

2026 San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Election

Joanna Yonder Candidate Biography Answers – District #3

- 1) Please give a brief description of your background. Please highlight the traits, skills or experiences that you feel qualify you to be a San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Representative.**

During my 14 years in this region, my work has centered on community building, communication, and connection. With a degree in English and over a decade as a public librarian and program coordinator, I've focused on resource sharing and consensus building.

I also bring a deep connection to the land--as a hunter, climber, agriculturalist and ranch caretaker, and through over a decade of involvement with local stewardship organizations. I'm committed to representation that honors both our communities and the landscapes that sustain them.

- 2) The mission of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is “to provide our members with safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible electrical service, while demonstrating both cooperative responsibility and support for the communities we serve.” Please share your opinion on what is the best way to fulfill this mission over the next four years.**

Fulfilling San Miguel Power Association's mission means balancing reliability, affordability, and land-focused responsibility through strong community connection. Having lived and worked across Norwood, Hastings Mesa, Telluride, down valley, and now Rico, I understand how different our communities' needs can be. I believe that through prioritizing communication, listening to members across the district, and supporting thoughtful, well-sited solutions, we can ensure that decisions reflect and truly serve the full range of our SMPA members.

- 3) Today’s electric power industry is subject to many technological, environmental and political pressures. Describe your vision for San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) within this context.**

My vision for San Miguel Power Association is a resilient, community-centered cooperative grounded in what matters most here: our people and our land. In our rural region, these are our greatest assets, and both deserve thoughtful stewardship. As we

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navigate technological, environmental, and political change, SMPA can lead by prioritizing affordability, reliability, and responsible development, while ensuring that decisions reflect the values, voices, and landscapes that define our communities.

4) Please share any other thoughts, facts or ideas you'd like voters to consider while casting their ballot

On the current San Miguel Power Association board, we're fortunate to have skilled directors with strong energy expertise. What's needed now is a voice deeply rooted in community: focused on representation, outreach, and consensus-building across our wide and varied district. In these dynamic times, communication is more important than ever. Members deserve to feel heard, respected, and included. I will bring a commitment to listening, connection, and collaboration to help shape a reliable, affordable, and community-centered energy future.