



Member Dividends = Warm Kids!



What You Need to Know When the Power Goes Out



How to Become a SMPA Board Member

FEBRUARY 2019

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 x212

Member Dividends = Warmth for West End Students this Winter

"It definitely came at the right time," said West End Public Schools Superintendent, Mike Epright about the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Member Dividends check he received last month. Like many individuals, businesses and institutions, the school district received their portion of a \$1.1 million distribution of member dividends from SMPA ...and the timing was just right.

"Just over the [Christmas] break, we had to replace a heater in Naturita," continued Epright. "and we were going to have to find a pretty big chunk of money somewhere." Just as the administrators were beginning to comb through their already-strapped budgets, a check for over \$4,300 arrived from SMPA. These dollars represent the school district's portion of margins that were collected as revenue during the years 1989, 1991 and 1992. When the SMPA Board elected to return this patronage capital to the membership, checks were sent all over the territory.



Almost certainly, these funds arrived unexpectedly, but their uses will be as varied as the members who receive them. "When people pay their power bill, they never expect to see any of that money come back to them," said SMPA Director, Doyleene Garvey, who was on hand to present the school district's dividends in person. "...and with an investor-owned utility, that's true, but with a non-profit like us, the money actually does come back to the consumers who paid in. That's just ...who we are."

Other Ways they've Saved...

"When you're working with 60-to-70-year-old buildings, you have to make every penny count. In our budget revision, we were able to make a \$10,000 reduction in the final budget from working with SMPA this past year-and-a-half on the LED rebate programs. Our LED lighting plan is now 95% complete. All these savings help the West End Public Schools fulfill their mission: to provide worthwhile education and promote success of young people in the West End."

—MIKE EPRIGHT, WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT



These energy-saving LED lights compliment the Naturita Elementary School Gymnasium's unique arched wooden ceiling.

SAFETY TIPS

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 50% of all portable generator-related carbon monoxide deaths occur during the winter months. (November - February). Remember NEVER to use a portable generator in an enclosed area!

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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 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.

One position on SMPA's Board of Directors will be up for election at this year's Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 6th, 2019. If you live in Telluride, you may be eligible to run.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR THE SMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Follow these steps.

STEP 1 Get Information

Call to verify your district of residence & primary account designation. (970) 626-5549

STEP 2 Get Packet

Available at SMPA in March

STEP 3 Review

Review & attest that you meet qualifications.

STEP 4 Gather

Get 15 member signatures.

STEP 5 Submit Petition

Submit completed petition, attestation & related documents by April 19.

STEP 6 Candidacy

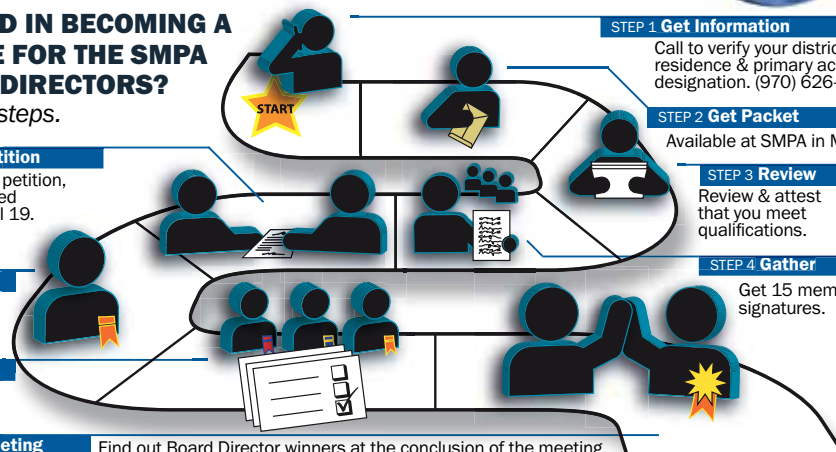
Get Certified as a candidate

STEP 7 Election

Campaign & vote

STEP 8 Annual Meeting

Find out Board Director winners at the conclusion of the meeting.



Updated Outage Information Tools Keep You in the Know

What do you want to know when the power goes out? If you are like most folks, you want to know a few things:

- 1 What happened?
- 2 Does the power company know that you are out and are they working on a solution?
- 3 How large is the outage? And how long will it be until power is restored?

As your electric power provider, we understand that answers to these questions can provide some assurance in an uncertain situation. Fortunately, thanks to new technologies and the proliferation of mobile smart devices, we have the ability to provide you with the answers you want relatively quickly.

Ways to Take Action!

Give us a call. 1.877.864.7311.

You may call this number to report an outage. When you call, our automated voice response system may give you answers to most of your questions right away.

Download our SmartHub App

If you have access to a battery-powered smart phone, tablet or computer, and you've downloaded or bookmarked our SmartHub app, you can get access to all the information available by selecting "Report an Outage."

Go to our home page: www.smpa.com

If you're able to access our web site, www.smpa.com. From the home page, you also have quick access to two vital tools: 1) the SMPA Facebook page and 2) the Outage Map Viewer.

Check out our Facebook page for updates

Facebook has long been our go-to spot for posting updates and information about outages as well as estimates of restoration time. To access Facebook from our home page, click the familiar blue and



white Facebook logo across the top, or scroll to the bottom-right to see a direct feed of facebook content.

To help you ascertain the size and impact of an outage, Facebook posts may include written names of towns, neighborhoods, and landmarks, but those don't often convey the full picture. With SMPA's new Outage Map Viewer, you can see the whole outage on a map. To access this map, click on the map and magnifying glass graphic toward the bottom of the welcome text or access the same link on our Outage Information page, accessed via the "Outage Information" link across the very top of the homepage. Each of these locations also provide the number to dial to report the outage if you're not sure that we are aware of it.

Power outages are inevitable, especially in the wild and rocky terrain that our power lines traverse. As we work to restore power, we also want to communicate with those of you who are affected. We thank you for your understanding, and we hope you'll find our new communication tools helpful.

Tri-State Announces Addition of 100 MW Spanish Peaks Solar Project to Energy Mix

The amount of renewable energy in our wholesale power continues to grow. Last month, SMPA wholesaler, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) announced plans to include generation from a soon-to-be-built, 100-megawatt solar array in Las Animas County, Colorado. The future array, called the Spanish Peaks Solar Project will be Tri-State's fourth utility-scale solar project and it will more than double the amount of solar energy now being utilized by Tri-State and its members, which includes SMPA.



SMPA Brings Message of Safety to Ridgway Elementary School

Last month, 4th and 5th grade students of Ridgway Elementary school were treated to a demonstration of the power of electricity. "My class is studying Electricity and I would like them to be able to recognize the ins and outs of power lines and safety," said Ridgway Elementary 4th grade teacher, Krista Javoronok.

To answer this call, an SMPA crew responded by visiting the kids and showing a high voltage demonstration that creates a live electrical arc that leaves quite an impression. "Safety is the number one priority for us at SMPA," said line worker, Darcy Weimer. "It is so important that these students learn not to take electrical safety for granted. I'm just glad we have a way to teach it to them that is safe and effective."



SMPA
POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: BE R LOVE GRUBS
Hint: Line workers put 'em on to stay safe.

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

Last month's Scramble Answer: CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN

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