

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Both Offices Open:
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

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 x2120

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Never use a gasoline or diesel powered generator indoors.
- ✓ Keep your cooking area clear of combustibles.
- ✓ Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet, not a power strip, nor an extension cord.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, 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.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FEATURE STORY

Sharing Success Winners Announced

Every year, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), in conjunction with its national cooperative partner, CoBank, offers \$20,000 in economic development grants to communities seeking to promote economic growth, stimulate local work opportunities, while building prosperity and collaboration.

These “Sharing Success” grants have gone to help build outdoor play places, cultural centers, affordable housing, tourist and business resources and they are slated to continue into the foreseeable future. Capping off the year of 2023, the SMPA Board voted to award Sharing Success grants to two local projects that aim to leverage the natural beauty and outdoor exercise potential of their surroundings to encourage visitors stay and play.

THE OURAY ICE PARK

A recent study by Kent State University determined that Ice Park visitors account for 60 percent of the town’s economy every winter. However, recent shortages at the one spring that serves all water needs of the city, have hampered operations. Last year, the Ice Park secured an agreement that gives the park a permanent right to pull water from an alternative water source. Now the Ice Park is moving quickly to take advantage of this incredible gift by building a delivery system that will transport this water to the park.



Photo: Amy Kuhn

RICO CAMPSITES

Today, the Town of Rico has a significant lodging shortage. The proposal is to build 6 campsites on unique riverfront property, owned by the Town. The campsites, combined with other recreation amenities can transform the property into a regional recreational hub with compelling year-round outdoor activities and community events / festivals / gatherings. The planned result will catalyze tourism and create economic growth for the community.



Skijoring Rides Again!

For seven years running, the San Juan Skijoring event has helped bring in visitors and sportsmen to Ridgway, Colorado to compete in and watch one of the craziest sports ever conceived. Skijoring combines a skier, a horse and a rider into a team that completes a course of snow jumps and turns to score points. Highest score wins.

This year, SMPA was proud to host a booth promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, and to present a donation check, combining the support of Tri-State Generation and Transmission as well as Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Thanks to all who made this year’s event a success!



What are the benefits of signing up for Paperless Billing?

Paperless billing in SmartHub is the eco-friendly way to get instant access to your bill and declutter your life.

Save time: You no longer have to wait for your bill to arrive in the mail. You get instant access to your bill the minute it is published. **Declutter your desk:** Cut down on the stack of paper invoices on your desk. You’ll feel more organized and be doing the planet a big favor!

Supporting Education through Member Dividends

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) distributes Member Dividends as a unique financial benefit to their members. These credits represent each member's ownership stake in the cooperative, reflecting their contribution to the organization's financial well-being. Unlike investor-owned utilities, cooperatives are owned and governed by their members, who are also customers. Members receive Member Dividends based on their individual contributions to the cooperative's revenue through payment of electricity bills. When the cooperative's revenues exceed expenses, it allocates these excess funds as Member Dividends to its members.

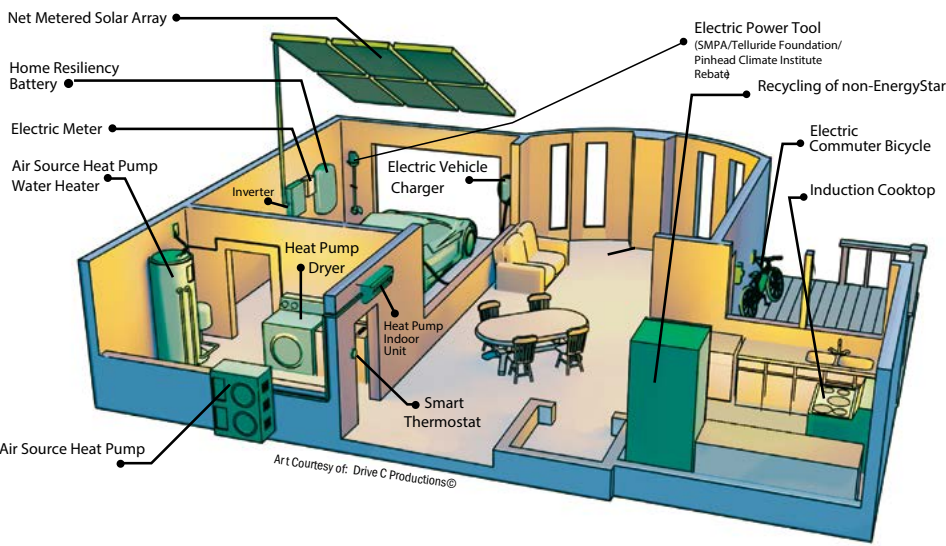
Organizations like schools also pay power bills and are entitled to Member Dividends. Recently, the Telluride school district received a check for over \$4K in Member Dividends. "It's nice to be able to use these funds in our general fund school programming," said Christine Reich, the Telluride School District Director of Finance. The district mission calls for a combination of classic education with Telluride's cultural and experiential offerings.

It's fun to imagine what the Telluride district will do with their Member Dividends! Go Miners!



2024 Rebates

Did you resolve to improve your home's energy efficiency this year? SMPA wants to help. Check out the rebates available for all these appliances at smpa.com/energy#berebates



Who needs money for college?

San Miguel Power now awards up to \$47,000 in college scholarships to students who are dependents of SMPA members. We award up to seventeen scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

The following scholarships are available:

\$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship
(Deadline: February 19, 2024)

\$3,000 San Miguel Power Association Scholarship
(Deadline: March 11, 2024)

\$3,000 San Miguel Power Association Vocational Scholarship (Deadline: March 11, 2024)



BLOOD DRIVE

Because of you, life doesn't stop #vitaltolife

San Miguel Power
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA

GIVE BLOOD | vitalant.org **vitalant.**

FOLLOW US

www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower
www.youtube.com/channel/UCqByNd--KLwNI2SEWINJcmg

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

Interested in Becoming a Candidate for SMPA Board of Directors?

- STEP 1 Get Information**
Call to verify your district of residence & primary account designation. (970) 626-5549
- STEP 2 Get Petition Packet**
Available in March. Paper copy in SMPA Lobbies or digital at www.smpa.com/content/elections
- STEP 3 Review**
Review & attest that you meet qualifications.
- STEP 4 Gather**
Get 15 member signatures. (Physical, phone-in, or email accepted)
- STEP 5 Submit Petition**
Submit completed petition, attestation & related documents by April 4, 2024.
- STEP 6 Candidacy**
Get Certified as a candidate by Election Monitor.
- STEP 7 Election**
Campaign & vote.
- STEP 8 Annual Meeting**
Find out Board seat winners at the conclusion of the meeting.

ELECTION SCHEDULE

- February, 2024:**
Notice of Right to Nominate mailed to members in District #1 and District #4.
- March, 2024:**
Nomination packets available at SMPA Offices.
Email alex@smpa.com for digital.
- April 4, 2024:**
Petitions with 15 or more valid member signatures DUE.

Date of Record (New Election District Members or those who switch their primary account to an election District after this date will not be eligible to vote in 2024.)
- April 24, 2024:**
Paperless voting email campaign allowing members to "turn off" their paper ballot, if they wish.
- Mid-May, 2023:**
Ballots are mailed and online voting opens.
- June 5, 2024:**
Mail-in & e-ballot deadline. Online voting closes.
- June 6, 2024: ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING** Nucla, Colorado. An in-person / virtual event. See www.smpa.com to register. (Election results announced.)

SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:
DEM DD VIBES R MINE
Hint...Cash back to you.
Last Month's Scramble Answer: AGRIVOLTAICS

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432