

# POWERLINE Press

A Monthly Publication of:



## SEMO Foundation Board Releases '09 Scholarship Information

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The SEMO Electric Foundation recently released information for the 2009 scholarship program. Graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of SEMO Electric Cooperative, will have a chance to receive a one-time scholarship of \$2,000. The scholarship can be used for any 4-year college or university, community college or trade school.

"We were excited about last year's scholarship program, we are even more excited about this year's", said Glen Cantrell, communications manager for SEMO Electric.

In 2008, the first year for the scholarship program, 21 seniors from around the area received the scholarship.

The scholarship is available thanks to the generosity of the members of SEMO Electric Cooperative, through the Operation Roundup program. A few years ago, the Board of Directors of the SEMO Electric Cooperative decided to begin the program. Members who participate round their electric bills up to the nearest dollar; that extra change is then poured into the SEMO Foundation Board, which uses the funds to give out scholarships. So if a member's electric bill is \$90.65, the bill is rounded up to \$92.00. The extra \$.35 is put into the Foundation's scholarship program.

"We have been completely amazed by our member's participation", Cantrell said "it is way above the national average."

Most Cooperatives around the country have around a 65% participation from members. SEMO Electric's participation rate is at 89%. Cantrell added, "I think it says a lot about our members, who have recognized the importance of this scholarship program." While there were members who decided not to participate when the program began, some have changed their minds, after seeing the success of the program.

"I am not aware of any business, group or organization in our area that gave out 21 scholarships last year in our area," Cantrell said, "our members should be very proud of what they are doing, because it is making a huge impact."

To be eligible for the scholarship, the student must be a graduating senior, have a 2.5 GPA or better and the student's parents or guardians must be members of SEMO Electric Cooperative.

Applications for the scholarship have been given to school counselors around the area. Students should ask their counselor for the information. Students can also access the information through the SEMO Electric website at [www.semoelectric.coop](http://www.semoelectric.coop). Click on the scholarship information box on the front page and students will be able to download the forms.

Students or their parents can also stop by the Sikeston or Bloomfield offices to pick up the scholarship information.

All scholarship information is due into the SEMO Electric office by April 1st. All applications should be sent to:

Glen Cantrell  
SEMO Electric Scholarship  
P.O. Box 520  
Sikeston, Mo. 63801



The SEMO Board Foundation will meet soon after to review all of the applications and determine who should receive a scholarship. Cantrell believes there will be many more applications filed this year, compared to last year. "Our Foundation Board is going to have to work a little harder this next year, deciding who gets one and who doesn't."

Cantrell urges every student who is a senior and wanting to go to college to apply. "We don't want the student making the decision of whether or not they should receive a scholarship, our Foundation Board will make that decision."

If a student or parent has any questions, they can contact Cantrell at 573-471-5821.

SEMO Electric Cooperative serves 6 counties in a 5,600 square mile area, with over 15,000 members on its electrical lines.

**RURAL**  
M I S S O U R I

# POWERLINE Press

## High School Juniors sought for trip to Washington D.C.

Who says seniors should have all the fun? SEMO electric is asking juniors from around the area to participate in the Youth/Cycle Tour Essay contest. Last year, SEMO Electric sent three students to Washington D.C. The 3 students, Kimberly Jennings of Sikeston High School and Chelsea Bowling and Jordi Humphrey of Bloomfield High School, joined other students from around the state for a full week of seeing the sights of Washington D.C. and meeting with Congresswoman Joann Emerson and Senator's Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill.

"This is an amazing trip for high school juniors," said Glen Cantrell, Communications Manager of SEMO Electric Cooperative, "it's an intense full week of seeing all of the different monuments, museums and capital buildings."

The 3 that were chosen began their trip in Jefferson City, where a banquet was held in their honor. The next day, they, along with the other winners from around the state, flew from St. Louis to Washington D.C.

The Youth Tour began years ago, to give students from around the country a chance to see the nation's capital. From its humble beginnings of a handful of students making the annual trip, to thousands of students from around the country going, the annual Youth Tour has continued to grow by leaps and bounds.

SEMO Electric Cooperative decided once again to participate in the Youth Tour last year. "We were excited about bring this back," Cantrell said, "but we were slightly disappointed in the results."

Cantrell went on to say that there were very few essay participants last year, however, he is hoping for a larger turn out this year. "I think because it was so new to so many people, they just didn't understand, but I think this year, we will see a larger number of students participating."

Cantrell has already been around to some schools speaking to students about the Youth Tour and plans to visit others. During his stops, he shows a small video that shows last year's trip and he encourages the students to participate. Any school can request Cantrell to come speak at their school by contacting him at 573-471-5281.

This year's essay contest is more of an opinion or blog if you will, rather than a factual based essay. Here is this year's question: What does it mean to you, to have electricity? That's a pretty simple and straight forward question. Cantrell says that the judges, SEMO Electric employee's will look for creativity, normal English spelling and punctuation and how well the writer answers the question.

