

Johnson, Pitchford Meet Board of Directors



Team SEMO's Karen Griffin and Meghan Smith (left) shared highlights from the Utility 2030 Summit, including their volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity before the event. Becky Ivester (right) introduced Patrick Johnson, the new Fiber Technician, who spoke about his background and responsibilities with SEMO Electric Cooperative and GoSEMO Fiber.



Team SEMO's Jake Jones discussed his presentation at a national software event, where he shared insights on efficiencies to benefit SEMO Electric and GoSEMO Fiber. Jones (left) also introduced Levi Pitchford, the new Fiber IT Support Specialist, to the board. Pitchford shared his background and outlined his responsibilities at SEMO Electric Cooperative and GoSEMO Fiber.



Attorney Joshua Friel presented an in-depth review of 'The Roles of a Director,' emphasizing essential responsibilities in Financial, Legal, and Governance areas. This session, part of SEMO Electric Cooperative's annual risk mitigation program, aimed to equip directors with tools to strengthen oversight and ensure organizational resilience.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Cooperative") was held on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at the Cooperative's offices in Sikeston. The meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m. by President Richard Faulkner. Directors present included Faulkner, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, John Bledsoe, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Field LaPlant, Dennis Fowler, and Von Priggel. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager; Joshua Friel, Attorney for the Cooperative; and staff members Chris Freed, Becky Ivester, Jared Kelley, Brad Milam, Amanda Burnett, Levi Pitchford, Patrick Johnson, Karen Griffin, Meghan Smith, and Jake Jones. Kelley offered an opening prayer. The agenda was then presented for approval, and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made, seconded, and passed.

Kelley provided the monthly safety report, covering the topic of Carbon Monoxide, recent safety meetings, and the previous month's lost time and injury summary. The Board approved the monthly safety report on a motion that was made, seconded, and passed.

Under old business, the Board reviewed its schedule of upcoming meetings and confirmed attendance registrations. Directors also reported on recent meetings they had attended. Policies 419 (Construction to Subdivisions) and 420 (Member Access to Information) were reviewed and affirmed as presented. Under new business, the Board discussed updates from each district.

In the Strategic Planning and Director Education section, the following items were reviewed: Griffin, Smith, and Jones provided training updates. Jones introduced new fiber IT support specialist Levi Pitchford and described his responsibilities, while Ivester introduced new fiber technician Patrick Johnson and outlined his duties. Additionally, Friel conducted an annual review of director responsibilities. Burnett, Freed, and Ivester reviewed the financial status and subscriber metrics for GoSEMO Fiber.

Burnett presented the financial summary for September 2024, which included revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Compared to budget, year-to-date revenues are down 1.43%, operating expenses are down 7.89%, and power costs are up 1.96%. The 2025 Capital Budget was also reviewed and discussed. The financial report was accepted on a motion that was made, seconded, and passed.

Eftink provided updates from the M & A Electric Power Cooperative (transmission) meetings held in September and October since the last board meeting. Haynes reported on the recent board meeting of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives.

The Board reviewed written reports, and department leaders were present to supplement their reports and answer questions. Afterward, all remaining staff members exited, and the Board entered an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. The Board also reviewed director expenses and per diems for the prior month, approving them as presented on a motion that was made, seconded, and passed. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.