

# ENERGY WISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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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:  
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**SAFETY TIP**

Avoid flying kites, metallic balloons and radio-controlled toys near power lines. If a kite or Mylar balloon drifts near a power line, let it go. Never try to retrieve anything caught in a power line or from a tree located near a power line.

**Has your bank sent you one of the new "chip" credit cards? If you use auto-pay, your information may be out-of-date, and payments may not be going through. Please call (970) 626-5549 today to update your Credit Card info!**



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: SMPA Focuses on Youth

Young People and Cooperatives go way back.



When the cooperative business model was first created by the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844, 'young people' were specifically mentioned in the 5th Cooperative Principle of Education, Training and Information: "...co-operatives inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation."

In order to engage the youth of our communities, San Miguel Power Association has designed a wide variety of offerings for local schools and students of all grade levels. Share these programs with a young person, a teacher, a student or some one who could benefit from them!

**Touchstone Energy Kids Zone (Grades K - 5)**

The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives programs are fully integrated energy education campaigns that include web-based lessons, web activities and games, and printed materials.

**Hotline Demo & other Safety Demonstrations (Grades K-12)**

We have a classroom presentation entitled "Electrical Safety at Home" and an outdoor high voltage demonstration trailer that allows us to educate the community about power line safety.

**Tri-State's The Story behind the Switch (Grades 4-5)**

A complete lesson, reader and classroom or large group presentation including fun and educational demos like the electrifying plasma ball and the hair-raising Van de Graff machine.

**The Energy Bike (Grades 11 - 12)**

San Miguel Power Association is seeking a partnership with a visionary science or engineering club to design (based on sample plans) and build an Energy Bike to help promote understanding and appreciation of the work that power does in our schools, our communities and our lives. Project expenses to be covered by San Miguel Power Association.

**The Super Energy Savers Classroom Kit (Grades K - 5)**

One kit includes: 1) Classroom poster featuring CFL Charlie, 2) Teacher instructions, 3) Energy Saving Checklists, 4) "Super Energy Saver" certificates, 5) Activity booklets, 6) Folders, 7) Super Energy Saver light switch covers.

**Knowledge Bowl Sponsorships (Grades 6 - 12)**

SMPA is committed to sponsor one regularly scheduled knowledge bowl competition for the San Juan Basin Knowledge Bowl League. (This sponsorship benefits a different host school within the SMPA service territory, each year).

**Careers in Energy Presentation Part I (Grades 9 - 12)**

A general, large-group inspiration session will give an overview of the careers available and life as an electric power cooperative employee.

**Careers in Energy Presentation Part II (Pizza with Professionals) (Grades 9 - 12)**

A more focused, visit by a professional and Q & A session can offer more details and a personal connection for those students who are interested in learning more about a particular field.

**Mock Interviews (Grades 9 - 12)**

Ideal for Business, public speaking, vocational classes or FBLA club, this mock interview project takes students through all the stages of the job seeking process including the job application, resume review and interview process. Detailed and constructive critiques are provided for the benefit of the whole group.

**Job Shadowing (Grades 11 - 12)**

For students who are highly focused, individual job shadowing experiences can be arranged. We have professionals in the fields of Engineering, Energy Services, Accounting, Operations (Line Crews) and many others.

**CREA-CEEI Youth Leadership Camp (Grades 11 - 12)**

The primary objective of the camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. Students will develop leadership skills that will assist them with the challenges they will face in the future.

**NRECA National Cooperative Youth Tour (Washington D. C.) (Grades 11 - 12)**

The Youth Tour offers students an in-depth exposure into the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital. Students will visit historic monuments and museums, meet with U.S. Representatives and Senators, and join hundreds of young people from across the country to meet and mingle on Rural Electric Youth Day.

