



**Sumner-Cowley  
Electric Co-op., Inc.**

*Building on our past. Lighting the way to the future.*

P.O. Box 220, Wellington, KS 67152  
888-326-3356  
[www.sucocoop.com](http://www.sucocoop.com)

**SUMNER-COWLEY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS FROM THE **WHEAT CAPITAL**

## SUMNER-COWLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**John Schon**

President, District 7

**Keith Leddy**

Vice President, District 4

**Jeff Swanson**

Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

**John Beard**

Director, District 3

**Craig Knudsen**

Director, District 1

**Jim McMullin**

Director, District 5

**Gabe Schlickau**

Director, District 6

### STAFF

**Coni Adams**

CEO

**Jordan Creed**

Director of Operations

**Stacy Wiley**

Director of Finance

**Abbi Jo Moulton**

Member Services/  
Communications Specialist

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## FROM THE CEO

# Energy Scams Unmasked

Consumers with water, gas and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. But in today's digital world, every swipe and click increases the risk of potential scams.

Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened digital knives, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods.

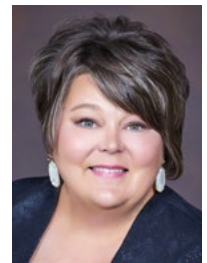
Sumner-Cowley Electric wants to help you avoid energy scams, whether a financial loss or leak of your personal information. This month, I'd like to share updates on some of the latest utility scams, as well as tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

### RECENT UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers typically disguise themselves — either physically or digitally — as utility employees or representatives to steal consumers' money or personal

information. A common trick is to claim a consumer's bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service if payment isn't received immediately. Scammers approach consumers through a variety of means, including phone calls, text messages, emails and even in-person visits. However, the digital line of attack is increasingly more common.

For example, new capabilities disguising caller ID or "spoofing" can make the phone number you see on caller ID appear to be from a trusted source. Spoofing makes it easier for scammers to deceive you because it's more difficult to immediately verify the call. Another recent scam uses fraudulent websites that are identical to a utility payment webpage — and what's worse, these pages are often promoted on search engines to



**Coni Adams**

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## SAFETY TIP

Only use a gas or charcoal grill outside. Grills are designed to be used outside where there is plenty of ventilation. Using one in a closed or partially enclosed space can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up and cause CO poisoning. Grill in the great outdoors.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

# Sumner-Cowley Electric Co-op Annual Meeting

## ◎ RURAL FOR A REASON ◎

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Wellington High School, in Wellington, Kansas. The meeting began at 7 p.m. with President John Schon calling the meeting to order, following the National Anthem.

Attorney H. Douglas Pfalzgraf stated pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative, an adequate quorum was present with 172 members registered for the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Swanson presented the Official Annual Meeting Notice, as well as the certificate of mailing for the official notice. He then

presented the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership and asked how the membership wished him to proceed. The membership voted and approved the minutes as presented.

Attorney Pfalzgraf then presented the uncontested results of the 2024 board of director elections. They were as follows: District 4 — Keith Leddy, District 6 — Gabe Schlickau, and District 7 — John Schon.

CEO Coni Adams welcomed everyone and shared that this was the highest attended annual meeting in cooperative history. She then introduced the current directors of the cooperative, SCEC staff, and special guests: Kansas Electric

Cooperatives, Inc. Director of Cybersecurity **BILL GLYNN** and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative's Executive Director, Technical & Energy Services **SHAWN GEIL**. She then introduced area legislators in attendance, including Senator Larry Alley and his wife, and Representative Webster Roth along with his wife. CEO Adams wrapped up the welcome and introductions with a thank you to Attorney Pfalzgraf and his son, Austin.

CEO Adams gave a recap of 2023 including cooperative upgrades, increased vegetation management, capital credits, green energy, peak shaving, and returned savings in bill credits. She covered the 2023 rate change, and what it has meant for the cooperative and its members. She addressed the member satisfaction survey and responded to questions submitted through the survey, touching on topics including demand, member-owned renewables, community involvement, and future commitments to providing safe, affordable and reliable electricity to SCEC members. CEO Adams thanked everyone again, and handed the meeting over to Abbi Jo Moulton, SCEC member services.

