



Watching the
Lights Switch On
in Guatemala



Combined Efforts
in Hurricane
Disaster Response



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Success Grant

NOVEMBER 2022

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage,
contact your local SMPA office to
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

November is National Child
Safety & Protection Month

SMPA reminds people of all ages to:

- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Kites and model airplanes should be flown only during good weather conditions in large open areas.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment

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Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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A Brighter Future

How often does one get to watch the lights come on in a place that has never had the benefit of electricity?

That was the experience of SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski, this past September. Zaporski recently joined an outreach team that brought gifts to a remote village in Guatemala and that oversaw a crew of Colorado and Oklahoma lineworkers as they extended electric power infrastructure to the site.

A small village of 560 people, La Montanita de la Virgen now can access electricity in 81 homes, 2 churches and the local school. During the three-week endeavor, the joint-state team installed 77 power poles and strung 8.5 miles of primary and secondary line up and down mountainsides, and through thick forests.

Zaporski and the leadership team also delivered 100 water filters and 100 kids back packs filled with supplies to the villagers. With extra donations from the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation, they were also able to buy a couple of fans and help the school build a new bathroom.

The village showed its thanks with a major celebration and lighting ceremony. The students performed songs, poems and dances for their visitors from the U.S. "Today, a dream becomes a reality," said Roberto Ramirez Guerra, the Village Mayor. "Electricity is not a luxury, it's a necessity. Your work will be remembered forever."



SMPA CEO, Brad Zaporski helps a local resident turn on the lights at her school. (September, 2023)

'Deferred Revenue:' the Financial Shock Absorber

When an athlete wants to increase their strength, they ramp up their training, but they do so gradually, to avoid injury. This same principle can apply to cooperative finance as well.

A number of factors, including a worldwide supply chain squeeze, material inflation and uncertainty about the future cost of wholesale power are signaling a likely increase in the cost of distributing electricity to our members. If this cost rises significantly, SMPA may need to recover more revenue through increased rates, but we would want to do it in a way that avoids a shock.

That's where "deferred revenue" can help. In a non-profit system, revenue that remains after the cooperative covers expenses and meets lending ratio requirements, can be partially deferred for use at a future time. SMPA has been using this strategy for several years to create a financial "shock absorber" that can buffer the effects of a large rate increase. This can give members a chance to adjust to an increase while temporarily shielding them from volatile market conditions.

As we strengthen our cooperative to meet the challenges of the future, it's prudent to give our members time to adjust.

Co-ops Respond to the Destruction of Hurricane Ian



“In tough times like these, the core cooperative principle of cooperation among cooperatives takes on new meaning,” said Randy Shaw, CEO of Peace River Electric Cooperative in Wauchula, Florida as more than 1,000 line technicians, vegetation management contractors and support personnel worked 16-hour shifts to assess and repair damage since Hurricane Ian slammed into southwest Florida with 155 mph winds.

Co-op crews, backed by hundreds of mutual aid personnel from electric co-ops in eight states, helped get thousands of members reconnected as quickly and as safely as possible. Cooperation like this is inspiring. We hope for continued repair and healing in Florida, and salute the Cooperatives that donated time and resources to the effort!

Sharing Success Economic Development Grants

Do you have a project that stimulates your local economy? For the past seven years, San Miguel Power Association Inc., in conjunction with its national cooperative partner, CoBank, has sought funding opportunities that stimulate and enhance our local economies, and provided grant monies to authors of winning proposals.

Check www.smpa.com/content/sharing-success-economic-development-grants to learn about the next application cycle.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Nov. 28th



Summer programs like those at Voyager Youth help ease burdens for working parents.

We've Increased our Scholarship Amounts!

San Miguel Power now awards up to \$51,000 in college scholarships to students who are dependents of SMPA members. We award up to nineteen scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

The following scholarships are available:

- \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship (Deadline: February 20, 2023)
- Rocky Mountain Electrical League Foundation Scholarship Application (Deadline: Feb 25, 2023)
- \$3,000 San Miguel Power Association Scholarship (Deadline: March 13, 2023)
- \$3,000 San Miguel Power Association Vocational Scholarship (Deadline: March 13, 2023)

Check out <https://www.smpa.com/content/scholarships> to learn more!



BLOOD DRIVE



Because of you, life doesn't stop #vitaltolife

San Miguel Power

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
11:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA

GIVE BLOOD | vitalant.org



Happy Thanksgiving!

Please note: Our offices will be closed Wednesday, November 23rd through the end of the week.

Offices will open again on Monday, November 28th.

Basic services are always available on smpa.smarthub.coop/Login.htm



Have you changed your phone # or email? Let us know at 1-877-864-7311

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
VEER UNDER RE FEED
Hint... A Buffer Effect

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432