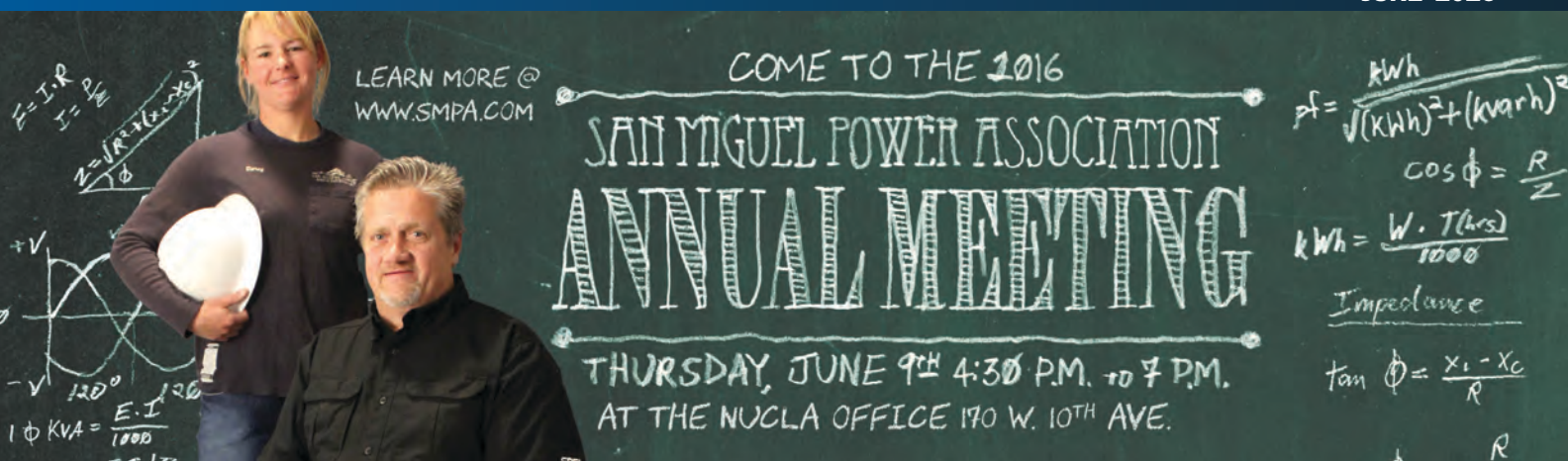
**Scholarships (Grade 12)**

Each year, San Miguel Power awards up to sixteen scholarships totalling up to \$27,000 in college scholarships to deserving students who are dependents of SMPA members. These scholarships include:

- \$2,000 San Miguel Power Association Vocational Scholarship (one per school)
- \$2,000 San Miguel Power Association Scholarship (one per school)
- \$500 Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Scholarship (x2)
- \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship (1 to 2)

If you are interested in learning more about any of these programs, please call 970-626-5549 or email [energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com).





## Small Hydros Make Waves for SMPA

### Net-Metered Members Show the Pioneering Spirit

An early adopter is a person who starts using a product or technology as soon as it becomes available. In our region we have a wide group who are the “early adopters” of solar grid-tie technology. This group of people have recognized the advantages and practicality of deploying cutting-edge, modern solar equipment here in western Colorado. While this in itself is trendsetting and noteworthy, it is also a national and international trend that is in no way unique to this region.

There is another, albeit much smaller, group who we might label as the “pioneers” of an altogether different technology. These individuals have re-contextualized a very old and well known concept and are truly transforming the regional and national opportunities for hydro-power generation. To successfully develop a small hydro generating system it takes vision, persistence, and risk-all characteristics of the pioneer. Here are three examples of SMPA members who are hydro-electric pioneers:

Project One, owned by the City of Ouray, is one of these visions. Built off an abandoned 6” water line that ran through town, this hydro facility is the product of a visionary citizen, and at the time Mayor of Ouray, Bob Risch. Up against funding, engineering and construction challenges, Mr. Risch’s vision became a community-building, energy-harnessing, money-saving reality.

