at only \$1.25 per "block" of 100 kilowatt-hours per month - one-half of its former cost of \$2.50 per kWh. (This surcharge is in addition to your normal bill for kilowatt usage.)

**To sign up for Green Power, call 249-4572 or 874-8081**

# home cookin'



## Noodle Casserole

- 8 oz. noodles, cooked (any kind)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 cup sliced black olives
- Pepper

Mix cooked noodles, soup, milk, cheese and olives over low heat until blended well. Pour into buttered 8" x 8" pan. Sprinkle green onions and pepper on top, bake in 350° oven for 20 to 30 minutes.

- Suzie Eppler, Paonia



- 12 tart Jonathan apples (unpeeled but cored)
- 10 onions
- 2 red bell peppers
- 2 green bell peppers
- 1 jalapeno chili pepper



Put all ingredients except tomatoes through a course-bladed grinder, place in large canning pot with tomatoes that have been "squished" by hand.

Add:

- 5 tbsp. salt
- 1 quart vinegar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 lb. brown sugar

Slow cook until nice and thick - for at least 2 hours, stirring to prevent sticking. Can in jars and water bathe.

- Bonnie McMillan, Cedaredge



## Win a Small Appliance!

Find Your Name (Win\* name, city) in this newsletter, or send your favorite recipe or bright idea (include your name and city) to:

**DMEA Newsletter • P.O. Box 910  
Montrose, CO 81402  
or email [jschmalz@dmea.com](mailto:jschmalz@dmea.com)**

When your name is selected, or your recipe/bright idea is used, you win a small appliance! Call 249-4572 or 874-8081.

## High Altitude Apple Cake

Combine 2 1/2 cups raw apples, chopped with skins on, mixed with 1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice.

Cream 1/2 cup Crisco with 3/4 cup sugar, add 2 eggs, beat. Sift 1 1/4 cups flour, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1/2 tsp. baking soda. Combine dry mixture with wet mixture, stir well. Add apples, stir and place in a well-greased and floured bundt pan.

Top with 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 tsp. cinnamon, and 1/4 cup chopped nuts. Bake in 365° oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool a little, then turn bundt pan out onto plate for serving hot or cold.

- Kathy Svenson, Delta

## Blue Ribbon Apple Chutney

(Great on wild game, ham & beans, and makes great sloppy joes)

- 30 large peeled tomatoes



# bright ideas

If you are going to use only a portion of a cantaloupe or honeydew melon, leave all the seeds in the unused portion. Wrap in plastic wrap. It will remain fresh much longer. This works for avocado also.

- Helen Kyers, Cedaredge

When lining pans with aluminum foil, turn the pan over and fit the foil all around the pan, pressing firmly and down to the top of the pan. Carefully remove the foil and place it in the pan. Surplus foil will remove the cake (or whatever you are baking) easily.

- Carrie Major, Montrose

For people with low vision or macular degeneration, when filling a bucket or container with water, put your thumb over the edge. When the water touches your thumb, you know the bucket is full.

- Vera Bergmann, Eckert

WIN\* Oscar Olson, Cedaredge





## Destination: Washington, DC

Win a trip to the National Rural Electric Youth Tour

**D**elta-Montrose Electric Association is offering an opportunity for one student from a DMEA member family to attend the **National Rural Electric Youth Tour** June 7 - 14, 2007, in Washington, DC.

What makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities is that "giving something back to the community" is part of their business plan. Why is it that DMEA and electric cooperatives across the country sponsor high school students to Washington? Because it is important to learn about the political process to interact with their government. Students come away from the Youth Tour as better leaders with a sense that they can make a difference, and they gain a personal understanding of American history and their role as citizens by meeting their representatives and senators and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

The trip is co-sponsored by DMEA, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Colorado Rural Electric Association, Colorado Women's Task Force, and Tri-State

Generation & Transmission Association. All expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals, and all admission fees, will be paid by DMEA from its Unclaimed Capital Credits fund, which is designated for educational and charitable purposes.



*DMEA Board President Les Renfrow (left) and Dan McClendon, General Manager (right), with 2006 Youth Tour winner Kathleen Jessen from Paonia and this year's Youth Leadership Camp attendee Luke Schlaefer of Delta.*

Students may enter the contest by writing an essay, producing a 10-15 minute video, creating a free-hand drawing or computer-generated graphic, creating an energy efficiency advertisement, or take and submit a photograph. Essays should be typed, double-spaced, and contain a minimum of 250 words. Students are encouraged to illustrate their essays

with free-hand drawings or computer graphics. The applicant gets to pick the subject, as long as it relates to electricity.

**NOTE:** *Runners-up will be eligible to attend the Colorado Rural Electric Association's Youth Leadership Camp in July 2007 at Clark, Colorado (near Steamboat Springs).*

Students can pick up applications from their high school guidance counselors. For more details about both the national Youth Tour and the state Leadership Camp, visit either of DMEA's offices in Read or Montrose, call Judy Schmalz at 240-1298, or email [jschmalz@dmea.com](mailto:jschmalz@dmea.com). Students can also log onto [www.coloradorea.org](http://www.coloradorea.org), click on "Education," then "Youth

Activities." The **deadline** to receive completed applications and required entry materials is **Friday, December 29th**.

---

*Top of cover page: DMEA Board Member Nancy Hovde (r) presents a check in sponsorship of Cedaredge's annual Applefest to Suzette Fritchman (l) and Janet Starr (center).*

**DMEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Paul Gottlieb, District #1; Ed Marston, District #2; Charles Klaseen, District #3; Gary Richardson, District #4; Brent Hines, District #5; Marshall Collins, District #6; Les Renfrow, District #7; Ken Norris, District #8; Nancy Hovde, District #9, At Large

**BOARD MEETINGS:** DMEA Board Meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.

**DMEA MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 910 Montrose, CO 81402 • **WEBSITE:** [WWW.DMEA.COM](http://WWW.DMEA.COM)

**LOCATIONS:** 11925 6300 Road, Montrose - (970) 249-4572 • 21191 H75 Road, Delta - (970) 874-8081

© 2006 DMEA, all rights reserved. Graphic design by Wax Poetic Graphic Design, 970-323-9297. Printed by Scott's Printing, Inc., 970-249-2611.

6 plugging into our communities