

# Board Honors Korokis as New Journeyman

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “Cooperative”) was held on Monday, August 18, 2025, at the offices of the Cooperative in Sikeston, Missouri. The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by President Richard Faulkner. The following Directors were present: Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Dennis Fowler, Field LaPlant, and Von Priggel. Directors absent: none. Staff members present were Chris Freed, Brad Milam, Becky Ivester, Loyd Rice, Chas Kersey, Neil Kimbrel, Jared Kelley, Ron Montgomery, Amanda Burnett, and Dannett Poyner. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager; Bryan Bacon of CFC; and Joshua Friel, Attorney for the Cooperative. A prayer of invocation was offered by Coppage.

The Board approved the agenda and its consent agenda, consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 21, 2025; new membership applications; membership cancellations; initial review of Policy 215 – Insurance; and initial review of Policy 217 – Commercial Driver’s Licenses. Montgomery presented the monthly safety report. He provided information on the monthly safety topic, “Do Not Plant Near Padmount Transformers,” and shared the lost-time and injury summary for the previous month. Lineman Noah Korokis was recognized for completing his apprenticeship and receiving his journeyman certificate.

Under old business, the Board reviewed its schedule of meetings and confirmed registrations for attendance. The Board also reviewed Policy 213 – Jury Duty. In addition, the Board reviewed Policy 214 – Retirement Age.

Under new business, the Board reviewed and discussed district updates. Rice presented an opportunity to participate in AECI’s Residential Development Revolving Loan Fund, and after discussion, the Board resolved to invest \$20,000 into the fund. The Board discussed the 2026 Annual Meeting date and location, which is tentatively set for May 14, 2026. Discussion regarding the Lineworkers’ Collective Bargaining Agreement was taken up during Executive Session. Following Executive Session, it was announced that the following motion was made, seconded, and passed: resolved, that the new five-year Lineworkers’ Collective Bargaining Agreement be accepted as presented.

Under Strategic Planning and Director Education, Bacon provided an update on CFC financing, and Kersey provided an update on Bell City R-II School’s use of the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program funds. A video was shown. Burnett reviewed the financial summary for July 2025 with revenue, expense analysis, and budget comparisons. Based on budget, year-to-date revenue is up 0.25%, operating expenses are down 9.24%, and cost of power is up 1.57%.

Haynes reported his attendance at a recent AMEC meeting, noting items of interest that included employee benefits, training, budget, and a possible dues increase. The Board reviewed and discussed the written staff reports, and staff members supplemented their written reports with additional information.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



*Lineman Noah Korokis was recognized for completing his apprenticeship and receiving his lineman journeyman certificate from CEO Sean Vanslyke, left, and Superintendent Ben Campbell, right.*



*Team SEMO’s Chas Kersey shared an update with the Board about Bell City R-II School’s use of Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program.*



*Bryan Bacon of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) provided the Board with an update on financing and industry trends.*