

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2011



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Paul Claus Retiring

Iowa Lottery Takes Advantage of Energy Savings

New High School Work Awarded to CECM in Tucson

From the Heart

Lincoln Branch Street Crew

Exciting Events for the Expo Division

Columbus Crews Busy with Plant Shutdowns and Project Completions

Paul Claus Retiring

Mike King – Lincoln Branch Manager

Paul Claus, Lincoln Branch Project Administrator/Estimator, has retired from Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest on Friday, July 8.

I have known and worked with Paul in the electrical industry for more than 38 years, the last 16 years were in an office type environment. Paul has made a significant contribution to the success of the Lincoln Branch.

Paul and his wife Theresa are in the process of selling their long time residence in Lincoln and have chosen their lake house on Lake Ericson in central Nebraska as their retirement location. Anyone who knows Paul will not forget the jovial, uplifting mood Paul would bring to the table, whether it was at Monday morning staff meetings or job site progress meetings (he was the one with the red face).

I'd like to thank Paul for his hard work and longtime dedication to Commonwealth Electric and his friendship. Enjoy your retirement Paul and stop by for a visit. You will be missed around the office.



Paul Claus

Iowa Lottery Takes Advantage of Energy Savings

Allison Petersen – Service Coordinator

Commonwealth's Des Moines Service Department was awarded and recently completed work on a lighting retrofit at the Iowa Lottery Authority building in Des Moines. The Lottery's T12 lamps and ballasts were removed, recycled and replaced with high efficiency T8 lamps and ballasts. A total of 894 fixtures were retrofitted throughout the building. As a result of this project, the Lottery is able to take advantage of rebates offered by MidAmerican Energy and they also look forward to additional savings on their monthly energy bill.

Cooper, purchasing agent for the Iowa Lottery, and we look forward to working together again in the future.



Iowa Lottery Authority

Jason Lane, Des Moines Service Manager, served as estimator and project manager, and Matt Ragan was the electrician who ran the project. Matt did a great job in his first outing as a project foreman. Commonwealth had the pleasure of working with Tammy

New High School Work Awarded to CECM in Tucson

Jay Hoobler - Vice President

The Tucson location has recently been awarded two construction projects for work at local high schools. Both projects will be performed under subcontract agreements with Lloyd Construction.

The larger of the two projects involves two new high schools that will be constructed on a combined campus for the Vail School District. The project is being constructed in response to the school district's current need for additional school facilities. Presently the enrollment at the district's two traditional high schools exceeds the designed capacities by a combined total of 300 students. The Andrada Polytechnic High School, named for one of the area's original ranches, will focus on vocational studies such as automotive repair, bioscience and health care. The school will not include facilities for competitive athletics so those students wishing to compete in athletics will attend one of the two other high schools in the district. When completed, the new facility is expected to serve at least 500 students and will also include design considerations for future expansion. Also to be constructed on the same campus is a replacement high school for the existing Pantano High School. The existing facility is an alternative school that has approximately 100 at-risk students. The new facility will replace the existing facility located on the Cienega High School campus and will accommodate nearly twice as many students.

Combined, the two schools will have over 85,000 square feet spread out in multiple buildings on a 60 acre site. The

project has an aggressive schedule with construction beginning in July of 2011 and completion scheduled for June 30, 2012 in time for the 2012-2013 school year. The project is designed to achieve a LEED goal of Silver. A majority of the funding for the project is being provided through the Arizona School Facilities Board which provides capital funds for building repairs and construction. The balance of the funding is being provided through local bond issues.

In addition to the new work for the Vail School District we have also been awarded work at Sunnyside High School in the Sunnyside School District. This project consists of approximately 30,000 square feet of new classroom and laboratory space. Extension of the existing 13.8 KV primary and installation of a new electrical service to serve the additions will be part of the work scope to be performed. This project is also scheduled to be completed prior to the start of school next year.

This will be our first project for the Vail School District and the second project that we have done in the Sunnyside School District. We have completed many successful projects with Lloyd Construction in the past and it is our successful track record that played a large part in being awarded these projects. Lloyd continues to be one of our best clients here in the Tucson area. We are looking forward to continuing this relationship with the successful completion of these two challenging projects.

