

POWERLINE Press

A Monthly Publication of:



Sikeston, Mo.
573-471-5821
Bloomfield, Mo
573-568-4611
Toll Free 1-800-813-5230

Reuben L. Jeane
General Manager

Board of Directors
Rick Faulkner
President
New Madrid (573) 748-2961

John Bledsoe
Vice Pres
Charleston (573) 683-2002

Tim Coppage
Sec.-Treas.
Matthews (573) 667-5460

James Deneke
Asst. Sec. - Treas.
Cape (573) 243-6136

Clyde Hawes
Sikeston (573) 471-1030

Charles Marshall
East Prairie (573) 649-3472

Dicky Hanor
Charleston (573) 683-4060

Dennis Fowler
Advance (573) 722-5346

Jerry D. Moore
Bloomfield (573) 568-2599

Butch Dirnberger
Oran (573) 262-3695

Carl Eftink
Sikeston (573) 471-1508

Keith Haynes
Bloomfield (573) 568-4155

72nd Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2009 Sikeston Field House

5:30pm Registration
6:15pm Entertainment
7:00pm Special Presentations
7:30pm Business Meeting

SEMO Electric Cooperative invites all of its members to attend the 72 annual membership meeting, Thursday May 21st at the Sikeston Field House. This year's entertainment begins at 6:15pm. The meeting will begin with a special presentation at 7:00pm, followed by Annual Reports and election of Board of Directors. The directors whose terms are completed include Tim Coppage; District 1, John Bledsoe; District 2, Jerry Moore; District 3 and Carl Eftink; District 4. As usual, there will be door prizes to be drawn with a grand prize of a 42" flat screen HDTV. We are happy and proud to announce the bluegrass group, High Strung will be entertaining us this year. High Strung

is a bluegrass group from the Springfield-Branson area of the Missouri Ozarks who started performing regularly at bluegrass festivals in 2004. The band has performed throughout the state of Missouri, as well as in Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and North Carolina. Kerre Thompson, Tonya Gardner and Denise St. Clair are the vocalists of the group. The girls are well-known for their beautiful, tight harmony. Many fans have suspected them to be related to each other as they sound as great as any family harmony can sound. Most of the band members have performed country music regularly at the Oldfield Opry, in Oldfield, MO for several years.



Attention Members:

The annual meeting official notice will be mailed in letter form with your May bill and will include all details about the candidates running for the board of directors.

RURAL
MISSOURI

POWERLINE Press

Doug Rye Says...

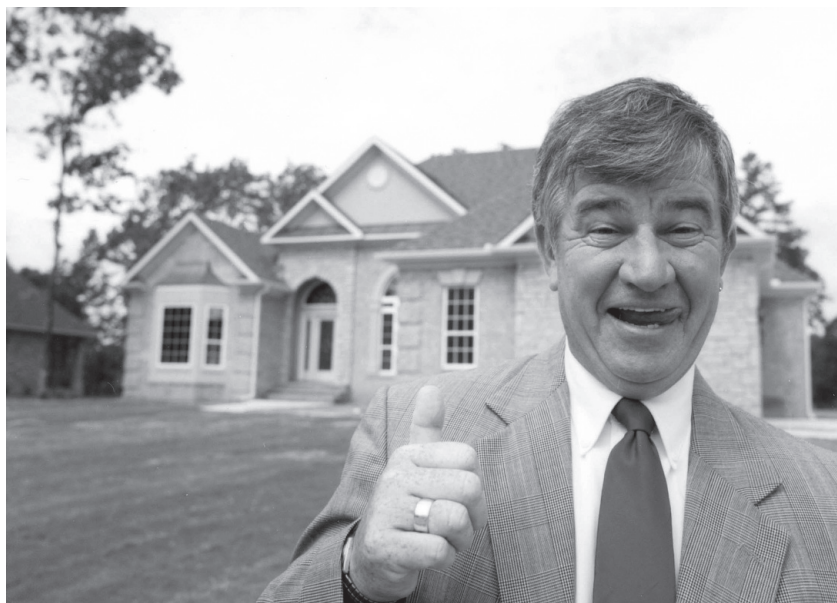
I wish I had the power to command no more ice storms. But, of course, I don't. Well, I say, springtime, yes, ice storms, no. I am aware that many of our readers have been affected by the January ice storm. In fact, the Ice Storm of 2009 was the worst that I have ever seen. When this happened, it just made me really aware of how much we depend on this wonderful product we call electricity.

Let me take this opportunity to say to every single person who worked so many hours to restore electric distribution systems that originally took many years to build – thank you, thank you, thank you.

But, as always, life goes on and it is still important that you make your home more energy efficient, especially with summer on the way. In just a few weeks, the temperature will start rising and attics will become much hotter. Well, I say, "cool it." The worst-case scenario for home energy efficiency is to have a roof without shade, inadequate attic insulation and ductwork in the attic. The attic could easily be 140 degrees on a hot summer day. How would you like to sit in that attic and try to make homemade ice cream? Most likely you would keel over before the ice cream was ready. Now you understand why it is better not to place any part of your cooling system in the attic. For years I have been teaching this but most still install the cooling system in the worst possible environment.

