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**SUMNER-COWLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

News from the Wheat Capital



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Like Us on Facebook

Join us on Facebook for updates from Sumner-Cowley Electric. Simply search for Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative and click the "like" button.



CEO MESSAGE

An Update About Your Bill and February Storm Energy Costs

The following information was published to our website and Facebook page, as well as distributed to media outlets across our service territory on March 12. We are publishing this in the April issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine to ensure that this important information has been made available to all of our consumer-members.



Coni Adams

Sumner-Cowley consumer-members received a bill for their February usage in March. We hope that the information below will help you better understand your billing statement.

Two line items always on your bill are the Energy Charge and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). The Energy Charge reflects the amount of kilowatt-hours (kWh) used multiplied by your rate. The PCA reflects the increases, and sometimes decreases, in the cooperative's cost of purchased power from our provider. The fluctuation is largely determined by changes in the cost of fuel or other materials used in the generation of energy. The PCA is tied directly to the number of kWh consumed by the consumer-member during a billing period.

The PCA on your March bill (February usage) equalled 4.144 cents per kWh. This is approximately 1.6 cents per kWh

higher than the normal PCA charge, or an additional \$16 per every 1,000 kWh used.

The time frame for the settlement process of the transmission and generation of power will cause the PCA to fluctuate over the course of the next several months. The total cost of this situation has yet to be fully realized and accounted for.

Any increase to our consumer-members is regrettable but, given the magnitude of this situation, it is unavoidable. Sumner-Cowley's management, employees and the board of directors are committed to transparency and will provide the membership with more information as it becomes available. We will make payment arrangements and continue to use everything at our disposal to provide the support that our consumer-members deserve.

Annual Meeting Update

Each spring, Sumner-Cowley Electric hosts its annual meeting where friends and neighbors come together to enjoy a meal and conduct the business of the cooperative. We have heard from some members who are curious about this year's annual meeting and while COVID-19 still presents some obstacles for this year's annual meeting, we want to provide our members with an update on where we are in the planning process.

When we plan the annual meeting, one of the first steps is to reserve a location. Typically, the Wellington High School is our venue of choice but, unfortunately, USD 353 is not allowing outside groups to rent their facilities due to COVID-19 concerns. We are still looking at various venue options and will provide that information to you once we have made that decision.

The next step is reserving the services of a caterer for the meal. At this point, it is unclear whether Sumner-Cowley will be able to provide a meal before the annual meeting.

One of the final steps in the process is gathering door prizes and coordinating the free electricity giveaway. Sumner-Cowley plans to continue this tradition in some fashion this year as well.

While the annual meeting will not be held until later in the year, we still want to provide our members with the information they would have normally received at this point in the year. We will be publishing the financial statements, election results, Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp updates as well as the list of our 2021 scholarship recipients in the May issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

While our annual meeting will be different from what we are used to, we are committed to gathering with our consumer-members in the future. We will provide updates on the status of the annual meeting in the coming months. That information will be published here in the pages of *Kansas Country Living*. It will also be posted to our website and on our Facebook page. If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please give us a call at 888-326-3356.

Brown Awarded Co-op Scholarship

JUSTIN BROWN of Caldwell, a junior majoring in agribusiness at Kansas State University, has been awarded the Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

Brown is actively involved in student organizations and has held leadership positions in the K-State Agricultural Economics-Agribusiness Club and K-State Alpha Zeta Honorary Fraternity. He participated in an international study abroad experience to Europe in 2019 and completed an internship with CVA in their Clay Center location during 2020. Justin works as a basketball and football official while going to school. He plans to graduate in May 2022 and has a career goal of being a farm and grain supply co-op manager. The Brown family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Farm Credit of Enid, Farmers Grain Cooperative (Pond Creek, OK), KanOkla Telephone Assn., Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative and Wheatland Electric. His mom also works for the local telephone co-op.

The Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship, established in

tribute to the late Joe Lieber and his enthusiasm for cooperative education, has awarded over \$78,000 in scholarships since its establishment

in 2005. Lieber contributed to cooperative education and development for many years while serving as president of the Kansas Cooperative Council and was a respected leader in the co-op community.

"This scholarship was established by Joseph Lieber's family and the Kansas Cooperative Council to perpetuate the memory and contribution of Joe Lieber to the development and leadership of cooperative businesses," states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. "It also provides significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study."

Brown was a Sumner-Cowley scholarship recipient in 2018. He is the son of Sumner-Cowley consumer-members Jimmy and Jennifer Brown.



