



The Board formally recognized the retirements of Ron Montgomery, left middle with Jared Kelley, who served SEMO Electric Cooperative since 1999, and Gerard Scherer, right middle with Brad Milam, who worked for nearly seven years at the cooperative. Team members shared remarks highlighting their years of service, leadership, and dedication to safety, reliability, and teamwork. The Board expressed its appreciation for their lasting contributions and wished them well in retirement.

Board Recognizes Montgomery and Scherer

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Cooperative offices in Sikeston, Missouri. President Richard Faulkner called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Directors present were Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Myron Hawes, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Dennis Fowler, Field LaPlant, and Von Priggel. Tim Coppage was absent. Staff present included Ron Montgomery, Loyd Rice, Becky Ivester, Chris Freed, Brad Milam, Angie Byford, Jared Kelley, and Amanda Burnett. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO and General Manager, and Megan McCord, Attorney for the Cooperative. A prayer of invocation was offered by Myron Hawes. The agenda was approved as presented.

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included the November 14, 2025 meeting minutes, membership activity, and initial reviews of Policy 225, PTO for Non Union Employees, and Policy 226, Benefit Accruals for Non Union Employees. Montgomery presented the monthly safety report focused on winter weather, which the Board accepted. In old business, the Board reviewed its meeting schedule and reaffirmed Policy 223, Employee Travel, and Policy 224, Supplemental Compensation for Non Union Employees for Disaster Situations. Burnett presented the 2026 budget and the 2026 electric rates. The rate increase averages about thirty cents per day for residential members using 1,500 kWh per month. The Board approved the rates and amended Policy 422, Prepaid Rates. Rate details are available at gosemo.com. In new business, the Board reviewed district updates, approved 2025 bad debt write offs, completed annual conflict of interest questionnaires, reappointed the slate of voting delegates for 2026, adopted a resolution related to director election campaigning, discussed potential bylaw amendments, reviewed nominating committee recommendations, and approved a one thousand dollar contribution to the Cooperative Family Fund. Burnett presented the November 2025 financial summary. Year to date, electric revenue is up 1.96 percent, operating expenses are down 4.42 percent, and power costs are up 2.01 percent compared to budget. The Board accepted the financial report.

The Board formally recognized the retirements of Montgomery, who served SEMO Electric since 1999, and Gerard Scherer, who had worked for nearly seven years at the cooperative. Team members shared remarks highlighting their years of service, leadership, and dedication to safety, reliability, and teamwork. The Board expressed its appreciation for their lasting contributions to SEMO Electric Cooperative and wished them well in retirement.

Eftink provided an update from recent M&A Electric Power Cooperative meetings, noting discussions focused on safety, reliability, and rates. Haynes reported on his attendance at an Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives meeting, which included a review of 2025 activities and strategic planning efforts for 2026. The Board reviewed written staff reports before entering Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.