

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2013



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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GVU Improves Campus Facilities in Des Moines

Dianna Merritt - Project Coordinator

Our working relationship with Grand View University in Des Moines extends more than 30 years. Grandview has made significant investments in their facilities in recent months. Commonwealth Electric has completed several projects on the Grand View campus this past spring and summer.

The first was a remodel of the Johnson Wellness Center Locker Rooms. This 4,200 square foot project included new lighting, convenience power and fire alarm for the men and women's basketball and volleyball locker rooms as well as men's wrestling. We worked closely with GTG Construction to complete the project in time and on budget.



Viking Theatre

The second of the Grand View projects was the renovation of the Viking Theatre in the student center. This 35,000 square foot project included a state of the art renovation of the existing theatre along with a 1,000 square foot addition to the existing Student Center. This project had an aggressive three month schedule and consisted of new interior and exterior site lighting, low voltage switching, theatrical lighting system, distribution equipment, and fire alarm service upgrades. Koester Construction was the general contractor on the project and FEH Associates was the architect.

The third of the Grand View projects was the new Central Campus Plaza. This design-build pedestrian walkway project consisted of new walkway lighting, convenience power receptacles and miscellaneous low voltage work including wireless access points. The new pedestrian mall is an inviting, outdoor space where students and faculty can enjoy the campus, study, relax or surf the internet.

"Michael Duffy and our entire team did a great job on these projects. Grand View can be really proud of the finished product. Well Done! Go Vikings!"

-Michael Price, Vice President



Grand View Pedestrian Plaza



Grand View Pedestrian Plaza

Commonwealth's project manager for this work was Mike Duffy. Dianna Merritt assisted with project coordination and Cory Lueth assisted with our estimating efforts. Eric Hoge and our engineering services staff helped with our design efforts. Everyone worked in support of our Foreman, Jeff Hoover, who guided all of our field crews for this work.

Lincoln Branch Street Crew

Micah Edson - Project Manager



2013 has proven to be a successful year so far for the Lincoln Branch street crew. This past spring and summer filled up quickly with projects in the Haymarket and Arena area. One of our major projects this summer was the Haymarket Sign project.

The project involved installing signs on surrounding arterial roadways directing traffic about the Haymarket and Arena area. Over 60 new signs and 1,200 square feet of new signage were installed. Although, we have worked with numerous signs with typical intersection projects, we are relatively new to taking on entire projects of this size consisting of only roadway signage.

The project had an extremely aggressive schedule to coincide with the opening of the new arena. The crew, led by Foreman Paul Hoegemeyer, did an excellent job of coordinating other projects and putting in extra hours to meet the schedule. The success of the project allowed the team to gain valuable experience and will be a new market for us to compete in.

2013 Boy Scouts Mid Iowa Council Sporting Clay Invitational

Mike Duffy - Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest and Barton Solvents teamed up again this year to help support the Boy Scouts of Central Iowa. The team participated in the Mid Iowa Boy Scouts Sporting Clay Invitational. The tournament took place in early October at the New Pioneer Gun Club near Waukee, Iowa. A total of 16 teams participated to help raise money and awareness for the Boy Scouts. The CECM/Barsol team shot well and placed 3rd in the Invitational.



"Members of the 3rd place team - Michael Duffy, Doug Hildenberg, Dave "Spider" Richards, Michael Price and Dave Caster"

New Project Underway at JBS Swift Plant – Grand Island, NE

Ruth Chermok - Business Development



The Columbus Office will be managing a new project awarded on a Design-Build basis in partnership with Gleeson Constructors from Sioux City, Iowa. Gleeson has a long history of designing and constructing the highest quality food processing facilities. They selected the team at Commonwealth Electric to partner with them on the addition and renovation of the JBS Swift Facility in Grand Island, NE. Eric Hoge, completed the engineering and design on this project and secured the work for our Columbus office.

The addition to this beef packing facility will involve all service, compressors and all electrical systems to run the line, etc. The renovation will involve updating existing services, and we anticipate additional work to be awarded involving lighting retrofits and enhancement in cooler spaces, etc.

The project is slated to be completed by April 1, 2014 – and we anticipate will involve a steady crew size of approximately eight CECM electricians. The entire project with the additional scope that is being added should result in about a \$1 million dollar electrical project.



JBS Swift Plant

We are pleased to have our first large manufacturing facility project in the Grand Island area, and look to grow this portion of our business even more.

Commonwealth Electric Nominated for 2013 AGC Build Nebraska Award

Ruth Chermok - Business Development

Commonwealth Electric was pleased to receive word that we are once again a Nominee for the 2013 AGC Build Nebraska Award (Specialty Contractor division) for our work at the Peter Kiewit Institute Renovation – in partnership with Kiewit Construction.



This year long, \$7.5 million (total) renovation project was funded through private donations. The scope involved every floor of the facility, and touched every classroom and space. Some areas received minimal changes, but other areas were completely demolished and new research facilities were built. Throughout the entire project classes were underway, and accommodations to reduce noise and debris were made.

This is the second year that the AGC has nominated projects from within the Specialty Contracting Division. The 2013 Award Winners will be announced at the AGC Annual Meeting luncheon on Friday, November 8th! Commonwealth Electric is proud to be in this select group of Specialty Contractors and we were honored to have won this award at the inaugural event in 2012!

Lincoln and Omaha Street Crews

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

At Commonwealth Electric Company there are many areas where we work. Installing and maintaining electrical equipment are our main focus but there are other divisions within the Commonwealth organization. One division that we don't hear much about but is an important part of who we are is our line crew(s). We have two departments; one in Omaha ran by Gil Stensrud and his field foreman, Rick Brock. Omaha line crew employees are Kent Barber, Scott Mayher, Josh Gillett, Adrian Hogan, Juan Palos and Jose Robles.

The other is the Lincoln line crew ran by Micah Edson and his field foreman is Paul Hoegemeyer. The Lincoln line crew employees are Jeremy Hoegemeyer, Tyler Stuart, Travis Roach and Andrew Wilson. Both of these crews install traffic lighting, amber boards and other street lighting projects. Both crews are constantly in the public eye and are exposed to hazards unlike most jobs. They fight traffic and angry drivers who think we are the reason for traffic delays. As a street worker, they are constantly being scrutinized for their appearance and how they handle the public. Not an easy task. They work in large trucks and lifts, dig trenches, bore underground and work over cars and trucks, all with proper safety warnings and public protection.

All of this work requires preparation. Most of the equipment they operate falls under the DOT and their rules. Vehicles need constant care and stay well maintained. Equipment breakdown can mean slowing down the work. Many of the employees carry a CDL license. These crews work in the hottest of summers and in the coldest of winters.

Recently the Omaha crew was given a "superior" grade for employee safety and a "good" grade for public safety from the City of Omaha. This type of recognition is rarely given and it's a testimony to the safe work practices displayed by the Omaha crew.

Hats off to both of these divisions! They are another example of the Commonwealth motto "Committed to Excellence".



Lincoln & Omaha street crews at work.