



Rural Colorado  
Fiber Optics  
Expansion



High School  
Scholarship  
Winners



New SMPA  
Board Director  
Announced

JUNE 2020

# ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[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

Kids spending time at  
home this summer?  
Have them follow these tips:

- Fly kites, drones and other toys safely away from trees and overhead power lines.
- Never touch electrical toys, or appliances while you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not climb trees near power lines.

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.

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.

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(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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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

## SMPA Helps with Fiber Optic Expansion

“The expansion of the fiber optic network in rural Colorado was a pretty big deal before the global pandemic,” said SMPA Service Planning Supervisor, Jeremy Fox. Now, schools are using the internet as their primary means of delivering education. Many businesses are looking to expand online sales as their main source of revenue, and hospitals and health networks are using remote data transmission as a literal lifeline. Fiber has taken on a whole new level of importance. That’s why Fox and the crews and staff at SMPA are proud to partner with local entities like Region 10, Ouray County and San Miguel County to help provide “middle-mile” options that benefit our members and local communities.

In Ouray County, the Montrose-based fiber contracting company, Deeply Digital, is finishing its installation of a fiber optic line that runs along County Road 1 from Ouray to Montrose. “If we had gone down the highway with this cable, we would not have been able to serve as many homes in the future as we can with the route down CR 1,” said Casey Irving of Deeply Digital. “The temporary use of SMPA fiber helps to light this fiber in the near term,” said Fox.

In Norwood, Deeply Digital attached fiber to SMPA poles to help bring high-speed internet to students in two subdivisions who were without access. “It is the fastest tower and fiber build we have ever done,” said Doug Seacat, Owner of Deeply Digital. “Thanks very much to SMPA.”



We’ll do whatever we can to help facilitate these projects because they ultimately benefit our members; that’s what we’re all about.”—JEREMY FOX, SMPA SERVICE PLANNING SUPERVISOR



Community members along  
County Road 1 benefit from  
the installation of fiber optics.



Photo: Leslie Brown / Montrose Daily Press

# Meet the Newest SMPA Board Director, Toby Brown

THIS MONTH, SMPA WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD. TOBY BROWN OF TELLURIDE WILL BE TAKING THE SEAT VACATED BY RETIRING EIGHT-YEAR SMPA BOARD VETERAN, JACK SIBOLD. WE ASKED TOBY SOME QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU GET TO KNOW HIM.

*What's your background; what traits, skills or experience do you bring to the table?*

I'm a 30-year resident of the Telluride area. My wife Anne and I raised our two boys on the Western Slope. A real estate agent by trade, I also have a history of community leadership with the Telluride R-1 School Board and San Miguel County, among others. Through these endeavors, I have exercised leadership and strategic planning skills in community-wide initiatives.

*SMPA's mission is to "demonstrate corporate responsibility and community service while providing our members with safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible electrical service." In your opinion, what is the best way to fulfill this mission over the next four years?*

This is an exciting and dynamic time in the power industry. We're swiftly moving away from fossil fuel sources toward rapidly improving renewable energy and storage technologies. If SMPA is strategically positioned, we can benefit from this necessary and inevitable transition. In doing so, we must also manage disruption to vulnerable members of our community. I believe SMPA's mission calls for the co-op to lead our community boldly through this transition, and I believe if we do so, we can secure cleaner, more affordable, and equally reliable power for our members.

*What other thoughts do you have for the members of SMPA?*

The electric cooperative model is designed so members have the opportunity to truly engage... I want to make you aware of the opportunities and involve you in the decision making. The future of our power supply will look very different from today and I am energized to work with you to shape it!



## Uncashed Member Dividends

SMPA sent out nearly \$1.5 million dollars in Member Dividend checks to members in December, 2019. Many of those checks have not been cashed. Members have until June 30, 2020 to request another check to be issued.

Please check out the list at <http://www.smpa.com/content/uncashed-member-dividends>

*Please call 1-877-864-7311 to make a request.*

## Congratulations to these SMPA, Tri-State and Basin Electric Scholarship Winners:

- Norwood High School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Jessica Barkemeyer**
- 2020 Basin Electric \$1000 Scholarship - **Jessica Barkemeyer**
- Norwood High School \$2000 Vocational Scholarship - **Cael Spangler**
- Nucla High School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Chloe Nelson**
- Nucla High School \$2000 Vocational Scholarship - **Christian Josephson**
- Tri-State \$500 Scholarship - **Hailey Hibbert, Nucla High School**
- Ouray High School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Anna Biolchini**
- Ridgway High School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Adli Gates**
- Tri-State \$500 Scholarship - **Andrew Winkelmann, Ridgway High School**
- Silverton High School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Amaris Hamilton**
- Silverton High School \$2000 Vocational Scholarship - **Kyra Maxfield**
- Telluride High School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Ambra Jacobson**
- Telluride Mountain School \$2000 SMPA Scholarship - **Jacqueline (Koko) Waller**



### Have a Safe and Enjoyable 4th of July!

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, July 2nd.

Basic services are always available at [smpa.smarthub.coop](http://smpa.smarthub.coop)

## SMPA POWER PLAY

**This Month's Puzzle: YAH I AM FRED L ACA**

**Hint: This inventor of the electric motor and generator is often called the "Father of Electricity."**

**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: **ONE PETABIT PER SECOND**

**Notice: We're a bit behind. If you have won the Power Play, but have not received your prize, please be patient, we'll get to you when the time is right. Promise.**

## 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](http://smpa.smarthub.coop)