

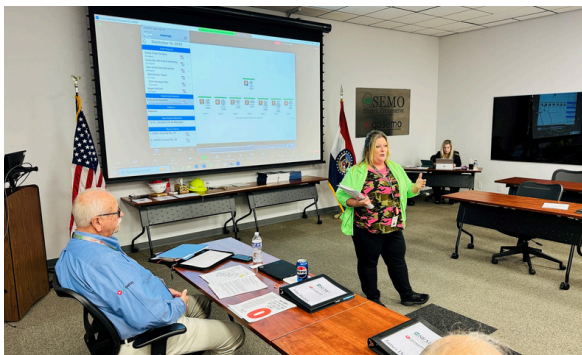
Board Meets Thomlinson, Talks Hunting



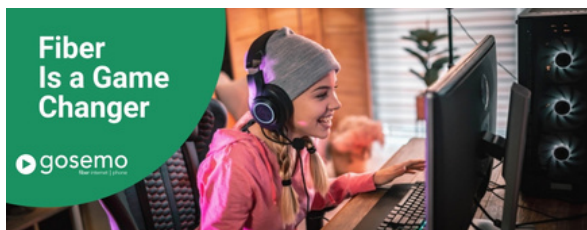
Team SEMO's Chris Freed, left, introduced new employee Koty



Thomlinson, Fiber Construction Technician, to the board. Thomlinson provided an overview of his background and discussed his responsibilities at SEMO Electric Cooperative and GoSEMO Fiber. He also informed the board of several incidents where "hunters" shot doves off the fiber and electric lines, resulting in thousands of dollars in repair costs. Thomlinson emphasized the importance of safety, noting that shooting near power or fiber lines can cause significant damage, pose serious safety risks, and disrupt essential services.



Team SEMO's Becky Ivester discussed the growing popularity of the cooperative's electric prepay program, highlighting its flexibility and convenience. She explained that the program allows members to monitor and control their electricity usage without deposits or late fees. Members have shared positive feedback, noting that it helps them manage their budgets and avoid surprises in their bills. To sign up, members can simply call or visit the cooperative's office. Once enrolled, they can track usage in real time through an online portal, mobile app, or by receiving alerts, with easy options to add funds anytime.



A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Cooperative") was held on Monday, September 16, 2024, at the Cooperative's offices in Sikeston, Missouri. President Richard Faulkner called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. The following Directors were present: Faulkner, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, John Bledsoe, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Field LaPlant, and Von Priggel. Director absent: Dennis Fowler. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager; Megan McCord, Attorney for the Cooperative; and staff members Chris Freed, Becky Ivester, Loyd Rice, Ron Montgomery, Jared Kelley, Brad Milam, Amanda Burnett, Angie Byford, and Koty Thomlinson.

A prayer of invocation was offered by Deneke. The chair requested approval of the agenda. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the agenda was approved as presented. The Board considered its consent agenda, which included: minutes of the regular meeting on August 19, 2024; new membership applications; membership cancellations; initial review of Policy 419 - Construction to Platted Areas; and initial review of Policy 420 - Member Access to Information. On motion made, seconded, and passed, all actions were approved by consent.

Montgomery presented the monthly safety report, which covered the safety topic "Safe Driving - Beat Road Fatigue," recent meetings attended, and the lost time and injury summary for the prior month. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the Board resolved to accept the monthly safety report.

Under old business, the Board reviewed its meeting schedule, confirmed registrations for upcoming events, and reported on attendance at recent meetings. Policy 417 - Point of Service was affirmed as presented. Under new business, the Board reviewed and discussed district updates.

During Strategic Planning / Director Education, Freed introduced new employee Koty Thomlinson, who provided an overview of his job duties at the Cooperative. Burnett then reviewed the financial summary for August 2024, including revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Compared to budget, year-to-date revenues are down 2.26%, operating expenses are down 7.68%, and power costs are up 2.71%. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the financial report was accepted. Eftink reported that no M&A meeting had been held since the last board meeting. Haynes reported on the AMEC meeting, which covered committee reports, dues, and budget updates.

The Board reviewed written reports, with department leaders present to supplement their reports and answer questions. Afterward, remaining staff members left the meeting, and the Board entered Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Following the Executive Session, the following motion was made, seconded, and passed: Resolved that wage increases and employee retention measures be approved as recommended by management.

The Board also reviewed Board Member expenses and per diems for the prior month. After discussion, on motion made, seconded, and passed, the per diem days and associated expenses for Directors were approved as presented. There being no further business, on motion made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.