

Energy

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

WISE



YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2014 | ISSUE #0054

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PUBLIC NOTICE

San Miguel Power's 75th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at our Nucla office.

Contact Us:

Nucla
170 W. 10th Ave
P.O. Box 817
Nucla, CO 81424
(970) 864-7311
Monday - Thursday; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

Ridgway
720 N. Railroad St.
P.O. Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5549
Tuesday - Friday; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

www.smpa.com

In the case of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you can automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.

Questions or comments?

Contact:
Becky Mashburn
Communications Executive
(970) 626-5549 ext. 212
energywise@smpa.com

Don't forget!
Get outage updates on our Facebook page.



www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower



Notables: Powering Up After an Outage Takes Time



Kevin Ritter
SMPA General Manager

Power outages – they're no fun. Not for our members who are suddenly left in the dark and not for our crew members who respond at all hours of the day and night. But, with the intricate web of power lines crisscrossing neighborhoods, open country, mountain passes and steep canyons, they are a reality of life.

San Miguel Power maintains approximately 1,900 miles of power lines. Our lines, both overhead and underground, aren't immune to all the events that can trigger outages, be it weather, animals, avalanches or even the unavoidable failure of equipment. When an outage occurs there's a process all electric utilities go through on the road to restoration.

The first step is actually something we need from you, and it is very important. I can't stress enough the need for members to call in if they are experiencing a power outage. Don't rely on your neighbors. Your calls help us determine the location of the outage and how wide-spread it is. Always report a power outage by calling one of our local office numbers (970) 626-5549 or (970) 864-7311. If it is after normal business hours you will be directed to our 24-hour dispatch service. Never report outages through email or social media.

The more information callers can provide the better. Did you see a flash? Is your whole neighborhood out? Did you witness someone hit a power pole? This type of information makes it much easier for our linemen to pinpoint the area affected and locate the actual problem. It's an enormous help when a member can report that a tree across the street fell into a line.

Other times it's not so easy. In these cases, our crews patrol the lines and equipment serving the area where the outage was reported. They look for downed power lines, check substations and test equipment. Our linemen are familiar with the equipment serving different areas and know where specific switches, junction boxes and transformers are located. But it can be time consuming and frustrating for both us and our members. Considering our service territory is 3,600 square miles, it can sometimes feel like we are searching for a needle in a haystack.

Once the problem is identified our linemen determine the best way to get the most members back online. This can mean immediately beginning repair work. But depending on the problem, it can also mean setting up an alternate feed to the area before making repairs, or isolating the damaged line and getting a portion of members powered back up. Additionally, underground outages take much longer to repair, requiring locate services and digging just to access a damaged line. This is made even more difficult when the crews have to dig through snow and chip ice to access equipment. As you can see it's not a quick process, and I'm often amazed at how quickly our crews are able to locate issues and restore power.

SMPA also works hard behind the scenes to keep our members informed about power outages. We communicate with local radio stations

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Photo by Paul Enstrom, SMPA Operations Superintendent
Above: SMPA lineman Preston Joseph installs grounding equipment on a power line, so fellow crew members can safely begin making repairs on the damaged portion and restore power.



SMPA Seeking Board Nominations

Two positions on San Miguel Power's seven-member board will be up for election at this year's Annual Meeting scheduled for June 17, 2014 in Nucla, Colo. Seats in districts three and six will be up for four-year terms. Members within these two districts who want to take a more active role in the cooperative are encouraged to seek nomination. Board members represent the needs and interests of the members who live in their district. They are an important and necessary piece of the cooperative business model.

District three includes Norwood, Placerville, Dunton, Rico and the outlying rural areas. District seven includes Ridgway and Colona. If you have more than one account with SMPA, please contact our customer service representatives at (970) 626-5549 or (970) 864-7311, and they can tell you in which district you have designated your primary account. You can also locate your district information on your bill in the upper right hand corner.

If you are interested in running for SMPA's board of directors you'll need to complete a nomination petition form, which can be picked up at either SMPA office. You can also contact our Executive Secretary, Toni Bertorello, at (970) 626-5549 x210 or toni@smpa.com. Nomination petitions are due back to SMPA before close of business on May 5, 2014. In order to run for these board positions you must be a member of SMPA and a member of the district in which you are seeking election.

How to run for the board of directors

- ★ Pick up your nomination petition from an SMPA office.
- ★ Get your petition signed by 15 or more registered members from the district in which you are seeking election.
- ★ Return your petition to SMPA before May 5, 2014.
- ★ Mail-in ballots are sent to members in districts three and six in May.
- ★ Election concludes June 17, 2014 at the Annual Meeting of Members.

2014 Efficiency and Renewable Rebates

Renewable Energy Rebates	
Solar photovoltaic residential	\$0.75/watt, max \$2,250
Solar photovoltaic commercial	\$0.75/watt, max \$7,500
Solar domestic hot water, electric backup	\$1,500
Small wind residential	\$0.75/watt, max \$2,250
Appliance Rebates	
Refrigerator	\$80
Freezer	\$80
Refrigerator/freezer disposal	\$65
Clothes washer	\$80
Dishwasher	\$60
Standard water heater	\$100
Water heater, lifetime warranty	\$275
Heat pump (geothermal) or waste heat	\$120
Air-source heat pump water heater	\$370
LED Lighting	
Energy Star LED lamps & fixtures	50% of bulb cost up to \$10/bulb, max 50 bulbs
LED yard light	50% of fixture cost up to \$100, max \$300
LED tube light	50% of bulb cost up to \$8/ft, max \$360
LED strip, short tube & bar light	50% of bulb cost up to \$5/ft, max \$150
LED small bulb & pin light	50% of bulb cost up to \$5/bulb, max \$150
Weatherization	
Energy Audit	\$125 residential; \$250 commercial
Weatherization (pre-inspection required)	50% of job cost, max \$1,000
Electric Vehicles	
Neighborhood electric vehicle	\$250
Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle	\$250
All electric vehicle	\$750

Rebate details and applications are online at www.smpa.com.

Reminder:

The application deadline for SMPA's 2014 academic scholarships is

February 10, 2014

Get your applications online at www.smpa.com/Youth/scholarships.cfm or pick one up from your high school guidance counselor.

Late applications will not be considered!

Power Restoration Takes Time

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when possible and post follow-up information on our website, www.smpa.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower to receive periodic updates during outages, especially during non-business hours. With the popularity of cell phones and other smart devices, Facebook has become an increasingly important and accessible way to inform our members. If you haven't done so, I encourage you to visit our page and like us. You'll be able to access outage information, as well as news updates, energy saving tips and photos. And, we are currently reviewing our Outage Communication Plan to include even more ways to update our members.

I'll end with a favor. Please help me show appreciation for our lineman and the sacrifices they and their families make to keep the lights on. I was once in their shoes, and I can vouch for the challenges they face daily. But I can also vouch for how rewarding it is to know that the people they're working for – our members – appreciate what they do.