Justin Brown

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



Protect Your Home with HomeGuard

Electric appliances are a very important part of our day-to-day life, yet we hardly think about them - until there's trouble. Trouble can arise through power surges, which can be caused by car accidents involving utility poles, limbs falling on power lines, fluctuations within the home and many other events. The resulting electrical surges enter your home through the wiring and can damage the appliances that you depend on.

Sumner-Cowley Electric offers HomeGuard, an affordable and effective solution that will help prevent damage caused by surges.

Did you know that surges can also enter your home through your cable/satellite and phone wires? In order to protect your equipment that utilizes these wires, surge protection devices should be installed at these entry points as well. Sumner-Cowley Electric offers Point-of-Use Surge Protection Devices to protect sensitive electronic equipment such as:

- ▶ Computers
- ▶ Fax/Modem/Printers
- ▶ Garage Door Openers
- ▶ Televisions
- ▶ VCR/DVD/DVR devices
- ▶ Video Game Consoles

What is HomeGuard?

The HomeGuard unit is a device that is installed directly at your meter.



It is designed to help protect your home's wiring, electronics and white appliances from electrical spikes and surges.

Warranty

The HomeGuard warranty covers only white appliances. White appliances are defined as heating and air units, washer, dryer, stove, refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher and garbage disposal. Other sensitive electronics may also need indoor surge suppressors to be completely protected.

Electronic Protection

Sumner-Cowley Electric also offers point of use surge protection devices designed to protect sensitive electronics within the home.

Lease

The HomeGuard unit may be leased for \$4.99 per month, which is added to your electric bill.

The lease agreement is for a minimum of three years. Installation for the HomeGuard meter base unit is \$30. The installation fee is waived in the month of April!

Claims

Claims are paid only when a unit or suppressor is tested by the manufacture and found to have failed during a power surge. A unit or suppressor may be tested without charge.

Please Sumner-Cowley Electric at 888-326-3356 for more information on available Surge Protection Devices.

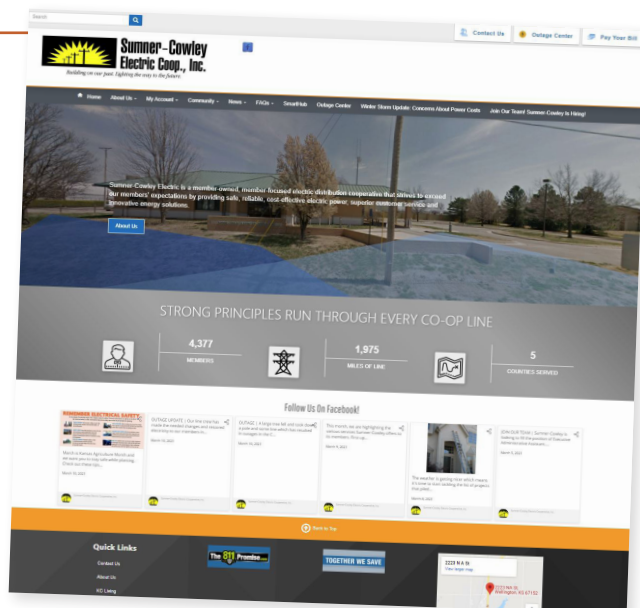
We Have Updated Our Website!

In March, Sumner-Cowley launched an updated website with an improved appearance and increased functionality.

The website may be updated but it still provides you with the information and access you need to make the most of your membership like:

- ▶ SmartHub, our online bill pay app that helps you take control of your account
- ▶ Access to our Facebook feed. You don't have to have a Facebook account to see our posts. Just head over to our website and look for the latest updates on events, outages and more
- ▶ Co-op news to help you keep up to date with all the latest from your cooperative

Head over to sucocoop.com on your computer or mobile device and explore the new site for yourself!



Thank a Lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Sumner-Cowley Electric, most consumer-members would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at

Sumner-Cowley, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Our professionals in Operations and Engineering provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op and our professionals in Billing and Reception are always standing by to take your calls and questions. These are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our lineworkers are a bit different. Since 2006, we have exclusively used contracted lineworkers from J&J Powerline Contractors, a relationship that has been beneficial to our co-op. Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers proudly represent J&J and Sumner-Cowley and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you’ll thank them for their exceptional service. We also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



LINEWORKERS BRING THE LIGHT.

Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 12, remember to
#ThankALineworker