So, let's look at a solution. If you will install a radiant barrier on both the roof rafters and the west or southwest gable end of the

attic, you can reduce the 140-degree temperature by about 30 degrees. From a cooling cost standpoint, this is huge. The attic is 30 degrees cooler, the insulation is 30 degrees cooler and the ductwork is 30 degrees cooler. Basically, this radiant barrier is a strong, reinforced aluminum foil and should be installed on the bottom of the rafters. It comes in



1,000-square-foot rolls. Check with your local home center for availability. For new construction, the radiant barrier can simply be a part of the roof decking.

I look forward to writing this column every month. And I think that you can tell my heart is in it. Many of you have told me at my seminars, on my radio show and at my office, that you have implemented my suggestions and that they work. Actually, I never even think about them not working because

they always do. They always have a payback and once again, they are good investments.

About a week ago, my wife and I were at our favorite sandwich shop to order a toasted turkey sandwich. A family of four was in line ahead of us. The wife just kept looking at us and finally she just blurted out, "Are you Doug Rye?" To which I replied, "Does that scoundrel owe you money, too?"

She grabbed her husband's arm and said, "Honey, Doug Rye is here, right behind us." I have to admit that I like it when this happens. He shook my hand and told me that he was so glad that a subcontractor suggested that he order the Doug Rye New House video before they started construction. He and his wife watched the video every night for several nights to be sure that their house was built correctly. Actually, his words were, "We did it and it worked." He then thanked me.

Isn't that great? I was able to help another family, just like I help you with these columns. Now, I was hoping he would offer to buy me a sandwich with the money he saved.

Oh well ... I guess I better "cool it."

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org.

Employee Anniversaries

The Cooperative would like to say a special thanks to the following employees who have May anniversaries.



Joe Hill has served the Cooperative for 21 years as Service Foreman Lineman.



Marla Wood has served as an Administrative Assistant for 15 years at the Cooperative.

Seven seek Washington trip

Seven Southeast Missouri high school Juniors are hoping for a special trip this summer to our Nation's capital. For the second year, SEMO Electric Cooperative held its Youth Tour essay contest. The winners will win a trip to either Washington, D.C. or Jefferson City this summer. This year, there are seven finalists who are hoping to be packing their bags for this great trip.

Winners enjoy an all expense paid trip, but it's not all fun and games. The winners go on a tour of Washington, D.C., including a visit with U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson and U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill.

While the winners are there, they will also be blogging on the SEMO Youth Tour Facebook page, which anyone can join now. Friends and family will be able to watch the trip unfold, thanks to the help of Facebook.

Winners will be announced at the annual meeting on May 21st and there will be a special write up in the June Powerline Press.

SEMO Electric Website helps with safe electricity

May is National Electrical Safety month, which is meant to encourage parents and teachers to help teach children the importance of electrical safety. Every year, children and adults are injured due to carelessness around power lines.

"We see or hear the stories all the time," said Glen Cantrell, SEMO Electric Communications Manager, "someone climbs a tree or even climbs a pole and then their life is over. Simply because they did not think about what they were doing."

SEMO Electric Cooperative offers help to parents and teachers through their website, www.semoelectric.coop. The website went through an update last year. Some of the same information can still be found there, but now there is even more information, including information on electrical safety.

Those who choose to browse the SEMO Electric website will find safety video's that feature families who have been affected by carelessness around electricity, safety learning games for the kids and much more. Just go to www.semoelectric.coop and follow the link under the home category. Of course, if you have any questions about the information on the website, contact the SEMO Electric office at 1-800-813-5230.

SEMO Foundation Board Meets

While Juniors are gearing up for summer trips and their final year of high school, this year's high school seniors are getting ready for their new life that is coming, in college. Of course, one way they are doing that, is with the SEMO Foundation Scholarship.

Thanks to the help of all of the members of the SEMO Electric Cooperative, the SEMO Foundation board was able to give out many scholarships this year.

"Only because of the generosity of the members of SEMO Electric, are we able to give so many of these scholarships out," said Glen Cantrell, Communications Manager, "We look forward to announcing all of the winners to those generous members, at the annual meeting on May 21st."

Last year, 21 local seniors received scholarships through the program. This year, Cantrell says there are even more that will receive the scholarship.

The SEMO Foundation Board receives scholarship money through Operation Roundup. In Operation Roundup, members who participate, have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. So if your bill is \$19.50, then it is rounded up to an even \$20.00. That fifty cents is then put into the SEMO Foundation trust, to be used for scholarships for area seniors.

Each college bound student who is chosen by the Foundation Board, receives a one-time scholarship of \$2,000. If you would like more information about this scholarship or if you would like to participate in Operation Roundup, contact the SEMO Electric Office at 1-800-813-5230.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When washing clothes, use less water by running full loads. In addition, approximately 80 percent of the energy used by washing machines heats water, so by using cold water and cold-water detergents you can cut a load's energy use in half.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

SEMO Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

March 16, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative was held Monday, March 16, 2009, at the Cooperative office in Sikeston, Missouri. Rick Faulkner, President, called the meeting to order with the invocation being lead by Charles Marshall. The following board members were present: Rick Faulkner, John Bledsoe, Tim Coppage, James Deneke, Clyde Hawes, Charles Marshall, Carl Eftink, Butch Dirnberger, Jerry Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, and Dennis Fowler. Also in attendance was Reuben L. Jeane, General Manager, acting as secretary, Rod Widger, Cooperative attorney, Randal Tennison, Financial Manager and Allen Shulte, representative from the auditing firm Botz, Deal and Company, P.C.

