

WORKING TOGETHER IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

BY REG RUDOLPH GENERAL MANAGER

The last year and a half has been hard for everyone, including me. We live in an angry and divided world, and COVID-19 has robbed us of months of living a normal life. That's hard to take.

For me personally, I see my patience running thin as my stress increases. You are probably stressed as well. The loss of our normal routine and societal conflict are draining. I understand having a short fuse and being annoyed easily. I understand because I feel that way too. It's easy to feel isolated and so many feel the same way.

There is a saying: "It's always darkest before the dawn," meaning the worst is almost over and it's about to improve. However, there are days it feels like the saying should be "It's darkest before it's black."

I want to be optimistic; I NEED to be optimistic. Which is why it's important to focus on the positive things that exist in your life.

This past September, San Isabel Electric conducted its annual meeting virtually. With nearly 400 members participating, three directors were reelected, a bylaw change was approved and the business of the association was formally reviewed.

The financial reports of the association were approved with one of the highlights being continued rate stability. Over the last 13 years the membership has only received one rate increase. Additionally, in September nearly \$1 million was retired as a dividend to the members under the annual capital credit retirement cycle.

Member satisfaction is on the rise, reliability is improving and the price of electricity is stable, but it is still an uncertain time.

At San Isabel Electric, providing electricity for a large area of southern Colorado is important. What the employees do is serious and dangerous work. People, schools and businesses rely on electricity to power their lives. Thousands of people depend on our professional employees.

Southern Colorado is an often forgotten region of the state. San Isabel Electric serves many extremely rural areas and we know how important our role is in sustaining the entire region, which is why we need to continue to cooperate and work together to survive and thrive. There is no strength in division.

It's important when we are at work to remember we all have the tools to be



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successful on our own path; we also need to respect that everyone is on their own path in life. Understand and respect each other. Understand beliefs won't be changed with a debate or argument.

One of my favorite quotes is: *"If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser souls than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time."*

The employees of San Isabel Electric appreciate the opportunity to serve the membership. They do it with a professional conviction that is unrivaled. Please be patient and understand we're all on the same team. Despite the ugliness that seems to inundate us every day, we have so many things to be thankful for.



APPLY FOR SIEA SCHOLARSHIPS TODAY

San Isabel Electric scholarship applications are now open for those who will begin their adventure in higher education in fall 2022.

Last year, San Isabel Electric awarded a record number of scholarships including the first ever continuing education and first-to-attend scholarships.

“It is a pleasure to offer a wide variety of scholarship opportunities to the San Isabel Electric membership. Community is one of our top priorities at the co-op and awarding scholarships is just one of the ways we show concern for our communities,” said Jacque Sikes, president of the San Isabel Electric Board of Directors.

All scholarship opportunities require the applicant or the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to be a current San Isabel Electric member-owner. A full list of eligibility requirements for each scholarship is available at siea.com/scholarships.

Apply for the following scholarships now, through March 1, 2022:

\$1,000 San Isabel Electric Scholarships

Applicants must be high school seniors planning to attend an accredited college or university. Students must reside in San Isabel Electric’s service territory to receive a scholarship.

Two \$1,000 At-large Scholarships

Applicants do not have to attend a high school in San Isabel Electric’s service territory, but they must reside in the state of Colorado to be eligible. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to attend an accredited college or university.

Two \$1,000 Vocational Scholarships

Applicants must be planning to attend an occupational training program of two years or less at an accredited vocational school, technical school, community college or junior college and be classified as a full-time student.

Two \$1,000 First-to-Attend Scholarships

Applicants must graduate from a high school in San Isabel Electric’s service territory and will be the first person in their

immediate family planning to attend their first year of higher education at an accredited college or university.

Two \$1,000 Continuing Education Scholarships

Applicants must have been out of high school for a minimum of two years and must be planning to attend an accredited college, university, vocational or technical school, community college or junior college. The applicant must also be a current member-owner of San Isabel Electric.

One \$5,000 Powered-Up Scholarship

The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors will select the top three winners from all other scholarships, excluding the at-large, Basin and Tri-State scholarships, to participate in an interview for the Powered-Up Scholarship. The winner will be announced at the scholarship banquet. Applicants must have first applied for any of the above scholarships, and plan to attend their first year at an accredited college or university. San Isabel Electric will donate \$500 to the high school attended by the recipient of the Powered-Up Scholarship. Other requirements are listed on our website.

One \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative will award one \$1,000 scholarship to a San Isabel Electric member-owner or member-owner dependent.

Two \$500 Tri-State Generation and Transmission Scholarships

Tri-State Generation and Transmission will award two \$500 scholarships to San Isabel Electric member-owners or member-owner dependents.

Do not miss out on more than 30 scholarship opportunities available from your local electric co-op. Visit siea.com/scholarships for more information.



**It's
Scholarship
Season!!**

**San Isabel
Electric**

**Apply now
through March 1, 2022
at SIEA.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS.**



Delegates from Colorado's electric cooperatives, including San Isabel Electric, visit the state Capitol before departing to Washington, D.C., for Youth Tour. ➔



Virtual Scavenger Hunt to Select Youth Trip Participants

San Isabel Electric is happy to announce that, after two years of canceled trips, six lucky high school juniors have the chance to participate in a weeklong, all-expenses-paid leadership trip to either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs.

Participants get to learn how to engage in the law and policy-making process at the national, state and local levels — even at their electric co-op.

“Politics are real and human when our young San Isabel members realize they have the power to shape our future, because they do have the same opportunities to have a conversation with their congressman as they do with their co-op’s leadership,” said San Isabel Electric General Manager Reg Rudolph.



➔ Students representing electric cooperatives and San Isabel Electric travel to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for Youth Leadership Camp.

They also learn about the seven cooperative principles all co-ops are founded on. Perhaps the most important cooperative principle they learn about is democratic owner control. All electric co-ops are led by local members who can understand and listen to the community. Youth Leadership Camp and Washington D.C. Youth Tour participants discover they can take advantage of the same opportunities to shape the future of America, in the same way they can shape the future of their electric co-op.

Any high school junior whose family buys power from San Isabel Electric is eligible to apply.

This year, Youth Leadership Camp and Youth Tour participants will be selected through participating in a virtual scavenger hunt. The first six students who finish the online scavenger hunt will be awarded camp or tour spots.

To participate in the scavenger hunt, please email San Isabel Electric Youth Outreach Coordinator Emma Vallejos at emma.vallejos@siea.com.





HOME ENERGY-EFFICIENCY MAKEOVER

The home energy makeover could include but is not limited to:

- heating & cooling
- duct & air sealing
- attic insulation
- lighting
- appliance upgrades
- water heater
- home ventilation
- windows
- solar
- EV charger
- outdoor power equipment
- & more

Participants can apply online or call 800-279-SIEA to request a printable application or an application by mail. Mailed applications will include a self-addressed return envelope.



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 31, 2022



CALL 800-279-SIEA TO REQUEST A PRINTABLE APPLICATION

The Internal Revenue Service requires San Isabel Electric Association, Inc. to send a 1099-MISC form to anyone awarded a prize of more than \$ 600.00. Please be aware that the home energy efficiency donation may be considered taxable to the recipient at the fair market value of the reward. The recipient of the award should seek the advice of his or her own individual or business tax practitioner.



SIEA.COM/HOMEENERGYMAKEOVER