

# ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Both Offices Open:**  
M - TH • 7:00am – 5:30pm

[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 x2120

## SAFETY TIPS

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

- ✓ Remember to slow down as you drive through residential areas and school zones.
- ✓ Remind your kids to load and unload in front of the school bus (never behind) so the driver always has a clear view of passengers.
- ✓ Always give school buses space and stop when you see red lights flashing.

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

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

## FEATURE STORY

# Donation Yields “Amazing” Results



“We are very grateful—not only for the donation that you have made to our program—but that you have allowed us to visit your board room today, to express our gratitude in person.”

Said Norwood elementary school student, Annabelle Donnellon to the SMPA Board at their recent meeting. The comment, delivered with poise and clarity, would have been pleasant on its own merit, but given that the speaker was only in 3rd grade, it left several of the SMPA Board and staff members in the room with amazed smiles.



Annabelle was joined by her brothers, Kaden (7th grade) and Waylen (5th grade) as well as 7th grader, Lexi Bray of the Norwood School who had come to thank the SMPA Board for their donation to the Norwood Public Schools House System Program which includes “Amazing Shake” competition training. If you’ve never interacted with a young person who has been trained in professionalism techniques as part of the Ron Clark Academy - Amazing Shake competitions, you won’t forget your first time. Gone are the slouches, shrugs, and cell phones, many have come to expect of the younger generations. In their place, are friendly eye contact, firm handshakes and confident and engaging discourse.

“Our House System is designed to build school community, foster student leadership, and strengthen bonds between students, staff, and our wider rural community,” said Program Coordinator, Shelley Donnellon. “The Amazing Shake competition is a professional development experience for students that focuses on soft skills like communication, confidence, poise, and public speaking. This

aligns perfectly with the House System’s goal of helping students develop leadership and life skills, especially in our small rural community where opportunities like this are limited.”

The donation was just one of many that SMPA makes through its Community Focus Donation program, and this donation was further bolstered by Directors Alexander and Felicelli, who added hundreds of dollars from their Director Donation Funds, following the student visit.

Intended to deepen member understanding about SMPA and our mission, while informing the Board and employees about the varied needs within our communities, the Community Focus Donation program addresses a wide variety of needs, including Community Vitality, Economic Impact, Member Welfare and Youth Development. Thanks to the Norwood School House System Coordinator, Shelley Donnellon and to the student participants in the Amazing Shake team for showing us exactly how effective these donations can be. We wish you great success as you carry these vital skills into your future!



# Interested in learning more about Rooftop Solar?

More homeowners are exploring solar panels as an additional source of power for their homes. SMPA offers a billing mechanism known as net metering to compensate solar panel owners for any excess power sent back to the electric grid. Combined with a home battery, solar panels can help their owners save by using inexpensive solar energy during the Peak period (4PM to 9 PM). Also, SMPA offers rebates for Solar Photovoltaic panels and arrays. Check 'em out!

## UNDERSTANDING NET METERING

Net metering is a billing mechanism that compensates consumers who own residential solar panels for any excess power sent back to the electric grid. Here's how it works.

1.

A privately-owned, residential solar panel system converts energy from sunlight into electricity.
2.

An inverter, which is connected to the electric grid, converts the electricity from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) to make it safe for use in homes.
3.

The electricity is used to power the home. (It should be noted that solar panels do not provide electricity during a power outage.)
4.

If the panels produce more electricity than the home needs, the consumer is compensated for excess electricity sent back to the grid.

Questions about residential solar or net metering? Learn more about how it works at [www.smpa.com/net-metering](http://www.smpa.com/net-metering).

## SMPA is a 'Cooperative,' what does that mean?

A cooperative, or co-op, is a business or organization owned and controlled by its members, who are also its users or customers. Unlike traditional businesses that prioritize profit for shareholders, a cooperative focuses on meeting the needs and aspirations of its members.

This is achieved through democratic control, shared responsibility, and mutual benefit.

*Did you know electric cooperatives serve 42 million people across the U.S.? Collectively, co-ops power 56% of the American landscape.*

ELECTRIC CO-OPS  
ARE PROUD TO  
POWER

56% of the  
American  
landscape.

WANT A NEW HEAT PUMP  
WATER HEATER?

[LIKE, REALLY BAD?]

check out [www.smpa.com/electrifyandsave](http://www.smpa.com/electrifyandsave)

EV RIDE  
& DRIVE

Honor the Past, Ride the Future  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH

FREE TRAIN RIDES

Free opportunity to test drive electric vehicles, speak with EV owners, and learn about resources, incentives, & rebates

LOCATION

Ridgway Railroad and Heritage Museum Parking Lot

TIME

10am-2pm

FREE ICED COFFEE & SMPA TUMBLERS AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LASTS

[sharewritting@yahoo.com](mailto:sharewritting@yahoo.com) for more information

GIVE BLOOD |

[vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20  
11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
170 W. 10<sup>TH</sup> AVE., NUCLA

OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED  
Monday, September 1st. Basic  
services always available at:  
[smpa.smarthub.coop/Login.html](http://smpa.smarthub.coop/Login.html)

## SMPA POWER PLAY

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:  
TIN MET GREEN T  
Hint...Juice from above

Last Month's Answer: DEFENSIBLE SPACE

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER  
and be entered into a drawing  
for a fun prize to:  
EnergyWise  
PO Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432

Have you changed your  
phone # or email?  
Let us know at 1-877-864-7311