Project Two, the San Juan Historical Society Mayflower Mill hydro-plant in Silverton, is another case in point. In order to become a legally established generator, small hydro plants like this one had to tackle onerous federal regulations originally developed for projects like the Hoover Dam. Usually, such regulations become deal-breakers for such small systems. But because of the influence and persistence of Mayflower Mill developers like Beverly Rich and Kurt Johnson, federal regulations were drastically improved to make licensing for small hydro projects like this one attainable. The way forward for this and other small hydro projects has now been established thanks to their persistence.



Terry Boekhout, Nucla Hydro Pioneer

Project Three, located in Nucla and single-handedly developed by Terry Boekhout, came into being despite the risky environment that shrouds nearly every aspect of hydro-electricity generation. From unknown project costs and even more elusive government and utility incentives to tricky National Electric Code requirements and the utility net metering policy, the ultimate success of the project was no sure thing. Mr. Boekhout was the glue that kept the construction of the project including the penstock, the inlet and outlet, the generator house, the overall design of the site, the unknowns and everything else from flying out of control.

While the challenges are many and each hydro project is vastly unique, the one thing small hydro developers possess in common is passion. What else keeps the individual from giving up on their project despite all the obstacles and the uncertainty of success? It is passion that transcends the risk, fuels the persistence, and inspires their vision. It is passion that is the true mark of a pioneer.

## 2016 Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to these deserving students who won scholarships from San Miguel Power Association, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Your future looks bright, indeed!

### SMPA \$2000 Scholarship (Norwood H.S.):

Braden Barkemeyer – UC Boulder

### SMPA \$2000 Scholarship (Nucla H.S.):

Erin Staats – Colorado Mountain College

### SMPA \$2000 Scholarship (Ridgway H.S.):

Hasten Beamer – Grand Canyon University

### SMPA \$2000 Scholarship (Silverton H.S.):

Talitha Gallegos – Ft. Lewis College

### SMPA \$2000 Scholarship (Telluride H.S.):

Abigail Segerstrom – The New School – New York

### SMPA \$2000 Scholarship (Ouray H.S.):

Hunter Clapsadl – University of Utah

### Basin Electric \$1000 Scholarship:

Ebba Green – Colorado College

### Tri-State \$500 Scholarship:

Roxanne Ervin – Westminster College, Utah

### Tri-State \$500 Scholarship:

Nate Fedel – Creighton University

### SMPA \$2000 Vocational Scholarship (Norwood H.S.):

Christa Kennedy – Laramie County Community College, Wyoming

### Wes Perrin Memorial Scholarship (Four Year Renewable) (\$2500 per year):

Jack Plantz – CU Boulder  
This scholarship is in honor of James “Wes” Perrin. Perrin, who was a long time SMPA Board of Director and a passionate advocate for energy efficiency and renewable energy.



Braden Barkemeyer



Hasten Beamer



Talitha Gallegos



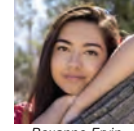
Abigail Segerstrom



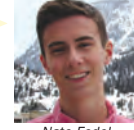
Hunter Clapsadl



Ebba Green



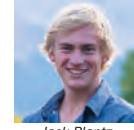
Roxanne Ervin



Nate Fedel



Christa Kennedy



Jack Plantz

## SMPA HELPS SCHOOLS SAVE ENERGY

Educational programming is not the only way that SMPA is assisting its schools. For several years, SMPA has also been helping schools that want to upgrade to more efficient lighting systems. Assistance can include anything from application for rebates, lighting audit and assessment, to project planning and partnership. Here are some of the exciting projects that have utilized assistance from SMPA:



- The Telluride Middle/High School LED Lighting Retrofit
- Ouray School Lighting Retrofit – as part of the 2015-2016 School Building Renovations
- Ridgway Elementary School & Secondary School Lighting Assessments and Retrofit
- Norwood K-12 school – Lighting retrofit Phase I & beginning Phase II

In many cases, old standard T-8 & T-12 fluorescent lights which draw 30-40 watts are being replaced with LED Lights that draw just 9 watts while producing superior light.