

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2006



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Appointment to Vice President

David F. Firestone – President/COO

It is a great pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors of CECM has appointed T. Michael Price to the office of Vice President. Michael has held many capacities at CECM. Starting in 1987, Michael worked seasonally in the warehouse as a laborer, truck driver and material handler. In June of 1991, while attending the University of Nebraska Construction Management program, Michael came into the office to learn estimating. After graduating from the University of Nebraska in December, 1994, Michael moved to the Des Moines office and performed the duties of a project manager/estimator until the year 2000 when he became Branch Manager.

During Michael's tenure, we have seen the Des Moines operation grow from annual revenues of roughly \$2 million to revenues of over \$13 million. Michael has worked very hard at developing business relationships, not only with the local contracting community in Des Moines, but also on a national level throughout the country. Michael has nurtured CECM's relationship with the Saks Fifth Avenue group and has performed work in California, Las Vegas, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, along with work in other Midwestern cities. This certainly could not have happened without the great staff that Michael has surrounded himself with and that have been a vital part to Michael's as well as CECM's success.



Michael Price – Vice President

Michael has been actively involved in the Iowa Chapter of NECA and has been on the Labor Management Committee for nine years and has served as the division chairman and state board representative for 2004-2005.

Probably the best thing to happen for CECM was Michael's settling down and getting married! His wonderful wife and family have helped Michael grow beyond the work place. He's become a good husband and proud father.

Please join me in congratulating Michael on all of his accomplishments and for many jobs well done. This appointment to Vice President is certainly well deserved.

Dave Firestone Receives NECA Industry Award

Story in NECA Nebraska News

Former District VII Vice President, Dave Firestone was awarded the District VII NECA Industry Award at the recent Midwest Regional NECA Conference.

Dave was recognized for his many years of service to the chapter thru committee work and as Chapter Governor. In addition, his service on national committees and task force work earned him this distinguished honor.

His most recent commitment of four years as the District VII Vice President was recognized; during major developments within the voice-data-video field, labor relation innovations; and particularly the accomplishment and the formation of the Political Leadership Council and our million dollar PAC were some of the highlights of his service!

Congratulations to Dave and special thanks to Jane for her time and commitment!



Dave Firestone

Safety Cookouts

Ruben Bera – Corporate Safety Director

May 2006 was National Electrical Safety Month. This month is set aside to make people aware of the dangers involved when using electrical equipment and appliances. There have been radio announcements that deal with working safely with electricity at home and on the job. We felt it was a time to recognize those who pull the wire, install the panels, and dig the duct banks and those who make the terminations so that electricity can flow. Without the skilled and qualified electrician, nothing happens.

In recognizing Electrical Safety Month, cookouts were held at all locations with the exception of the Phoenix branch. It's difficult to cook over a hot grill with very hot outside temperatures. A time will be set aside when cooler weather comes around.

Many thanks to everyone who helped prepare the food and make all the cookouts a success. My personal thanks to each branch office staff that were instrumental in making these cookouts flow without any hitches. But, it is because of the work that all you, our electricians, do that allow us to be able to say we are a safe electrical contractor. Working safe has its rewards, not just a cookout, but a job well done and done safely. Thanks to all of you for working safe on the job and making Commonwealth Electric Company a leader in electrical safety.



Des Moines Cookout



Lincoln Cookout



Omaha Cookout



Safety Director Ruben Bera Grilling Burgers



Tucson Cookout

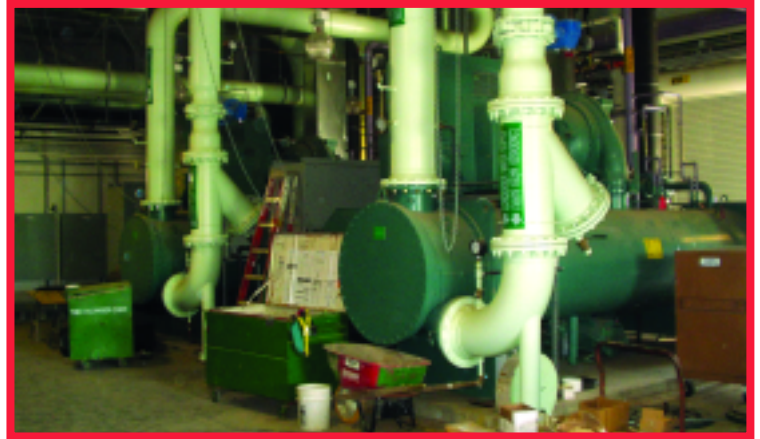
Temperature Control Work Awarded

Mike Duffy – Project Manager

Commonwealth was recently awarded the Temperature Control work for the Central Plant and Waste Water Pre-Treatment Plant buildings at the United States Department of Agriculture campus in Ames, Iowa. This project will consist of installation of DDC controls for the second phase of the addition/remodel of the central plant and the new WWPTP building.

