

Board Focuses on Safety and Development

At its October 20, 2025, meeting, the SEMO Electric Cooperative Board of Directors gathered at the Cooperative's headquarters in Sikeston. President Richard Faulkner called the meeting to order, with all directors present: John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Dennis Fowler, Field LaPlant, and Von Priggel.

Safety remained a top priority as Ron Montgomery shared the monthly safety report. The topic for October highlighted that nationally, slips, trips, and falls cause 20% of workplace accidents. The board reviewed recent safety performance, including the lost time and injury summary, and accepted the report by motion.

Under old business, directors confirmed upcoming meeting schedules and reviewed several board policies. Policy 218 (Nepotism) was tabled until November for further review, while Policy 219 (Out of Area Storm Pay) was reaffirmed. Directors also conducted the initial review of Policy 220 (Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services) and Policy 222 (Supervisors Use of Cooperative Vehicle).

During the Strategic Planning and Director Education portion of the meeting, Chief Financial Officer Amanda Burnett introduced Candi Chappell, who recently completed Level 1 of the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) Certificate Program, offered by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). The KRTA program, first published in 1975, tracks the median value of 145 financial and operational ratios for participating electric distribution cooperatives.

Dannett Poyner introduced Savannah Burchard, who discussed a training event involving the Cooperative's software provider, NISC. Burchard shared how the experience enhanced her understanding of member service and system operations. Attorney Megan McCord also presented the annual review of fiduciary duties for board members.

Burnett reviewed the Cooperative's financial summary for September. Year-to-date, compared to budget, revenue is up 1.04%, operating expenses are down 9.33%, and cost of power is up 1.85%. The report was accepted by motion.

In committee reports, Eftink provided an update from recent M&A Electric Power Cooperative meetings, noting discussions on safety, reliability, software conversion, wildfire mitigation, and rates. Haynes reported on his attendance at an Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC) meeting, which included committee sessions and an annual meeting review.

Following review of staff reports, the board entered Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. The session included approval of the 2025 Clerical Collective Bargaining Agreement, covering the period from November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2030.



SEMO Electric Cooperative's Candi Chappell, right, was recognized for completing Level 1 of the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) Certificate Program through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. She is pictured with Amanda Burnett, chief financial officer.



SEMO Electric Cooperative's Dannett Poyner, left, introduced employee Savannah Burchard during the October board meeting. Burchard discussed a training event involving the Cooperative's software provider, NISC, and shared how the program strengthened her knowledge of member service and system operations.



Attorney Megan McCord, right, provided SEMO Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors with the annual review of fiduciary duties during the October meeting.