



2023 SMPA
Scholarship Winners
Announced



Long Term
Affordability—
What does it mean?



Attend + Win!
The SMPA Annual
Meeting

JUNE 2023

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



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, 7:00a.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 x2120



SUMMER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Convert basic outdoor outlets to GFCI outlets.
- While trimming or climbing trees, watch out for nearby power lines.
- Use lights that are rated for outdoor use.

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.

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.

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.intakeusda.gov.

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

A Career in Power?

In April, we had the chance to visit Ridgway Secondary School's Career Fair and shine some light on the many careers available to future job-seekers in the power industry. Thanks to the Ridgway school for the invitation!



Timing Matters

When you use electricity is as important as how much you use. Did you know that the power you use between 4 PM & 9 PM costs SMPA four times as much, and has a higher carbon impact than power used during the rest of the day?

Power bills are beginning to show information about the monthly usage "Peak," as well as the "On-Peak" and "Off-Peak" periods. If you shift your power use away from the peak period, you help lower SMPA's cost for everyone and lessen the strain on our electric grid.

2023 SMPA Scholarship Winners Announced

IN 2022, THE SMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED TO INCREASE OUR SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS FOR BOTH THE COLLEGIATE AND THE VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS. IN TOTAL, SMPA AND ITS COOPERATIVE PARTNERS GAVE \$26,000 TO THESE LOCAL STUDENTS SEEKING HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING:



Silvertown High School
3K College:
Paton Edwards



Telluride High School
3K College:
Taylor Holmes



Ridgway High School
3K College:
Courtney Southall



Norwood High School
3K College & Basin \$1000:
Yoselin Hernandez



Nucla High School
3K College:
Lisa Sutherland



Ouray High School
3K College:
Mica Hart



Nucla High School
3K Vocational:
Jezel Demus



Silvertown High School
3K Vocational:
Selene Rhoades



Ridgway High School
Tri-State \$500:
Canyon Ishikawa



Ridgway High School
Tri-State \$500:
Autumn Sagal

Long-Term Affordability – Looking Ahead for our Members

Much has been said about the need for affordable housing in Colorado and beyond. Enter the nonprofit developer, Rural Homes, For Sale, For Locals (Rural Homes), with its bold notion to build and sell homes for under \$430K near markets in which average home prices can be in the millions. Through partnerships enabling low-cost capital, donated land, and a cost-efficient factory construction process, this seemingly impossible concept is becoming a reality.

“...but affordability applies to more than just the purchase price of a home,” says Phil Zimmer, Member & Energy Services Supervisor of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA). One of the early home designs used an electric resistance heating solution in the cold winters of Western Colorado. “Those units may be cheap to buy, but they’re expensive to run,” says Zimmer. This highlights one of SMPA’s core strategies. “We encourage not just electrification, but beneficial electrification.” For example, within the model home, a ducted cold-climate air-source heat pump (CCASHP) could provide the same level of heat in the winter at about half of the monthly cost. As a bonus, the same unit also works as an air-conditioner during the summer months, during which outside temperatures can rise to 100 degrees.



If homeowners are on a limited income and their winter heating bill is still hundreds of dollars a month, it kind of defeats what we at Fading West are trying to do. The heat pumps will give heating and cooling and will be far more efficient.

– REX KING, FADING WEST PROJECT MANAGER



The slightly higher upfront cost of the heat pump is paid over time through monthly utility savings. Again, with the motive of ongoing affordability, this total monthly cost is kept lower than that of inefficient, piecemeal climate control solutions.

“Now the model is being replicated in projects across the state and in other regions around the country,” says Zimmer. “It’s just because we were looking to make this project work for our members on a monthly basis.” As affordable housing projects in Norwood, Ridgway, Ouray are being designed and constructed with the same long-term logic, SMPA would like to thank Rural Homes, San Miguel and Ouray counties, the Colorado Clean Energy Fund, and Fading West Construction, as well as the many other partners who have come together to overcome an absurd problem for the ultimate benefit of our communities and local families.

Learn about SMPA-facilitated benefits like solar panels and the on-bill financing pilot program for these affordable housing projects at <https://www.smpa.com/polis-visit-norwood-co-affordable-housing-project-reveals-challenges-and-solutions>

Join us in person or online for the San Miguel Power Association

84th ANNUAL MEETING



It's our *Time to Shine*

◆ WHEN:

Thursday, June 8th

4:30 - 5:30 Registration, Booths, Music & Dinner

5:30 - 7:30 Business Meeting

◆ PRIZES:



- PLUS:**
- Lawnmower
 - Power Washer
 - Walkie Talkies
 - Smart Clock
 - Weed Whacker
 - Google Nest
 - TV Headphones

◆ WHERE:

SMPA Ridgway Office

720 North Railroad Street
Ridgway, CO - Attend in person

◆ ONLINE:

Registration & Materials:
www.smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election

Join at 5:30 PM for the meeting, or earlier for fun!

2022 UNCLAIMED MEMBER DIVIDENDS

SMPA is seeking current and former members who have not yet claimed their member dividends. In January, 2022, the co-op sent out nearly \$1 million in Member Dividend checks to members who received electric service during the year, 1993.

Many of those checks have not been cashed. Members are encouraged to check the list at www.smpa.com/member-dividends.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



GIVE BLOOD | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA

vitalant.org



Happy Independence Day!

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

Basic services are always available at <https://smpa.smarthub.coop/>

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle:
G TWISTN FRIEND CAN SCOUT ON
Hint... **Making money-saving boxes.**

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432



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