



2018 SMPA Scholarship Recipients



Exchange Students Take Flight



Greenlights Program Extended!

JULY 2018

# ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

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: 1-877-864-7311

**Ridgway**  
720 N. Railroad St.  
P.O. Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432  
(970) 626-5549  
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

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

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://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](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
(970) 626-5549 x212

## SAFETY TIPS

### DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PUT OUT AN ELECTRICAL FIRE?

- Switch off appliance and pull out plug. Smother fire with blanket or Type C extinguisher. Never try to cool with water because water conducts electricity and can give you an electrical shock.

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Persons 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](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](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

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

## San Miguel Power Announces 2018 Scholarship Recipients

"EVERY YEAR WE HAVE AN AMAZING GROUP OF STUDENTS APPLY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS, AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION," SAID SMPA CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER, BRAD ZAPORSKI. "SAN MIGUEL POWER SENDS OUT OUR THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN OUR SERVICE TERRITORY FOR THEIR HARD WORK SHAPING OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS."

SMPA awarded \$18,000 in scholarships this year to help local students pursue higher education. SMPA offers one \$2,000 SMPA scholarship to a graduating senior from each local high school, (including public, charter and private schools) two \$500 Tri-State scholarships, and one \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship, as well as a \$2000 Vocational Scholarship for each school, dedicated to students planning to pursue career training after high school.

The scholarships are awarded based on overall academic performance, community involvement, student need, and the students' own writings.

The scholarship recipients were selected from a blind evaluation by a volunteer committee. This committee selflessly commits their time and effort to evaluate applications thoroughly and fairly. SMPA expresses our sincere thanks to these volunteers.

*Congratulations to this year's San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), Tri-State, and Basin Electric scholarship recipients. SMPA is proud to award the following scholarships to deserving graduating seniors within the co-op's service territory:*



**DETYLYND SNOW**  
Norwood High School  
SMPA \$2000 Scholarship



**KALLI STARKS**  
Norwood High School  
SMPA \$2000 Vocational Scholarship



**EMILY CASE**  
Nucla High School  
SMPA \$2000 Scholarship



**CHRISTOPHER PFIFER**  
Nucla High School  
SMPA \$2000 Vocational Scholarship



**CALEB JONES**  
Paradox Valley Charter School:  
SMPA \$2000 Scholarship



**ELIZABETH WILLIAMS**  
Ouray High School:  
SMPA \$2000 Scholarship  
Basin Electric \$1000 Scholarship



**EVAN VANN**  
Ouray High School:  
Tri-State \$500 Scholarship



**HUNTER GENTRY**  
Ridgway High School:  
SMPA \$2000 Scholarship



**RIDGEWALKER BUSCH**  
Telluride High School:  
SMPA \$2000 Scholarship



**ADRIAN SCHEIBLER**  
Telluride High School:  
Tri-State \$500 Scholarship

## What Effect Could Nearby Wildfires Have on Your Electricity?

Under dry, hot weather conditions like these, we take extra precautions to reduce the risk of fire when restoring power. We rely less on our automated and remotely-controlled equipment, and instead require our line crews to be on site when power is restored. This practice reduces the risk of fire, but it can also extend the duration of a given power outage.

*SMPA asks for patience from its members as power outages are addressed.*

## SMPA Election: Cokes, Alexander Elected

Last month, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) held its 79th Annual Meeting at its office in Nucla, CO. The meeting concluded with the reading of election results for District No. 3 and District No. 6 board director elections.

**District No. 6:**  
Debbie Cokes (unopposed)

**District No. 3:**  
Joanna Kanow: 95 votes  
Allyn Svoboda: 57 votes  
David Alexander: 119 votes



## SMPA and Touchstone Balloon Help Exchange Students Take Flight



What do foreign exchange students have to do with the Touchstone Energy Balloon? Telluride Balloon Festival Organizer, Marilyn Branch can tell you. "Because our local power company, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, they have access to the Touchstone balloon. We invited the Touchstone Balloon to participate in the festival." As part of Touchstone Energy, SMPA graciously donates to a non-profit of whichever of its communities hosts the balloon.

As it happens, Branch is also the Telluride Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Officer in charge of the Telluride RYE program. This worldwide program provides more than 6,000 teenagers each year a chance

to experience a new culture as a high school foreign exchange student. SMPA's donation will provide scholarships for those local students who need a little extra help with the cost of participation in the RYE program.

"I knew it was the perfect home for SMPA's donation," said Branch. "What would be a more fitting symbol of these students' year-long adventure than a beautiful, multicolored balloon?" Like all Touchstone Energy cooperatives, SMPA is proud to support community initiatives like the Rotary Youth Exchange. As SMPA Board President, Rube Felicelli said upon presenting a \$1020.00 check, "The best we can do for our young people is to lift them up and watch them fly."

## Nucla Student Gets a Big Dose of Leadership & the Democratic Process



"I had known patriotism before I went to Fort McHenry, but I'd never felt it to this extreme." This is one of the reflections of Chloe Nelson, Nucla High School Student who joined over

1,700 students from around the country on the Rural Electric Youth Tour last month. The monument, known as the birthplace of the National Anthem, was just one of many historical sites that Chloe visited. Also on the list, were the Washington and Lincoln Monuments, the Smithsonian Museum,

Arlington National Cemetery, the Capitol and the White House.

Chloe was able to go on this all-expenses-paid tour because her application was selected by her electric cooperative, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) which offers the opportunity to students from eight area high schools (Telluride, Ouray, Silverton, Ridgway, Norwood and Nucla) every year.

"It's absolutely critical that we expose our young leaders to the principles of the democratic process," remarked SMPA Board Director, Doyle Garvey. "Sponsoring a local student's attendance on this trip is one of the best ways we can do that."



*The Rural Electric Youth Tour is just one of many offerings that San Miguel Power has for young people in the service territory. More can be found at [www.smpa.com/CommunityPrograms/YouthPrograms](http://www.smpa.com/CommunityPrograms/YouthPrograms). Applications for next year's tour will be available to sophomores and juniors in October.*

## Greenlights Program Extended!



### We get it.

Even though you know the cost of burning incandescent light bulbs will eventually add up to more than the price of the comparable LED, Buying the cheaper bulb still hurts a little less... right now.

That's why we joined EcoAction Partners, the Telluride Foundation, Ouray and San Miguel Counties, and the towns of Telluride, Ridgway, Ouray, and Mountain Village to create a landmark program called GREENLights. This program allows residents and businesses the opportunity to purchase LED light bulbs at an extremely discounted rate of 75% off at the time of purchase. If you live in or near Norwood, Naturita, Nucla, Rico, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride or Mountain Village, you probably qualify to take advantage of this amazing discount.

This opportunity won't last forever. The GREENLights program was scheduled to end last month, but it has been extended by thirty days. DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. If you still have incandescent or other traditional bulbs burning away in your home or business, jot down their wattage and order replacements through the EcoAction Partners website.

The West End Farmers Market occurs every Thursday through September 20th at 5 pm at the Nucla Town Park. Vendors have eggs, produce, crafts, honey, etc. Enjoy a leisurely evening in the Nucla Town Park and support local businesses and organizations.

If you'd like to be a vendor, the cost is \$5 each time or \$50 for the season. Bring your own table.



## SMPA POWER PLAY

**THIS MONTHS PUZZLE: B ROCK LEGENS**

Hint: Use renewable energy to power your show with these.

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

**EnergyWise**  
PO Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432