

# Board Meets Bowling and Korokis in Bloomfield



*Team SEMO's Ben Campbell (right) introduced new journeyman linemen Sam Bowling (left) and Noah Korokis to SEMO Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors during a meeting in Bloomfield. As part of their onboarding, the linemen attended the full meeting and shared highlights of their professional and personal journeys.*



*Team SEMO's Dannett Cooper briefed SEMO Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors on the impact of cold weather on energy bills. She highlighted how member services assists members in understanding their heating methods and explained why energy bills can differ significantly, depending on whether households use electricity, natural gas, propane, or wood for heating.*



*Team SEMO's Amanda Burnett updated the Board of Directors on efforts to recover federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damages caused by the devastating storms over the 2024 Memorial Day Weekend. She reported that the cooperative continues to hold weekly calls with FEMA and responds to ongoing data requests. The total cost of the storms was \$1,719,323, and SEMO Electric aims to recover the funds by Memorial Day 2025.*

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Cooperative"), was held on Monday, January 20, 2025, at the offices of the Cooperative in Bloomfield, Missouri. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by President Richard Faulkner. The following Directors were present: Faulkner, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Dennis Fowler, Field LaPlant, and Von Priggel. Directors absent: John Bledsoe. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager; Megan McCord, Attorney for the Cooperative; and staff members Chris Freed, Loyd Rice, Ben Campbell, Jared Kelley, Dannett Cooper, Brad Milam, Amanda Burnett, Sam Bowling, Noah Korokis, and Angie Byford. A prayer of invocation was offered by Freed.

Campbell introduced new employees Bowling and Korokis. The chair asked for approval of the agenda. On a motion made, seconded, and passed, the agenda was approved as presented. The Board considered its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2024; new membership applications; membership cancellations; the initial review of Policy 104 – Board Qualifications and Conduct; and the initial review of Policy 201 – Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace.

Kelley presented the monthly safety report. He provided information on the monthly safety topic – Norovirus, recent meetings attended, and the lost time and injury summary for the previous month.

Under old business, the Board reviewed its schedule of meetings and confirmed registrations for attendance. Directors reported their attendance at recent meetings. After discussion, on a motion made, seconded, and passed, Policy 102 – Duties, Authority, Responsibility of Directors was amended as recommended. Discussion regarding Policy 103 – Per Diem, Insurance, and Other Benefits was taken up during the executive session. Directors reviewed a list of nominating committee members. After discussion, on a motion made, seconded, and passed, the Board appointed the 2025 nominating committee members as presented. Vanslyke discussed potential bylaw amendments. After discussion, on a motion made, seconded, and passed, the Board resolved to present a bylaw amendment requiring a twelve-month district residency qualification for director candidates.

Under new business, the following items were discussed. The Board reviewed and discussed district updates. Vanslyke reviewed the timeline for the 2025 annual meeting of the members. The annual meeting is set for May 15, 2025, at the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Grounds. Vanslyke presented information on the recent request for contributions to NRECAPAC/AMECPAC, and directors made individual pledges.

Burnett reviewed the financial summary for December 2024 with revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Compared to budget, year-to-date revenue was down 1.12%, operating expenses were down 7.96%, and power costs were down 1.29%. She also noted that 1099s had been recently completed, highlighted recent storm expenses, and provided details on the soft close of the books for 2024.

Eftink reported on business from the M&A Electric Transmission board meeting. Items of interest included finances, generation, sales, and reliability.

The Board reviewed written reports, and department leaders were present to supplement their reports and answer questions from the Board. Remaining staff members left the meeting, and the Board entered executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. The Board reviewed Board Member expenses and per diems for the prior month. After discussion, on a motion made, seconded, and passed, the per diem days and associated expenses from Directors were approved as amended. There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.