

# ENERGY WISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Beginnings: The Executive Search and Questions for SMPA's Interim General Manager ..... 1 - 2
- Go Hawkeye! SMPA Supports Adaptive Sports .....2
- Holiday Card Coloring Contest Winner.....2

JANUARY  
2016



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Nucla**  
170 W. 10th Ave.  
P.O. Box 817  
Nucla, CO 81424  
(970) 864-7311  
M - TH, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

**Ridgway**  
720 N. Railroad St.  
P.O. Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432  
(970) 626-5549  
T - F, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

**www.smpa.com**  
**www.facebook.com/SanMiguel Power**

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you will be able to automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Send your questions or suggestions for the editors of EnergyWise to:  
**energywise@smpa.com**  
**(970) 626-5549 x212**

## SAFETY TIP

January is the worst for carbon monoxide poisoning. Remember, never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside the home, basement or garage or outside the home near a window.

San Miguel Power Association 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 [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.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 us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program\\_intake@usda.gov](mailto:program_intake@usda.gov).

## NOTABLES: New Beginnings

The Executive Search and Questions for SMPA's Interim General Manager



**Jim Link**  
Interim General Manager  
San Miguel Power Assoc.

The new year is a time to set new goals and follow new directions. With the retirement of our General Manager, Kevin Ritter, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is doubly engaged with these tasks. SMPA's Attorney, Jim Link is serving as Interim General Manager, and is responsible, not only

for maintaining oversight of the co-op, but also for preparing it for the next General Manager while still serving as general counsel. Although these responsibilities are keeping him quite busy, he earnestly agreed to take a moment to answer some questions about the executive search process that will lead to our next General Manager and the new direction for our cooperative.

**EnergyWise:** Thank you for taking time to answer our questions.

**Jim Link:** Absolutely. Communication with our members is vital, especially during times of transition.

**EnergyWise:** Indeed, and during this transition, you'll be playing a pretty significant role. Can you explain exactly what you are planning to do and what qualifications you have?

**Jim Link:** You bet. As you stated, my main responsibility will be to provide oversight and direction for SMPA while the Executive Search proceeds. I will

connect the Board, the Employees and the Members. I'll also help the SMPA Staff do some housecleaning so that the new General Manager can start fresh. As for my qualifications, I suppose my best one is the fact that I've done it before. I served as the interim General Manager back in 2007, before Kevin came on. Also, as SMPA's counsel since 1994, I'm also very familiar with SMPA's operations and current issues.

**EnergyWise:** What method is the Board using to find the next General Manager?

**Jim Link:** The Board has retained the services of Langley and Associates, an executive search firm experienced in placing senior executives in positions very similar to this one. They've already helped the Board design the position guide and job posting. They'll continue to serve in the search and vetting of candidates and as consultant as the Board moves through the search and interviews.

**EnergyWise:** Is the Board looking to promote someone from SMPA or are they searching for someone outside the organization?

**Jim Link:** The Board is considering both internal and external candidates.

**EnergyWise:** What's the timeline?

**Jim Link:** Back in October, Langley and Associates put forth a plan that lasted six months. With two months down, that would put a hire date at around May of 2016, but there are no guarantees. If the Board requires more time to find someone who is

BEGINNINGS cont. on page 2

Scholarship Applicants, you've got just  
**...one month to go.**

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) → Community Programs  
→ Youth Programs → Scholarships

Apply for the:

- \$500 Tri-State Scholarship
- \$1000 Basin Electric Scholarship
- \$2000 SMPA Scholarship
- \$2500 Renewable Wes Perrin Memorial Scholarship

**Deadline: February 5<sup>th</sup>**

# Cash for College



## Make a difference.



[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com) → Renewable Energy → Green Cents / Green Blocks.

## Beginnings ...continued from pg. 1

a good fit, they'll take it. This decision is far too important to rush just to make a projected timeline.

**EnergyWise:** There have been questions in the community concerning the next General Manager's attitude concerning renewable energy. Can you address that?

**Jim Link:** With SMPA's net metering program, five separate renewable projects, including the Paradox solar array, which is still the single largest community-owned solar array in the country, as well as a host of renewable energy rebates, this cooperative has established a reputation as being a leader in the field of renewable energy. The Board is proud of that legacy. I expect that they would want the new General Manager to keep moving in that direction.

