

Directors Learn About Online Safety Tools

The Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative met September 15, 2025, at Cooperative headquarters in Sikeston. President Richard Faulkner called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. with all directors present. Staff members in attendance included Chris Freed, Brad Milam, Becky Ivester, Loyd Rice, Jared Kelley, Ron Montgomery, Amanda Burnett and Angela Bennett. Also attending were CEO/General Manager Sean Vanslyke and Cooperative Attorney Megan McCord. Director John Bledsoe offered the invocation.

The agenda and consent agenda—including approval of the August 18, 2025, minutes, new memberships and cancellations, and initial review of Policy 218 (Nepotism) and Policy 219 (Out-of-Area Storm Pay)—were approved. The Board also heard and accepted the monthly safety report. Ron Montgomery reported on the safety topic for September, which focused on National Preparedness Month, and reviewed the Cooperative’s lost time and injury summary. Members are reminded to make a plan, build a kit, and stay informed so families are ready for emergencies.

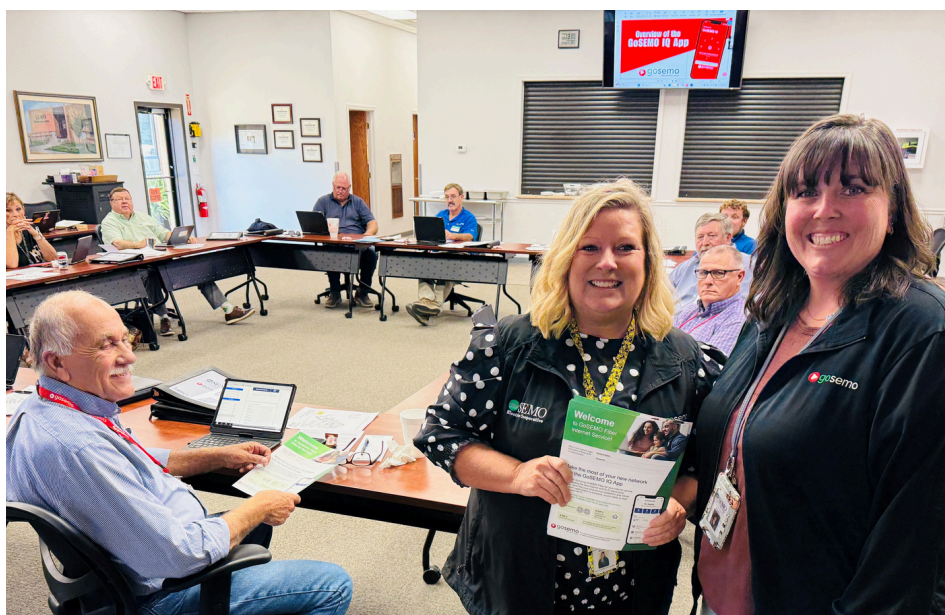
Under old business, the Board reviewed its meeting calendar and confirmed registrations, amended Policy 215 (Health Insurance) to adjust the premium cap, and reaffirmed Policy 217 (Commercial Driver’s License Requirements). In new business, district updates were reviewed and Policy 225 (Paid Time Off) was amended.

As part of strategic planning and director education, Team SEMO’s Angela Bennett provided an overview of GoSEMO Fiber’s IQ App, which gives subscribers full control of their Wi-Fi network. The app allows users to manage settings, monitor connected devices, and set parental controls to help keep families safe online.

Chief Financial Officer Burnett presented the August financial summary, including revenue, expense analysis, budget comparisons, and FEMA claim updates. Year-to-date results compared to budget showed revenue up 1.87%, expenses down 6.22%, and power costs up 2.17%. The Board accepted the financial report.

Directors also heard updates from industry meetings. Carl Eftink reported on an M&A meeting that covered safety, software conversion, FEMA claims, wildfire mitigation, TVA construction, generation and reliability, while Keith Haynes reported on an AMEC meeting that addressed dues and budget comparisons. Staff members supplemented their written reports with additional information.

The Board then entered Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.



Team SEMO’s Angela Bennett, right, and Becky Ivester, left, highlight how GoSEMO Fiber’s IQ App gives subscribers full control of their Wi-Fi, including parental controls to help keep families safe online. Learn more at gosemo.com or call (573) 321-9203.