



How SMPA Gives



Moving Forward with SMPA



Economic Aid for San Juan County

APRIL 2020

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

SAFETY TIPS

SPRINGTIME ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Keep all long-handled tools out of reach of children so they will not be tempted to reach for or accidentally hit an overhead power line.
- Pay attention to trees and power lines. Do not plant trees near them, and if there is a tree that has grown into a power line, make sure to call a professional to trim the tree.

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.intake@usda.gov.

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

SMPA Response to COVID-19 Reveals Unexpected Positives



“THE GOOD THINGS OF PROSPERITY ARE TO BE WISHED; BUT THE GOOD THINGS THAT BELONG TO ADVERSITY ARE TO BE ADMIRIED.”

Whether or not you were surprised by the unprecedented effects that the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has had on our region, you'll probably agree that they have substantially upset how we interact and conduct business.

To the greatest extent possible, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has worked to ensure that electric power is NOT one of those things that has gotten upset. Thanks to a well-defined crisis response plan, SMPA staff and crews have been able to adapt to the unprecedented demands of social distancing, while prioritizing tasks to maintain safe, reliable power for all members. That is our mission, and our mission drives everything we do.

The pursuit of that mission through widespread economic hardship, and the need for social distancing is now beginning to create a new reality. Surprisingly, not all the traits of this reality are bad. For instance, the need for a virtual meeting space has caused us to discover and test innovative new software that brings benefits that will likely outlive the coronavirus.

Another outcome has been a show of solidarity and compassion from utilities across the state, like SMPA, that pledged not to shut off service for nonpayment during the crisis, even before that move was mandated by the Governor. Further benefits may appear as certain members contribute to a relief fund that can help keep those who cannot pay right now, from getting too far behind.

Still more benefits may be realized by members who, due to the circumstances, are trying our remote pay systems for the first time, including the convenient and powerful SmartHub app. For those still adjusting to our automated phone system or to our mobile or online app, SmartHub, please know that we're still here to help—just as we've always been. Just call (970) 626-5549, or (970) 864-7311 during regular business hours and one of our staff members will do whatever they can to ensure that the technology is working for you.

Like all adversity, the coronavirus phenomenon has caused hardship and suffering, but it can also serve to make our membership and our cooperative stronger and more adaptable.



New Community Focus Policy Governs How SMPA Gives

As a not-for-profit cooperative, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is proud of the contributions it has been making to community and charitable initiatives year after year. However, in reviewing SMPA's donations over those years, one can't help noticing a trend.

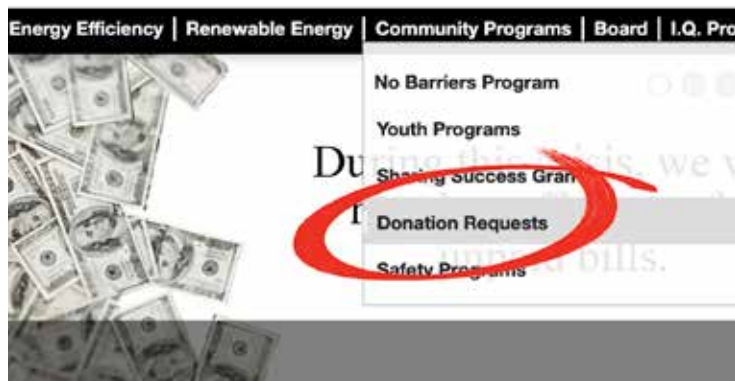
Back in 2015, SMPA donated about \$20,500 to worthy causes. In that year, 19 organizations requested funds and the median donation was \$250.

Last year, more than 30 organizations requested donation monies from SMPA and the median request was for \$1,000. In total, SMPA gave out just over \$30,000 to community groups in 2019 and an additional \$30,000 match, with help from Basin Electric, CoBank and Tri-State G & T. In October of that year, SMPA had to stop considering requests because the donations budget for the year had been depleted.

It became clear that the process needed to be modified to handle volume. For this reason, SMPA has rolled out a new policy for handling community and charitable requests. It's called our Community Focus Policy.

Under the new policy, donation requests will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Each quarter will have a fixed budget and requestors may apply in the quarter that is most appropriate for their event or project.

Questions? Contact MartyJo Davis at (970) 626-5549 ext. 216 or martyjo.davis@smpa.com.



FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020, SEE THIS SCHEDULE:

Q2: June 30th deadline:

- Applications received 04/01 - 06/30 will be reviewed in July.
- Applicants will be notified of application status by 08/01
- Funding Available: \$7,750

Q3: September 30th deadline:

- Applications received 07/01 - 09/30 will be reviewed in October.
- Applicants will be notified of application status by 11/01
- Funding Available: \$7,750

Q4: December 31st deadline:

- Applications received 10/01 - 12/31 will be reviewed in January.
- Applicants will be notified of application status by 02/01
- Funding Available: \$7,750

San Miguel Power Sharing Success Grant to Aid Economic Development in Silverton and San Juan County

In 2015, it was the Gold King Mine spill and subsequent superfund site designation. In the winter of 2017/18, unusually low snowfall paved the way for the 416 fire in the summer. That was followed, in the winter of 2018/19, by historic snowfall and avalanches, which is now followed by a global pandemic that threatens businesses worldwide. After four consecutive years of extraordinary hits to local tourism activity, businesses in Silverton and San Juan County could use a little help.

Through it all, the San Juan Development Association (SJDA) has been fighting the good fight, collaborating on numerous community initiatives such as: the Silverton Area Trails Plan, Census 2020, Kendall Mountain Ski Area Expansion Plan and the Blair Street Revitalization Project. Now, the SJDA has their sights set on economic growth. Dubbed the "Silverton

Relocation and Growth Initiative for Businesses and Residents," this new initiative sets forth to reveal the lifestyle and business benefits that a prospective businesses would enjoy by starting up in the Silverton area.

The project will build a website and professional prospectus designed to appeal to potential business ventures. Congratulations to the SJDA for securing \$2,000 from San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) and an additional \$4,000 from our cooperative partners, CoBank and Basin Electric through our Sharing Success Grant.



Interested in Running for the Board?

Read the COVID-19 Modifications to the Nomination Process

Pandemic or not, our democratic governance process continues. Those interested in becoming candidates for either the District #1 or District #4 directorship must submit their documentation, including nominations from 15 valid members in their district by April 27th, 2020.

The qualification process has been modified to accommodate social distancing best practices during the elevated threat of a local COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please email alex@smpa.com to obtain a nomination packet.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: M CLOP EVEN MONIE CODE
Hint: SMPA and CoBank's Sharing Success Grant program aides communities with this.

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

SCAM ALERT!

If you get a call from someone threatening to turn off your power, hang up.
 View your account status at smpa.smarthub.coop