



Its that time!
Member
Dividends



IQ Programs:
Do You
Qualify?



Attention High
School Seniors:
Got Money?

JANUARY 2023

ENERGYWISE



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchostone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave.
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

Ridgway

720 N. Railroad St.
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

SAFETY TIPS

New Year's Resolutions fo Your Home Electrical System:

- Reset your Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) Outlets.
- Replace the Batteries in your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.
- Have a Whole-House Surge Protector Installed.

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, audiotype, 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 is YOUR Not-for-Profit Cooperative

Any profit it makes (revenue, less expenses) over time, goes back to its members. Every year, SMPA allocates this profit, called "margins," to each member. Your portion of the margins depends on how much money you put into the co-op that year. When the Board says the time is right, your money comes back to you. This month, SMPA is sending out about \$1 million in Member Dividends to long-time members of our cooperative.

Thanks for being a member!



Pricing with Equity: Costs Behind Idle Services & Your Cooperative Membership

Your SMPA electrical bill is composed of more than just charges for your energy usage. Your fixed access fee partially covers the necessary work by our technicians to keep service accessible and safe for all members, including the technical work of keeping transformers, poles, and lines up to safety codes and working properly.

Whether you're using electricity or not, the grid that serves you is shared with your fellow members and cannot be shut down without compromising operation. Idle service is defined as a service that has been disconnected for more than 90 days. The same conditions are true for a seasonal account in which a member routinely disconnects and reconnects their service within a 12-month period.

Currently, active members are subsidizing the costs of idle and seasonal services and SMPA is realizing an increased revenue deficit. For these reasons, we are considering a move toward a more equitable cost structure. This would provide a fair revenue recovery process and ensure continued safe operation of the grid for all members.



High School Seniors, Need Money for College or Trade School?

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:



Visit www.smpa.com/content/scholarships. Decide which scholarships to apply for. Gather your transcripts, test scores, resume, etc.



Read over the online scholarship applications. Compose your essay answers separately. Then fill in the application. Paste in essay answers. Submit by the deadline. (Basin – Feb 20th; RMEL – Feb 25th; SMPA – Mar 13th)



Scholarship winners are notified in early April. Scholarships are awarded in mid-May. Scholarship checks are mailed to institutions in mid-July.



I.Q. Programs: Resolve to Improve your Home Energy Efficiency

We have a new year’s resolution that you’ll want to keep in 2023: improve your home’s energy efficiency.

SMPA, the Energy Outreach Colorado and EcoAction Partners have partnered to improve efficiency for income eligible families. Eligible households can get a free energy audit and assistance with improving the efficiency of their home’s energy use through air sealing, insulation improvements, and appliance upgrades.

The I.Q. Programs offer an unprecedented level of assistance to families struggling to pay their bills. To apply for assistance through these programs, visit the EcoAction Partners website at www.ecoactionpartners.org/smpa-iq.



Smart Pay Puts Me in Charge

If you want to ditch the monthly billing statements and late fees, consider signing up for SmartPay. It’s an optional program that allows members to buy power at their convenience.

When you enroll in the SmartPay program, you’ll pre-pay for your electricity in dollar quantities that fit your budget and needs. With text and/or email notifications, you can stay on top of your usage so you know when you need to add more to your account balance. If your account gets to zero, your electricity is turned off, but adding money will automatically turn it back on (any time of day, 24/7) without a reconnection fee.

There’s no late fees or security deposit needed - just a \$25 minimum starting balance. SmartPay also offers a built-in repayment plan for past due balances. Learn more at www.smpa.com/content/smartpay.



San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) Notification:

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) has increased its access fee with no change to the kWh energy rate for all electric accounts, including all rate classes and lighting tariffs. For most residential consumers, the increase will amount to \$2 per month on the access charge or \$24 per year above the current charge. SMPA has kept the overall revenue increase to 1.1% despite inflationary cost pressures through careful financial planning, deferred revenue, and delayed major capital projects.


The updated fee takes effect this month. Consumers will make their first payments of the new fee in February, when January’s electricity use is billed. To see a comparison of the current rate structure to the new 2023 structure, visit www.smpa.com/rates.



This Month’s Puzzle:
CHEC OUR TRUE LE ROPE ACTIVITY TOO
 Hint... Friendship, Leadership, Memories

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

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

 **GIVE BLOOD**
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
170 W. 10TH AVE., NUCLA