Commonwealth will be working through Johnson Controls on this project. Mike Duffy is the project manager and Trevor Schmidt, the foreman for this project. This 14 month project lends its own special set of circumstances as this is a high level security campus. Commonwealth is required to provide a full-time quality control manager. Several hours of safety and security training are required for this project.

Commonwealth has also been awarded the process control installation for their same project. This sub-contract is with



Temperature Control

SACHS Electric of St. Louis Missouri and promises to be another successful partnership for the Controls Group in the Des Moines Division.

Casa Grand Middle School

Tom Campbell – Project Manager

This project consists of six buildings. The total project is 111,558 sq. ft. under roof. All of the structures are block construction and single level. There are no furred walls so all of our electrical rough will be in block. The scope of work consists of the site lighting, site duct banks for power, duct banks fire alarm, and duct banks for the communication systems. We also have all the power, lighting, fire alarm, inter-

com, sound and telecommunications to install within the buildings.

This project has started and is scheduled to be completed in July 2007. The general contractor is N. L. Booth and Son. Tom Campbell is the project manager and the on-site general foreman will be Dave Campbell.

Peoples Bank

Mark Ramsey – Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric is currently working on The Peoples Trust and Savings Bank in Clive, Iowa at the Country Club Market Place development. The new two story, 9000 square foot building is being built by Ryan Companies.

“The project has been challenging but Ryan has been great to work with.”

–Mark Ramsey Project Manager

Our scope of work includes a new electrical service, power and lighting branch circuit distribution, light fixtures, fire alarm, security and voice/data wiring. Steve Hansen is the foreman and Mark Ramsey is the project manager. The bank is scheduled to open August 1st.



Peoples Bank Scheduled to Open in August

Committed to Excellence

Thomas M. Price – Chairman/CEO

Last year our Strategic Planning Committee established a company operating philosophy: “Committed to Excellence”. Part of this “Committed to Excellence” program includes a long-term study course that is referred to as Management 101.

The concept of this course is to communicate the company’s operations and philosophy to all non-union employees and managers.

The Management 101 handbook took over a year to produce but is now at each location for reference and use.

The course is divided into six parts, each lasting approximately two hours. The course is being taught at each location at a time convenient for that location to meet.

As of this date, four seminars have been taught with three of our six locations participating. It is the intent of Management to have these seminars given at least every six months at each location.



CECM Management 101

To date, these seminars have been well received because they also provide a feedback mechanism for all participants to communicate their concerns and suggestions to the company.

The Rock Wall - From Bits & Pieces

“TODAY, WE’RE GOING TO RAISE THE BAR A LITTLE,” Jeff said to his exercise group. “Who wants to be first to climb the wall?”

The exercisers blasted him with a collective Not me: “No way!” “You’ve gotta be kidding...” “I can’t do that!” “I just started this fitness program—I’m not ready for this...”

As the class debated the difficulty of climbing the wall with Jeff, a skinny kid of about 15 pushed through them and attached himself to the belay line. He began cautiously.

The exercisers stopped arguing and started watching his ascent. But about halfway up, he lost his footing. Everyone gasped. Then they began “coaching” him: “Forget it, kid!” “It’s not worth it...” “It’s too hard!” “Young man, please come back down before you get hurt.”

But the young man’s belayer had a good hold on the line and prevented him from falling. Undaunted by the setback, and paying no attention to the exercisers, he continued climbing—slowly and steadily—until he reached the top. After he rappelled to the floor, his mother rushed forward and began signing to him. He wore a triumphant grin as he signed back to her.

“Maybe he’s naturally uninhibited because of his age,” Jeff said to his group. “Or maybe he just can’t hear all those negative voices saying ‘You can’t do it.’”

The group was silent, pondering the weight of Jeff’s words. “So, is anybody ready now to take it to the next level?” Jeff challenged.

This time everyone was ready.

DirectTV Southwest Uplink Facilities - Southern Arizona

Clay Gideon – Project Manager

Upon completion of a successful proposal and interview process, Commonwealth Electric has been selected as the electrical contractor for two Direct TV Uplink Facilities. The two facilities will be constructed east of Tucson, one in the Rita Ranch area of Tucson and one further to the east in Benson, Arizona. The general contractor on both projects is Chestnut Construction. Originally, both facilities were to be constructed concurrently on a 210 day schedule. However, delays associated with the site development have pushed back the start date for both projects. The Benson facility will be starting in June with the Rita Ranch facility scheduled to start in late July or early August.

Although there is only 21,000 square feet of building space between the two projects, the electrical work required is very dense. The two facilities differ in size, but are similar in design. Our work includes the installation of owner furnished equipment items consisting of three Main Service Entrance Switchboards, three Emergency Generator Systems, six Uninterruptible Power Systems and rough-in equipment for six large Antenna Arrays. In addition CECM will be supplying and installing building/site lighting, eighty (80) panel boards, twelve (12) transformers, and ten (10) TVSS units. The special systems on the project include an extensive security system, fire alarm system, lightning protection system and a high sensitivity smoke detection system. Due to the amount of sensitive electronic equipment in the facility we will also be installing a chemical grounding system at both locations.

