

Photos by Sean Vanslyke



Team SEMO's Vickie Kemp updated directors on the annual meeting, while Chris Freed, right, and Ryan Jarrett, far right, discussed metering and multipliers during the Cooperative's director strategy and education segment. Multipliers are used when electrical loads are too large for a standard meter to measure directly and are common for large commercial, industrial, irrigation, and three-phase services.



Board Reviews Annual Meeting and System Operations

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Cooperative") was held on Monday, May 18, 2026, at the office of the Cooperative in Sikeston. The meeting was called to order by President Richard Faulkner. The following Directors were present: Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Myron Hawes, Carla Moore, Tim Coppage, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Field LaPlant, Dennis Fowler, and Von Priggel. Directors absent: none. Staff members present: Jared Kelley, Vickie Kemp, Ryan Jarrett, Neil Kimbrel, Brad Milam, Chris Freed, Angie Byford, Amanda Burnett, Loyd Rice, and Becky Ivester. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager, and Sheri Smiley, Attorney for the Cooperative, via Zoom. A prayer of invocation was offered by Byford.

The chair asked for approval of the agenda. On motion made and passed, the agenda was approved. The Board considered its consent agenda consisting of: the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2026; new membership applications; membership cancellations; an initial review of Policy 302 – Cooperative Funds; and an initial review of Policy 303 – Condolences. Kelley presented the monthly safety report, providing information on the monthly safety topic of heat stress on the job and the lost-time and injury summary for the previous month. Under old business, the Board reviewed its schedule of meetings and confirmed registrations for attendance. The Board reviewed Policy 233 – Employee Business Ethics and Policy 301 – OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. Vanslyke led the Board in a debrief of the annual meeting, noting that plans are already underway for 2027. Kemp reported that nearly 800 members attended the meeting, and the Board provided feedback on what they observed throughout the event. Under new business, the Board reviewed and discussed district updates.

Burnett reviewed the financial summary for the month of April 2026, including revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Compared to budget, year-to-date revenue is down 1.51%, expenses are down 2.99%, and power costs are down 1.49%. She also provided updates on line-of-credit payments, FEMA matters, and an ARPA payment. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the financial report was accepted. Haynes reported on business from the recent Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives meeting, including an update on the recent audit. The Board reviewed and discussed written staff reports, supplemented by additional oral presentations from staff members.

As part of the directors' strategy and education segment, Freed, Kimbrel, and Jarrett led a discussion and review of how metering and multipliers work within the current system. Remaining staff members then left the meeting, and the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.