







*Team SEMO's Jonathan Frederick, top left, updated the Board on Operation Accuracy, an ongoing effort to verify non-residential meters, multipliers, wiring and other equipment throughout the Cooperative's system. Chas Kersey, top right, and Bart Ziegenhorn, left, shared an update on business services, including the continued growth of fiber and phone services. About 800 businesses use the Cooperative's phone and phone system services, including some outside the GoSEMO Fiber internet network. These efforts are part of the Cooperative's continued focus on accuracy, reliability and finding new ways to serve members, subscribers and local businesses.*

# Board Hears Updates on Accuracy and Growth

## 2027 Annual Meeting Set for May 13 at Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Grounds

SEMO Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors met August 17 at the Cooperative's Sikeston office, with discussions ranging from safety and finances to business growth, system accuracy and plans for next year's annual meeting. Directors attending were Richard Faulkner, John Bledsoe, Carl Eftink, Carla Moore, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Dennis Fowler and Von Priggel. Directors James Deneke and Field LaPlant were absent. Team SEMO members attending included Jared Kelley, Brad Milam, Britney Mulcahy, Amanda Burnett, Loyd Rice, Becky Ivester, Chris Freed, Bart Ziegenhorn, Chas Kersey and Johnathon Frederick, along with CEO/General Manager Sean Vanslyke. Bryan Bacon with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation also attended.

Safety continues to be a priority. Kelley presented the monthly safety report, including a discussion on lithium-ion battery safety at home and on the road. Lithium-ion batteries are increasingly common in everything from phones and power tools to e-bikes and electric vehicles, making proper charging, storage and handling important for everyone. Kelley also reviewed accidents, injuries and lost-time information.

Looking ahead, the Board approved May 13, 2027, for SEMO Electric's 89th Annual Meeting at the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Grounds. Bacon provided the Board with a broader look at cooperative financial trends across Missouri and the nation and how SEMO Electric compares. Burnett reviewed the Cooperative's July financial results. Year to date, compared with budget, electric revenue is down 1.47%, operating expenses are down 1.47%, and the cost of power is up 0.21%. Burnett also discussed CoBank's Line of Credit Resolution and Sharing Success Program.

The Board also heard about the continued growth of fiber services available to area businesses. Kersey and Ziegenhorn provided an update on business sales, including fiber and phone services. About 800 businesses have purchased the Cooperative's phone systems, including some businesses that do not subscribe to GoSEMO Fiber internet service.

Frederick provided an update on Operation Accuracy, an ongoing effort to work through each substation and verify non-residential meters, multipliers, wiring and other details. The work involves several members of Team SEMO and is designed to make sure accounts are being metered accurately. It is detailed work, but accuracy matters to both the Cooperative and the members we serve.

The Board also reviewed several policies, district updates, written staff reports and information from recent cooperative meetings and training. Vanslyke shared SEMO 360, a video highlighting recent Cooperative activities and the people behind the work. The meeting concluded following an executive session.