

Energy

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

WISE



YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2014 | ISSUE #0053

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PUBLIC NOTICE

San Miguel Power's 75th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Tuesday, June 17, 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: SMPA to Hold Rates Steady in 2014



Kevin Ritter
SMPA General Manager

How are we able to do that? There are three main factors. I'll give credit to SMPA's employees. They worked hard to set a budget last year that kept our operational costs low while still providing excellent service. And they did the same for 2014. I like to think of this as the cooperative difference. Second, the rate increases we've endured the past two years are still adequate to maintain our financial position. And third, Our kilowatt hour sales are recovering after a significant dip in 2012.

I can't think of any better news to start the new year off with: At their December meeting the San Miguel Power Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the 2014 budget. In doing so, they also chose to hold our rates steady even though San Miguel Power is seeing a small increase in our wholesale power costs from our supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, effective this month. SMPA is absorbing those costs in order to keep our members' rates steady.

“ At their December meeting, the San Miguel Power Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the 2014 budget. In doing so, they also chose to hold our rates steady.

The cooperative difference plays a large part in how SMPA sets its rates, which are made up of two main components. The first was mentioned earlier: the actual cost of the wholesale power we buy from Tri-State. The second component is the cost for SMPA to get that power to you. This includes all other operational costs such as power poles, lines, maintenance, vehicles, buildings, employee wages and benefits and even the printing and mailing of bills.

Here's where the cooperative difference comes in. SMPA doesn't have any stockholders or private owners to earn a return for. We are a not-for-profit local cooperative, which means we're always working to provide you, our members, with both reliable and economical service.

We set our rates to simply recoup the costs of providing you with electric service, not with the intent to make a large profit. Any excess revenue collected, beyond costs, is allocated to each member account as patronage capital. Patronage capital, or capital credits as they are often called, represents your investment in the cooperative and all its assets. While capital credits are not returned every year, the board of directors that you elect considers at least once a year whether or not we can return some of these investment dollars to our members.

All of us at San Miguel Power wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

HEY SENIORS!

The application deadline for SMPA's 2014 academic scholarships is February 10, 2014.

- SMPA Scholarship** \$2,000
- Tri-State Scholarship** \$500
- Basin Electric Scholarship** \$1,000
- Wes Perrin Memorial Scholarship** \$2,500, 4-year, renewable

Download your applications at www.smpa.com/Youth/scholarships.cfm or pick one up from your guidance counselor.

Congratulations

Congratulations to...

Janice Dicken, Paradox
Buddie Phillips, Ouray
James Polzin, Rico

They are the three lucky winners of a \$50 bill credit from SMPA's Member Information Update Campaign. Thank you to all who participated.

Luxury Hotel, Local Consultant Team Up for Savings

When you step into Hotel Madeline's lobby that last thing you'd think was that improvements are needed, and for the most part you'd be right. But the Mountain Village luxury resort has just embarked on a three-year journey to improve its efficiency and reduce energy use.

To do this Hotel Madeline has teamed up with local consultant David Eckman of Eckman Consulting & Management. He was retained by the hotel two years ago to execute capital projects and is now tasked with completing a top to bottom overview of the hotel's electrical and mechanical systems. Eckman's biggest priority is making sure all systems are working together.

"It doesn't matter how efficient or modern a building's mechanical systems are if they work against each other. We are currently fine tuning all of our systems, from the motor pumps, to the boilers, to the air circulation fans, making sure everything is working correctly. We anticipate that just by making everything work right, we'll shave 20 to 30% off our utility consumption," said Eckman.

This process is called commissioning and is a big part in Hotel Madeline's master plan. During the process every piece of equipment, including vents, motors and even light bulbs are evaluated to make sure they are performing correctly and at optimum efficiency.

What's next for Hotel Madeline? The lights. The first undertaking will be the Heritage Parking Garage which serves hotel guests and the public. Hotel Madeline plans to replace all 160 100-watt metal halide fixtures with 54-watt LED fixtures, cutting the lighting load for the parking garage almost in half. Add in the more than 3,200 lighting fixtures in the hotel itself, and you've got an easy upgrade to improve efficiency and cut costs.

"The lighting is a no-brainer. There's a good return on investment, and with San Miguel Power as a partner, it makes it that



Above: Hotel Madeline, Mountain Village's only AAA 4 Diamond full-service hotel, is working on a three-year plan to improve efficiency and reduce energy use.

Right: The recently added Starbucks in Hotel Madeline's plaza was outfitted with the latest in efficiency and conservation materials, including LED lights and recycled flooring.

Photos courtesy of Hotel Madeline.



much easier," said Eckman.

SMPA is helping Hotel Madeline find the right LED fixtures for the parking garage and at the conclusion of the project will provide a sizable rebate for the retrofit.

"We're currently testing a few LED projects, checking light levels and looking at the payback periods. My hope is to simply retrofit the existing fixtures with an LED bulb," said Eckman.

Hotel Madeline has a long list of efficiency measures it has already enacted, such as installing EnergyStar appliances, instituting recycling and employee car pool programs and locally sourcing food and beverages

for their restaurant. One of the most notable additions was the construction of a Starbucks in the hotel's plaza. Outfitted with LED lights and recycled materials, the Starbucks provides a snapshot of Hotel Madeline's commitment to efficiency and environmental stewardship.

"Hotel Madeline is dedicated to making this property the best it can be. And that means being a good steward with our resources and responsible with our energy use," said Eckman.

The journey to achieving their goal is a step by step process. But by putting a plan in place and reaching out to San Miguel Power, each step becomes a little easier.



SMPA Selects Winners of Holiday Card Coloring Contest

San Miguel Power selected three winners of the third annual Holiday Card Coloring Contest. The contest asked local fifth grade students to illustrate how their family uses electricity during the holidays. Congratulations to the following students:

1st Place: Aaron Case, 11, Naturita Elementary (artwork pictured left)

2nd Place: Ashley Steele, 10, Naturita Elementary

3rd Place: Ethon Case, 11, Naturita Elementary