**EnergyWise:** Doesn't Tri-State, the SMPA wholesaler limit the amount of local renewables SMPA can have on its system? How will a new General Manager balance the desire to expand renewables with the relationship between SMPA and Tri-State?

**Jim Link:** That's a good question. Unfortunately, the answer is not simple. Tri-State has provided decades of reliable service to SMPA and its ability to continue this service depends, to a large degree, upon commitments by its member cooperatives.

However, changes in technology, material costs, the federal and state regulatory environments, and Tri-State's own governance are constantly impacting the landscape. Most recently, a ruling by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has introduced a new twist on how locally generated renewable energy is connected to the grid and the price paid for that energy. Just as our current employees, the new General Manager of SMPA will have to be well-versed, and

well-qualified to serve as the Board's eyes and ears regarding this matter.

**EnergyWise:** Currently, SMPA has offices in Nucla and Ridgway. Do you think a new General Manager might change that configuration?

**Jim Link:** The Board has directed prior General Managers and me to maintain offices in both locations. Until the Board decides otherwise, that's how it will be.

**EnergyWise:** What effect might the new General Manager have on the electric rates and/or the access charge that our members currently pay?

**Jim Link:** Again, the ultimate decisions with regard to electric rates will be made by the Board, but the General Manager and SMPA's Staff will work to give the Board the best information possible on which to base their decision. We are currently conducting a rate study that will assist in this determination.

**EnergyWise:** There is a great need for affordable, reliable high-speed internet service in our communities. Many look to SMPA as a possible part of the solution. How would the next General Manager address this issue?

**Jim Link:** This issue is so current that progress will not wait for the next General Manager. While the Board has clearly stated that it does not intend to get into the business of internet service, it is not blind to the need. In the next few months, SMPA will be supporting local governmental groups across our area in their efforts to move this service forward.

**EnergyWise:** Once again, thank you, Jim for taking the time to answer our questions. We wish you the best as you chart the course for this transitional period.

**Jim Link:** Thank you. Back to work!

## Go Hawkeye! SMPA Supports Adaptive Sports

On May 17, 2015, the Telluride GoHawkeye Foundation presented a new BOMBER custom made off road hand-cycle to the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program (TASP) where it was immediately put to use by paraplegic rider, David Poole at the TASP Moab Mania Reunion Weekend.



Adaptive athlete, Milo DeVries (L) and GoHawkeye Founder, Hawkeye Johnson (R) receive the SMPA donation from Board President, Rube Felicelli.

On May 18, 2015, GoHawkeye contest winner Danielle Lancelot Watson, who had lost the use of her legs in a rock climbing accident, received her dream bike, a NUKE custom built off road hand-cycle, made by ReActive Adaptations. This racing raspberry-painted bike was given at a four day campout and mountain biking experience along the Kokopelli Trail near Moab, Utah.

These are just a few of the gifts that have been made possible through the efforts of the GoHawkeye Foundation in Telluride. Program founder, Hawkeye Johnson explains, "We provide support to adaptive organizations and individuals through financial aid, outdoor experiences and film making meant to inspire people of all abilities."

Since its inception in 2007, the foundation has raised over \$43,000 for the benefit of adaptive sports programs and the disabled athletes they support. In addition, the foundation produced two film shorts, "Load Bearing" which received the Telluride Film Festival "Moving Mountains" award and "Off the Hook" which received international exposure at the Italian Adventure Film Awards Festival. Presently, GoHawkeye is in production of a third video, "Falling into Place" about Watson, her accident, her hand-cycle experiences and her indomitable spirit.

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is proud to sponsor the GoHawkeye Foundation and its efforts to open up the outdoors to disabled individuals across the nation. Keep it up Hawkeye; we're behind you all the way!

## Congratulations!

...to Claire Lindley of Ridgway Elementary School for winning the 2015 Holiday Card Coloring Contest! Her artwork adorned the SMPA holiday card which went to all our associates and business contacts. Thanks, Claire!



### 1<sup>st</sup> Place:

Claire Lindley  
Ridgway Elementary

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Maizy Gordon  
Ridgway Elementary

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

Alize Hannigan  
Norwood Public School

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](http://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)