These buildings are unique in that they will be almost fully automated and will have very little, if any, full time staff. The facilities have been strategically located about 30 miles apart based on meteorological studies that have determined that if cloud cover were to obscure one of the facilities it would be highly unlikely that the other facility would also be obscured. This may not seem to be far enough apart to expect different weather conditions but those familiar with weather patterns in Arizona know that it can be raining in the front yard and sunny in the back yard. Although weather and cloud cover rarely affect the company's satellite television signals, it does have an effect on their transmissions for high speed internet.

CECM has joined with Chestnut Construction on several very successful projects in the Tucson area and they continue to be one of the best general contractors in Tucson to work with. The Benson job will be managed by Clay Gideon with Tom Barnes as the project foreman. Rita Ranch, the larger of the two facilities, will have Chuck Lewis as the Project Manager and Bob Ervin as foreman.

Mercy East Tower in Des Moines Nears Completion

Ron Saf – Project Manager

The Mercy East Tower project is on schedule to be completed by August 7, 2006. With a total construction budget of almost 70 million dollars, Mercy's new addition will be a state-of-the-art addition to Mercy's existing hospital near downtown Des Moines. The project consists of a new 6-story tower wing located off of 3rd street, just south of University Avenue. When complete, the new facility will house The Ruan Neuroscience Center, two critical care units, the Mercy Education Center and comprehensive mother/baby services. The central theme of the Mercy East addition will be a 123-foot high atrium incorporating two, 3-story high lobbies. One lobby will serve the first three floors and the other serving the new mother/baby center. With foundation work occurring throughout the winter, steel erection is getting underway this spring.

The tower portion of the work has included medium voltage switchgear feeding double ended 480 volt transformers for



East Side Front Entrance of Mercy Tower Project

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the main tower electrical distribution system, emergency and normal power buss duct risers to feed the north and south halves of the building, individual floor and area power to distribute the electrical system, fire alarm system to alarm and announce with smoke evacuation control, Hill-Rom nurse call system, HUGS infant security system with interfacing into security and fire alarm systems, control systems wiring for all the mechanical equipment, special system wiring of exam lighting, isolation panels, elapsed time clocks, master lighting control, and door operator controls.

The project has consisted of central plant work to include 2000 KW medium voltage generator and paralleling switch gear, replacement of existing generators radiator units, new MCC to facilitate the equipment associated with the new generator, new medium voltage switch to feed the parallel-

ing gear from the utility grid, new exhaust fan units to displace the heated air from the generators, new annunciation interfaces for monitoring and controlling generator and new ATS emergency operations, new chilled water system pump upgrades for the facility driven by VFD units, new DA boiler pumps electrical system power and VFD controls, new boiler unit power to controller unit, and interlocking of utility incoming feeders automatic switching to new generator utility breaker.

The project general foreman is Nate Findlay. The project manager is Ron Saf, assisted by Matt Masters. Estimating and pre-construction assistance has been a group effort by Matt Firestone, Nick Page, Paul Claus, Ron Lannin and the Des Moines' office staff.

Cinemark Riverview 16

Gene Hayes – Project Manager

The first Cinemark USA movie theater has opened in Mesa, Arizona. The Dallas based firm has 314 theaters in 34 states and 13 countries. This is the first Cinemark theater in Arizona.

The Cinemark Riverview 16 opened three weeks ahead of schedule on May 23, 2006. The opening night was for the contractors, subcontractors and their families who were responsible for the construction of this 66,525 sq. ft. theater complex which seats approximately 3,250 people. Cinemark hosted the opening and offered free movies, popcorn and drinks for the evening.

The theater first opened to the public on May 26. While the movies started at 1:00 p.m., Cinemark USA offered free T-shirts to the first 500 people. It was said that people began lining up at 6:00 a.m. just to be able to get a t-shirt.

This fast-track, 7 month project began construction in October of 2005. It offered many unique challenges, not only in coordination with the other trades, but also in the planning and layout that was necessary. The walls separating theaters could not be penetrated for sound transmission purposes. The owner furnished decorative lighting fixtures that had to be installed. Among these were three chandelier fixtures each weighing 250 lbs and suspended 30 ft. above the lobby floor. Sixteen projection booths were required. These required careful planning and required the inter-connection of the projectors, film platters and sound equipment for each theater. Each projection unit and HVAC roof top units were interconnected to the fire alarm system to shut down in the event of an alarm.

A joint venture of A. R. Mays and BECK were the General Contractor for the project. Gene A. Hayes was the project manager and Dave Campbell, the project general foreman for the project for CECM.



Cinemark Theater