Moulton introduced the SCEC youth program winners for 2023; **ALIVIA BACON**, who attended the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour; and **AUBREY HUNT**, who attended Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. They each spoke briefly on their experiences. Moulton then



Systems Operator Danny Clark (left) showcased electrical safety displays at the meeting. Whether it's about electrical safety tips or emergency preparedness, we've got you covered! Best of all, there's no cost involved! Our demonstration is all about promoting public safety education in rural areas.







This year's attendance broke our record with a turnout of 172 members, surpassing last year's turnout of 154.

announced the 2024 delegates: **GRANT FISHER** who will attend Youth Tour, and **EASTON NEWBERRY** who will attend Leadership Camp.

Moulton then presented scholarships to the recipients in attendance. SCEC provided 13 \$500 scholarships to our members' children this year. Since 2011, SCEC has awarded more than \$130,000 in scholarships. These scholarships recognize academic achievement and dedication to extracurricular activities and community involvement. The Seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, compels the cooperative to reward students and promote higher learning.



SCEC staff pose during the meeting. From left: Stacy Wiley, Erin Struble, Danny Clark, Leah Drouhard, Cayenne Wagoner, Coni Adams, Jennifer Lintecum, Ashley Gerber, Jordan Creed, Casha Short, Abbi Jo Moulton, Mitch McComb and Dale Miller.



A delicious spread of 600 cookies were enjoyed by members courtesy of two talented members Katie Nance, owner of The Flour Pot Bakery, and Karra Atkerson, owner of Karra's Kakes & Other Tasty Treats.

## BILL CREDIT WINNERS

### \$1,000

- ▶ Rita Wheeler

### \$750

- ▶ Brett Brown

### \$500

- ▶ Lewis Gary II

### \$100

- ▶ Gregory Ebenkamp
- ▶ Albert Osner
- ▶ Mike Brunhoeber
- ▶ Virginia Heimerman
- ▶ Carol Shivers
- ▶ Jay Zimmerman
- ▶ James Cunningham
- ▶ Steven McCreary
- ▶ Rob Baird
- ▶ Gene McCauley
- ▶ Jim Dugan
- ▶ Janet Neitzel

### \$50

- ▶ Rod Coykendall
- ▶ Shelia Riedl
- ▶ Rex Schott
- ▶ Virgil Stark
- ▶ Leon Wyckoff
- ▶ James Thayer
- ▶ Tammy & Danny Kennedy
- ▶ William Erickson
- ▶ Lawrence Zoglmann
- ▶ Stan Jones



## Energy Scams Unmasked Continued from page 12A ▶

trick consumers into clicking and making a payment.

Another recent scam involves phone calls, text messages or emails claiming you overpaid your electric bill and will receive a cash or banking refund. This offer may seem too good to be true, and it is — it's likely a scam aimed at stealing your personal information.

### SPOTTING A SCAM

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam.

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately.

Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam.

You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy

forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

### WHAT SUMNER-COWLEY ELECTRIC WILL (AND WON'T) DO

Sumner-Cowley will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects.

We will never ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options including: in-person, online at [www.sucocoop.com](http://www.sucocoop.com), scheduled payments, SmartHub app, or by phone at 833-526-0185 using our interactive voice response (IVR) system.

### AVOIDING SCAMS

Whether in-person, over the phone or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be a Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative employee requesting banking or other personal information.

If you're ever in doubt about a



potential energy scam, give us a quick call at 888-326-3356 so we can assist. Sumner-Cowley Electric wants to help protect you and our communities against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.

**COOPERATIVELY YOURS,  
CONI ADAMS, CEO**

## SUMNER-COWLEY ELECTRIC

# 2024 Scholarship Winners



The 2024 SCEC scholarship recipients were all in attendance at the 86th annual meeting. Each winner received a \$500 scholarship from SCEC.

### ALIVIA BACON

South Haven High School

### GRACE BENDER

Conway Springs High School

### MICAH BROWN

Dexter High School

### LINDY DONLEY

Oxford High School

### MELISSA EBENKAMP

Conway Springs High School

### TRISTIAN MAXWELL EDE

Clearwater High School

### DELAYNIE ESTERLY

Belle Plain High School

### SAMANTHA ESTES

Douglas High School

### KIMBER FLEMING

Mulvane High School

### MADISON MCGEE

Arkansas City High School

### JANEL MEYER

Conway Springs High School

### TATUM ROUNTREE

Wellington High School

### JACEE THEURER

South Haven High School