In addition to the Youth Tour, students could also win the Cycle Tour contest. While four students head to Washington D.C. , four other students will travel to Jefferson City to spend time in our State's Capital. Where

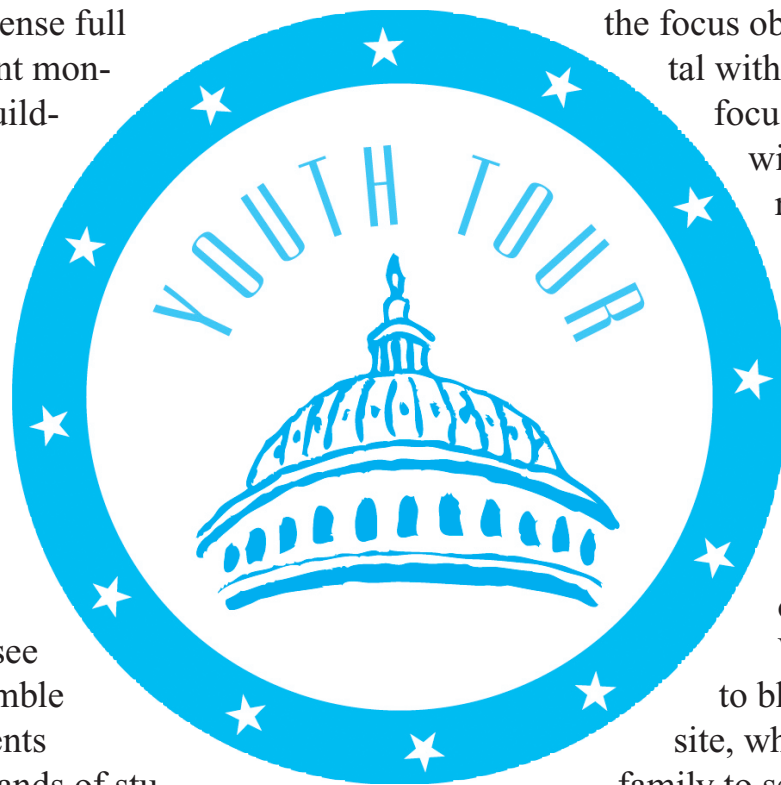
the focus obviously is on the nation's capital with the Youth Tour, the Cycle Tour focuses on the state capital. Winners will tour the capital building, meet representatives from their area and participate in other activities that explain more about their coops and the work they do in the communities where they live. Unlike the Youth Tour, the Cycle Tour is only 4 days in Jefferson City, as opposed to a week. Both trips are in the month of July.

While on their trips, students get to blog on the state's Youth Tour website, which allows parents, friends and family to see how their trip is going. Some students are even recruited to help make a youth tour video for the next year. The 3 students sent from SEMO Electric where featured several times during this year's promotional video.

The essays are due in the offices of SEMO Electric by March 1st. They can be dropped at either the Sikeston or Bloomfield office or they can be mailed to:

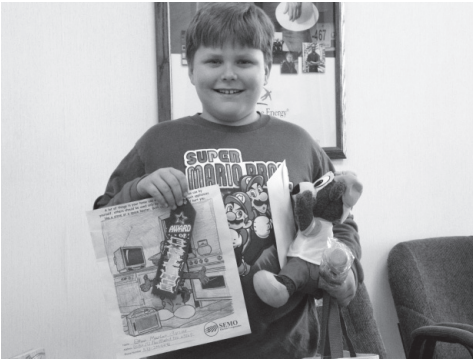
Glen Cantrell- Youth Tour Contest  
Communications Manager  
SEMO Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 520  
Sikeston, Mo. 63801

SEMO Electric Cooperative serves a large part of southeast Missouri. Within that area, 13 schools have students whose parents or guardians are members of SEMO Electric. Cantrell urges all students to participate this year.



# POWERLINE Press

## National Electrical Cooperative Month Coloring Contests Winners



1st Place Ethan, 9, New Madrid



2nd Place Adalina, 9, Bloomfield



3rd Place Holly, 7, Advance

### SEMO ELECTRIC BEGINS REPLACING METERS

Crews with SEMO Electrica Cooperative have begun the process of changing out meters for the new Cannon AMI system. The new Cannon system creates a two way communications system between the Cooperative and our members.

One of the benefits of the system is a faster response time for emergencies. With the Cannon System, once a call has been made about a power outage, employees will be able to send a signal down the system to see exactly who it without power, to help pinpoint the problem before a truck even leaves the bay. Before, a truck may have to drive around looking at poles, trying to pinpoint the problem.

Crews began installing the system at Cooperative substations in November. Once all of the substations are ready, focus will then turn to the individual homes for replacement of their meters, which will begin very soon.



These older meters will soon be gone and making way for the new Cannon system.