The Board President called for any amendments to the agenda. Motion was made and seconded to include the following items: Tom Nobbe from Nobbe Tractor Company; selection of names and date for the nominating committee; selection of representatives to attend the legislative conference in Washington, D.C.; selection of representatives to attend the District VI legislative conference. Motion carried.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009, meeting as printed.

AUDITING REPORT

The Board President then called on Allen Shulte from Botz, Deal & Company, P.C. for the Cooperative's 2008 auditing report. Mr. Shulte informed the Board that the audit showed an excellent financial report without exceptions. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the 2008 auditing report. Motion carried unanimously.

RED LEG LENDING PROGRAM

The Board President then called upon Jamie Burger, Scott County Commissioner and Tom Nobbe from Nobbe Tractor Company. Mr. Burger and Mr. Nobbe requested a loan from the Cooperative in accordance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Red Leg Program for the building of a new tractor dealership. After their presentation and following their departure from the meeting, motion was made to approve their request. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Randal Tennison, Financial Manager, gave the monthly financial report. The year-to-date operating revenue as shown on Form 7 was \$4.5 million. Cost of purchased power was \$2.6 million. Expenses were off due to the ice storm and much of the expenses not being recorded yet. Year-to-date cost of electric service was \$3.9 million. Year-to-date margins were \$632,610 for the first quarter. Under construction work in progress account on the balance sheet, the account showed a growth of over \$10 million since the previous month due to ice storm repairs. Under the account accumulated other major items, a negative of \$992,000 was shown in cash at the end of the month. Total assets were \$90,347,000. Correspondingly the loans have increased significantly due to borrowing funds to finance the repairs due to the ice storm. A review of the key statistics showed a decrease in sales as well as a drop in equity to 53.2%.

Jerry Dockins then gave the customer service report discussing operation roundup. There were no rebates for the previous month due to all resources going toward the ice storm.

Larry Kelly presented the engineering report updating the Board on system repairs. He also informed the Board that he was working with FEMA collecting documentation for refunding cost of the repairs.

Marty Vineyard then gave the operations report.

Ron Montgomery gave the materials report.

Human resources report was given by Marla Wood reporting that she attended a human resource conference and that 7 inactive employees are still off duty.

Communications report was given by the General Manager in absence of Glen Cantrell. Motion was made and seconded to accept the staff reports. Motion carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

After the staff left the meeting, the General Manager was then called upon to give his monthly report to the Directors. The Board was

informed of the progress of the restoration. Irrigation and grain bins were the last to be restored to power but should be completed very quickly. He also stated that it will take several more months to identify lines that need additional work and to change conductor. FEMA will start to collect data to present for payment on March 17th. Following an extensive discussion, motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the General Manager's report.

DISTRICT VI

The Board President then called on Keith Haynes and John Bledsoe to give a report on the District VI meeting held.

POWER SUPPLY REPORT

There was no power supply report due to no meeting.

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 receive new members and to cancel memberships with those members who have moved off the line. Motion was seconded and carried.

Membership concerns were then discussed. Many members were complaining about the availability charge. After a discussion, the Board decided that the availability charge would not be adjusted, but security light charges would be adjusted based on when the member's power to that light could be restored. A member complained about trees that were improperly cut and the General Manager was advised to check into the matter.

A draft policy, Employee Policy 224 – Supplemental Compensation for Disaster Situations, was then presented. After a discussion and adjustments made to the draft, motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the policy with action to be taken by the General Manager. A copy of policy EMP224 is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.

Names for the nominating committee were then brought before the Board. Motion was made to have the nominating committee meet on April 17, 2009, but on review, April 14, 2009, was set. Motion was seconded and carried to appoint the following individuals to the nominating committee:

Annie Louise Conner, New Madrid
Betty Moore, Matthews
Stephen McClanahan, Charleston
Donald Williams, Wyatt
Milas Mainord, East Prairie
Jesse Wilson, Bloomfield
Julian Steiner, Bell City
Stan Durham, Bloomfield
Martin Priggel, Oran
Shon Stratman, Sikeston
Edgar Moll, Jackson

Representatives to the Washington, D.C. Legislative Update were then selected by the Board. Motion was made to send John Bledsoe and Keith Haynes along with the General Manager to Washington, D.C. to represent the Cooperative for our area of the state at the annual legislation rally. Motion carried.

Motion was then made to select six (6) Board members to attend the District VI Legislative Update in Jefferson City. Those selected were John Bledsoe, Tim Coppage, Clyde Hawes, Dennis Fowler, Dicky Hanor and Keith Haynes. Motion was seconded and carried.

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Tim Coppage, Secretary

Richard Faulkner, President