

Planning, Policy, Progress

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Cooperative”) was held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at the Cooperative’s office in Sikeston, Missouri. The meeting was called to order at 10:33 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. No directors were absent. Staff members in attendance included Chris Freed, Brad Milam, Becky Ivester, Loyd Rice, Amanda Burnett, Angie Byford, Jared Kelley, and Ron Montgomery. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, General Manager, and Megan McCord, Attorney for the Cooperative. A prayer of invocation was offered by Rice.

The chair called for approval of the agenda. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the agenda was approved as presented. The Board then considered its consent agenda, which included the minutes of the regular meeting held April 21, 2025, new membership applications, membership cancellations, and the initial review of Policy 208 – Funeral Leave and Policy 209 – Holidays. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the consent agenda was approved.

Montgomery presented the monthly safety report, which included the monthly safety topic. Under old business, the Board reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and confirmed director registrations. Directors also shared updates on recent meetings attended. The Board reviewed and reaffirmed Policy 206 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Policy 207 – Family and Medical Leave Act. Both policies were reaffirmed after discussion and approved by motion. Under new business, the Board received and discussed district updates. Policy 401 – Rebates was reviewed and, after discussion, amended as presented. Complete rebate information is available at gosemo.com. Vanslyke informed the Board of the need to appoint members to the SEMO Electric Foundation, Inc. Board and asked directors to provide nominations at the June board meeting. Vanslyke also reported on the need to appoint a delegate to the Division VI Nominating Committee. After discussion, Keith Haynes was appointed by motion as the Division VI Nominating Committee Delegate.

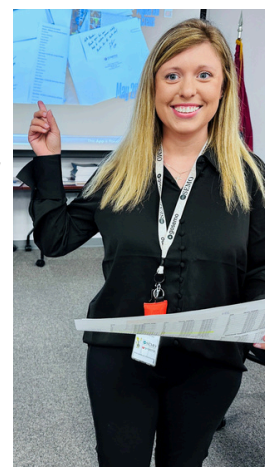
Under Strategic Planning and Director Education, Meghan Smith presented an update on member attendance at the recent annual meeting. The Board viewed a draft video compilation of the event. Vanslyke provided an overview of the early adjournment due to severe weather and the relocation of the business portion to the Sikeston campus. Directors discussed ideas for improving next year’s annual meeting.

Burnett presented the financial report for April 2025, including revenue, expense analysis, and budget comparisons. Compared to budget, electric revenue is up 1.64%, operating expenses are down 10.39%, and cost of power is up 3.19%. She also provided updates on Cooperative loans and several open FEMA claims—particularly the outstanding payment for the Memorial Day Weekend 2024 event. Eftink reported on items from the M&A Electric Power (Transmission) Cooperative meeting, covering updates on safety, construction, finances, and reliability. The Board reviewed the written report from the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives and discussed the content.

Directors also reviewed written staff reports, with staff supplementing those reports with verbal updates and additional information. Following the conclusion of staff reports, all staff members exited the meeting. The Board then entered Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



Team SEMO’s Meghan Smith announces a record-breaking 712 registered members at this year’s Annual Meeting—marking the highest participation in the event’s history. Held at the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Grounds, the drive-thru event allowed members to cast their votes, receive a participation gift, and enjoy a smooth, convenient experience—all from the comfort of their vehicles.



Team SEMO’s Ron Montgomery highlights the importance of daily safety at the cooperative while sharing this month’s focus—how to beat the heat and stay safe on the job during the summer months. One key tip: stay hydrated by drinking water frequently, even before you feel thirsty.