As a reminder, crews might soon be at your home replacing your current meter with the new Cannon system meter.

## Employee Anniversaries



Marsha Mitchell from accounting, is celebrating 20 years with the Coop.



Marty Vineyard, Operations Manager, is celebrating 7 years with the Coop.



Computer Operator, Mary Simmons is celebrating 20 years with the Coop.

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

## NOVEMBER 17, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative was held Monday, November 17, 2008, at the Cooperative office in Sikeston, Missouri. Rick Faulkner, President, called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. The following board members were present: Rick Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Clyde Hawes, Charles Marshall, Carl Eftink, Butch Dirnberger, Jerry Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, and Dennis Fowler. Absent was Tim Coppage. Also in attendance was Reuben L. Jeane, General Manager, acting as secretary, Rod Widger, Attorney, and staff members.

Motion was made to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2008, meeting as mailed.

### STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Randal Tennison, Financial Manager, gave the financial report. Year-to-date operating revenue was \$21.4 million with the budgeted amount being \$22.1 million. Cost of purchased power was \$11.9 million and cost of electric service was \$19.8 million. Year-to-date margins were \$1,908,000. The balance sheet showed that the Cooperative's assets were \$74,972,000. Key statistics showed that the Cooperative remains financially strong with equity being 61.6%. Electronic disbursements were reviewed as well as the director's monthly expense summaries. After questions were answered by the Financial Manager and the General Manager, motion was made to accept the financial report. Motion was seconded and carried.

Jerry Dockins then gave the membership report. The number of meters increased by thirty (30) over this time last year. Kilowatt hours decreased over the previous year by 2.3%. Funds received for the Operation Round-Up® Program for October were \$6,054. There were thirty-seven (37) rebates with a monetary value of \$8,560 being sent to those members who qualified.

Larry Kelly, Engineering Manager, then gave his monthly report. There were twenty-six (26) new services, thirteen (13) service upgrades and two (2) irrigation accounts. Poles are continuing to be changed out in the Advance and Frisco areas. The AMI project is somewhat behind due to the arrival of equipment and work performance of contractors.

Marty Vineyard then gave the operations report. There were eighty-six (68) outages and one hundred three (103) work orders completed. Contracted construction crews and right-of-way trimming crews continue their work in several areas.

In the absence of the purchasing and warehouse manager, the General Manager gave the warehouse and shop report. Bare copper decreased 10% and a broken axle had to be repaired on one of the trucks.

Marla Wood then gave the human resource report informing the board that there were no lost time injuries for the month of October. The worker's compensation program still has no lost time accidents for the year. There are currently seven inactive employees who are not expected to return at any time.

The communications report was then presented by Glen Cantrell. The Board was informed of activities in the current energy industry and also of the grass roots committee. A recommendation was brought before the Cooperative Board from the SEMO Foundation Board to amend the scholarship program to include a four-year college scholarship. After a discussion, motion was made and seconded to carry out this recommendation. Motion failed to carry.

### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager then gave his monthly report to the Directors. The Board was informed that the Cooperative received an 8.6% rate increase from M & A Power Cooperative effective April 1, 2009. The Cooperative is currently reviewing the affects this will have on our membership. The General Manager also discussed additional extensions of the fibernet being built by M & A Power Cooperative and the possibility of how it can assist our members. The Board was informed of the progression of the training room remodeling project. Motion was made and seconded to accept the General Manager's report. Motion carried.

### POWER SUPPLY REPORT

Clyde Hawes gave the power supply report from the last meeting with M & A Power Cooperative. The Board was informed of the rate increase and of the changes in wholesale rate designs. Final decisions would be made on the following day at the M & A Board meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the power supply report.

### AMEC REPORT

John Bledsoe then gave the AMEC report concerning the latest executive committee meeting at Jefferson City and the District VI meeting at Black River Electric Cooperative. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept these reports.

### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be brought before the Board.

### NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made for membership action to be taken to properly receive new members and to cancel memberships with those members who have moved off the line. Motion was seconded and carried.

The Board President then called for membership concerns. Member, Tony Heckemeyer, had a concern about the compact fluorescent light bulb program provided by the State of Missouri.

From the information that the Cooperative received, this program had a sign up time table that has expired for the year. The Cooperative obtained limited information, but found out that an individual could only get six (6) bulbs from the state for this program.

The General Manager then presented the 2009 budget. A capitalization budget of \$3,704,909 and an operational budget with margins of \$1,508,615 were reviewed. After a full and complete discussion of both the capital budget and the operational budget, motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously that these budgets be accepted. The General Manager was authorized to implement and carry out such actions needed to fund and complete the 2009 budget. Motion carried.

The General Manager then brought to the Board a report provided by Associated Electric Cooperative concerning the power requirement study for 2009. It was recommended by the General Manager that the Board approve this power requirement study. Motion was duly made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Following a short executive session, and there being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.