

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Spring 2017



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Arizona Center Begins Multi-Million Dollar Face Lift

Joe Wall - Director of Business Development

CECM Phoenix has recently partnered in a design-assist-build project at the Phoenix Arizona Center, with Skanska USA Building Inc. The Arizona Center makeover and facade refresh will create a new model for office, retail and entertainment – representing a new era for the Downtown Phoenix Marketplace.

Phase I project scope will require renovations and new construction, including demolition. The existing one million square feet of this multi-use center will include interior and exterior lighting additions and replacements, landscape lighting, branded property signage, three new property elevators and an upgraded parking facility.

The 16-acre property site will accommodate another 3.9 million square feet of development, which will come out in additional staggered phases, that may include a cultural campus of offices, educational buildings, theatre, a potential new hotel and other community spaces.

The initial Phase I project has been awarded to CECM Phoenix and work has commenced this week. The original contract amount for Phase I will be \$1,069,000. The completion date is scheduled for 11 months. The estimator and project manager for the project is Caleb Graham. Our field superintendent is Joe Amavisca.



Arizona Center

Expansion at Kemin Industries with New Global Headquarters Building

Cory Lueth - Project Manager

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator

Commonwealth Electric Des Moines recently completed the construction of the new Kemin Industries Worldwide Headquarters building in Des Moines, Iowa. This project was an addition of 94,000 square feet to the existing Molecular Advancement Center (MAC) of Kemin Industries. The two-story expansion includes private offices, open office environment, conference/meeting rooms, full-service kitchen, dining facility and fitness center with locker and shower rooms. Exterior additions also include a spacious courtyard, walking paths, and pond.

Commonwealth's scope of work included a new electrical service, 300KW generator, new power distribution equipment and feeders, LED interior and site lighting, automated lighting controls, fire alarm, sound systems, A/V raceways and data cabling.

"The Kemin project certainly presented its fair share of challenges, but our team came together to accomplish our end goal of providing our customer with a state-of-the-art building everyone could be proud of."

Jeff Hoover, Project Foreman

Neumann Brothers, Inc. was the General Contractor with FEH as the architectural firm. Commonwealth's efforts in the office and field were led by Project Manager, Cory Lueth, Project Coordinator, Ashley Huinker and Project Foreman, Jeff Hoover. Additionally, Clint Bailey and Kevin McCarty managed our telephone and communication installations on the project.



Kemin WWHQ

EMR Rating

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

We received some exciting news. Our EMR, experience modification rating, is at an all-time company low of .61. This is a significant drop from last year. To help better understand why this EMR is important we must understand what it means and what it takes to achieve this number.

Our EMR is based on the company 3-year history of accidents, payroll by job classification, (electrical work is considered a high-risk job so therefore our base premium is higher than some other job classifications) and the number of man hours worked for the policy period. There are other factors but these are the main ones.

Having a low EMR demonstrates to our customers, clients and internal customers that we take our safety seriously. Accidents are said to be a part of the business, not so at Commonwealth Electric. We take every reported incident serious, and every reported incident is thoroughly investigated to make sure we know what caused the incident and what steps are needed to eliminate a repeat. This could mean better tools and equipment but most times, it means additional safety training. Safety training is vital to our success. We all know how to perform our jobs but we must constantly be reminded of the dangers that are present and what safety steps need to be taken to ensure no one gets hurt.

Everyone plays a role in helping lower our EMR. Working together safely is the key to our success. Congratulations to all members of the Commonwealth family.

Commonwealth Electric Safety - Promote it, Sell it, be Proud of it!

Richard Lewis - Tucson

Terri Beilman - Office Manager

Richard Lewis has been recently hired as Service Manager in the Tucson office. Since starting in this position he has brought the experience and knowledge from his 36 years in the industry both in the field and management to bring sustainable growth in the service department. His management style “none of us is as smart as all of us” concept creates an inclusive environment that results in a team effort for success.

Richard graduated from Arizona Independent Electrical Contractors Association in 2005. He obtained his Arizona electrical Contractors License in 1996 and has worked as a manager in the industry for the past 18 years.



Richard Lewis

New Addition for Low Voltage Nebraska – Lincoln

Jerry Van Amerongen - Low Voltage Manager



Brian Buskirk

I want to start out by welcoming Mr. Brian Buskirk to the Lincoln Branch. Brian has worked with CECM for 6 years now with a variety of titles, from field foreman to project manager to Marketing Director. Before coming to CECM Brian worked for Prime Communications for 7 years as a technician, traveling all around the country, working mainly in hospital environments and government facilities. Brian and Ron Dodd will be teaming up to help bolster our service department for the time being until Brian learns the way in which we do business. Brian will then take over the responsibilities of Systems Service Manager and Ron will focus more on being a project manager. Both of these guys have been (or will be) an essential part in our growth here in Lincoln.

For a brief run down on what we have been doing in Lincoln work wise, we had what I would call a pretty consistent year in 2016. We didn't "kill it" like we did in 2015 but we did hold steady. So far in 2017, we have picked up and are having the issues of finding the help we need to man all our projects. Ron Dodd picked up some sizable projects at Zoetis, CHI (Catholic Health Initiatives), NHI (Nebraska Heart Institute) and Fremont Health Medical Center. Ron has been doing a great job keeping up with these customer's needs and requests. We are working, or will be working, on projects such as Gothenburg Memorial Hospital (with CECM Electrical – Kearney), UNL Vet Diagnostics, Graduate Hotel (with CECM Electrical - Lincoln), UNMC/UNL College of Nursing (with CECM Electrical - Lincoln), LPS Humann Elementary (with ABC Electric – Lincoln), Marilyn Moore Middle School and YMCA (with Gregg Electric – Lincoln).

As we continue to grow, we work closely with the Commonwealth Communication's office in Omaha. They help us out on security/access control bids and installations and assist in bidding projects with us when timing and size of the project demand it. We have been working with Corporate Estimating to make things smoother when it comes to bidding the entire project as a whole.

Commonwealth Des Moines Adds New Face to Service Department

Allison Thomas - Service Coordinator



Jim Sullivan, Assistant Service Manager

Great things are happening in the Service Department in Des Moines. To build and expand the service department, Jim Sullivan has joined our team as Assistant Service Manager. Jim brings more than 33 years of experience in the electrical service and construction industry. We are excited that Jim has joined our team! Commonwealth Des Moines is gearing up for another busy year and Jim's knowledge and expertise will serve our customers well.