

# Energy

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

# WISE



YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2014 | ISSUE #0056

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[www.smpa.com](http://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:**  
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## Notables: A Walk Down Memory Lane



Kevin Ritter  
SMPA General Manager

As many of you already know, San Miguel Power turned 75 last year. If you stop and think about all the things that changed in those 75 years, you can't help but admit it's quite the milestone. For starters, electric service used to be a luxury for only the city-folk. In fact, in 1935 only 10% of American farms had electricity. Today it's a standard way of life for most U.S. citizens. And so, we want to celebrate that. We want to honor the men and women who banded together in 1938 to find a solution when the large investor-owned utility said no to their requests for electric service. And we want you to celebrate with us at our 75th Annual Meeting of Members this June.

Just as we do each year, the annual meeting will be a time where we recap our accomplishments from the previous year and talk about where we are headed in the future. But this year, it will be extra special. We'll unveil our 75th anniversary history book. All members who attend will receive a free personal copy of the book, which chronicles the evolution of SMPA. We've spent the past 9 months digging into our past, unearthing photos and interviewing past employees and board members. And we've discovered a rich and vibrant history. Here are just a few of the interesting facts we've stumbled upon.

- George Wilson purchased San Miguel Power's first official membership for \$5 in 1938.
- We began our first major construction project in 1940, building 116 miles of power lines in rural San Miguel and Montrose counties. The cost was \$139,000, which equates to a current day value of more than \$2 million.
- In 1943 we added the Norwood area to our system by purchasing the San Miguel Light and Power System of Norwood.
- In 1975 we purchased the areas around Telluride, Rico, Ouray, Silverton, Ridgway and Colona from Utah Power and Light, creating our current day service territory.
- Our pay for a chief lineman in 1976 was \$6.75/hr.
- A board approved Energy Conservation Policy in 1979 kick started our efforts to educate the membership about energy efficiency.
- 1985 was a hard year, requiring SMPA to raise rates, cut costs and lay off employees.
- In 1992 after the bankruptcy of Colorado-Ute Electric Association, SMPA officially became a member co-op of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

*Notables: A Walk Down Memory Lane cont. on page 2*

## Save the Date

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION'S

# 75th ANNIVERSARY

# CELEBRATION

# AND ANNUAL MEETING

# JUNE 17

## FROM 4:30 - 9:00PM

## AT OUR NUCLA OFFICE

170 WEST 10TH AVENUE, NUCLA, CO

Meeting Registration - 4:30pm  
 Business Meeting - 5:30pm  
 FREE BBQ & Concert in the park - 6:30 - 9pm

*Those that attend the annual meeting will receive a ticket for a FREE BBQ meal. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for an evening of fun family entertainment!*



### Co-ops Featured at State Solar Conference

SMPA was one of the many co-ops featured at COSEIA's Solar Power Colorado conference this year. Above, SMPA's Manager of Member Services/Marketing, Brad Zaporski, speaks at a panel discussion, along with representatives from United Power (L) and Tri-State G&T (R). Grand Valley Power of Mesa County was also honored as the 2014 Rural Electric Association Solar Partner of the Year.

## Spring 'Greening' Made Easy

We talk a lot about our rebates for solar panels and wind generators, but for some members those systems are still above budget, even with the rebates. But did you know we've got another renewable energy option that's affordable? Green Blocks!

Green Blocks are actually renewable energy credits we sell for \$1 per block. Each block is equal to 100 kilowatt hours of 100% renewable energy.

Where does that energy come from? Some of it comes straight from our local sources like Bridal Veil Hydro and the SMPA Community Solar Array in Paradox. Some of it comes from Tri-State's large scale solar and wind farms located in Colorado and other western states.



An average home served by SMPA uses approximately 800 kilowatt hours per month, which means for \$8 you can completely offset your energy use with renewable energy. You can purchase as many or as few Green Blocks as you like, and the only requirement is that you must purchase it for a 12-month period.

**Interested?** Give us a call at (970) 626-5549 or (970) 864-7311 or sign up online at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com).

### Notables: A Walk Down Memory Lane

*Notables: A Walk Down Memory Lane cont. from page 1*

As I mentioned these are just a few of the events that punctuate our past. I encourage you to attend this year's annual meeting and help us celebrate our past and honor the men and women who laid the foundation for our current successes. Did I mention that there will also be a BBQ picnic and concert in the park?

For more information about our 75th Annual Meeting of Members, visit our website [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com). I hope to see you there!

### Board Nominations Due May 2

Members living in districts 3 and 6 who are interested in running for SMPA's Board of Directors must submit their nomination petition to SMPA no later than close of business on May 2, 2014. Nomination petitions must be signed by 15 or more registered members from the district in which you are running. The 2014 board elections will conclude at SMPA's 75th Annual Meeting of Members on June 17, 2014 at our Nucla office. The winners will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

In addition, any member wishing to make changes to their account, such as adding or removing a spouse or designating a primary account, must do so prior to May 2, 2014 in order for those changes to be in effect for this year's election. What does that mean? If you have electric accounts in two different districts, one of them is considered your primary account, and that is the only account used for voting purposes. Many members also list themselves and their spouse on the account so that either can vote in the election. Remember, one account gets one vote, but in order to complete the ballot you must be listed on the account.

Questions? Contact Toni, (970) 626-5549 x210, [toni@smpa.com](mailto:toni@smpa.com).



## New and Improved Website Coming Soon

San Miguel Power's website is getting a facelift. The new and improved site should be up and running by next month. Don't worry, you'll still find us at [www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com), and all the things you need will still be available at the click of a mouse. They'll just be easier to find.

Plus, we'll be adding even more useful features, most importantly a mobile-friendly site, so you can view our site and find important information on your smart phone or tablet devices.

The new site will look a little different than our old site, but we think you'll like it. Some of the new benefits include a less cluttered home page, easier navigation and a search option. As always, our website is a resource for you, our members. If you encounter any issues or have suggestions to improve the site, send your feedback to [becky@smpa.com](mailto:becky@smpa.com).