*Exterior View of the
Andrada Polytechnic High School*



*Commons Area at the
Andrada Polytechnic High School*

From the Heart

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

This past April and June Commonwealth Electric of the Midwest participated in the annual American Heart Association heart walks to raise funds to help defeat heart disease. Between Omaha, Lincoln and Des Moines, Commonwealth employees raised more than \$1,436.00. To be able to raise this money takes a lot of work and effort and a lot of good ideas. As with last year, three special ladies stepped up to the challenge and made this happen. Each location came up with great ideas such as raffles, bake sales, movie tickets and as one special person put it, just plain old guilt. Whatever it takes.

As with last year I participated in all three walks. It was great to see so many people and walk with my fellow workers. Omaha and Lincoln were 2 miles and Des Moines was 3 miles long. The support and appreciation we received from the American Heart Association was fantastic. Heart disease affects many people, old and young. Staying healthy can greatly reduce the chances of developing heart disease. One way to stay healthy is walking. I

know many of us work long hours and the last thing on your mind when you get home is going out for a walk. I hear all the time, "I walked all day at work". Maybe so, but what did you do for yourself? Make the time, take the time. After my close call I started my walks and never looked back. You've heard me say many times, if not for you, than for those who care about you.

My sincerest appreciation goes out to everyone who contributed and participated. My very special thank you goes out to the ladies who made this happen, Lyndsey Harms in Lincoln, April Samuelson in Omaha and Allison Petersen in Des Moines. Each lady was presented with a thank you balloon and a red rose. In addition to their work load, they took the time to get involved and make this a success. Well done ladies, well done. I look forward to next year and our other locations getting involved.

My favorite quote that I always remember is, "The heart is measured not by how much you love, but how much you are loved by others... go out and walk."



Lyndsey Harms - Lincoln



April Samuelson - Omaha



Allison Petersen - Des Moines

Lincoln Branch Street Crew

Micah Edson - Project Manager

So far 2011 has proven to be a busy and successful year for the Lincoln street crew. This past spring and summer has filled up quickly. We have taken on numerous jobs and have been fortunate enough to add a couple positions on the crew.

As usual, the City of Lincoln has been our main source of projects. They continue to improve infrastructure while also pushing new practices and regulations. Our crew has done an exceptional job adapting to the new codes.

The annual City of Lincoln Public Work's meeting this past spring implemented new guidelines for all contractors to comply with. Their main focus this year was based around environmental issues. More specifically, slurry left from concrete sawing must now be collected and disposed of properly. Due to this we acquired a vacuum excavator that has already proven to manage this situation as well as improve productivity locating utilities, dewatering, pull-box cleanout, and has cut trench rework when sections have caved in. With this addition to our equipment, we continue to find new uses and it has proven its value.

As we continue through the summer and into fall, we plan to continue and to complete arterial intersection jobs and pick up additional projects as they come up. With the Haymarket Arena planned, we anticipate more infrastructure

improvement projects around the site in addition to the typical LES, city, and private projects that pop up to keep our schedules full.

Starting out working with the street crew and now managing it has been a unique and welcomed experience. The transition has been enjoyable and nearly effortless thanks mainly to Paul Claus. He's been great to work with and has unselfishly taught me all he can before he retired. I look forward to the street crew having a very rewarding year.



Glynoaks Ornamental Lighting



70th & Holdrege Street Signal Replacements

Exciting Events for the Expo Division

Dan Shannon - Vice President

It's been a fantastic year for the Expo Division. We have seen many exciting events this year that have gone off without a hitch. Our service results have been nothing less than outstanding and that has everything to do with the tremendous staff that we have here at Expo. Every one of these employees has gone above and beyond to please our clients and that has not gone unnoticed. In both the Phoenix and Tucson Convention Centers, we have received the highest possible ranking on over 90% of all surveys sent to facility staff, show managers and exhibitors alike. With having dealt with over 5000 individual customers to date, this is no small task. I should also mention my great debt of gratitude to both the Phoenix and Tucson construction offices in supplying us with the supplemental labor we needed to successfully produce all of these events. Without all of these gentlemen and the long hours they have put in, we would have never been able to accomplish the same great results.



All Star Gala

We have recently completed perhaps the most exciting event of the year. Major League Baseball decided a few years ago to bring the All Star Game to Phoenix. This meant a great deal to the City of Phoenix and the State of Arizona. It also had a great impact on the Phoenix Convention Center as we were proud to host the All Star Fan Fest which covered about 375,000 square foot of interactive exhibits, autograph stages, and memorabilia vendors. The event took over 8 days to install with over 1000 individual circuits being utilized. Kurt Dinkel headed up the operation as foreman with Jenny Bryant as the Account Manager. Both of these folks have been planning this event since early 2011 and have sat in on numerous meetings to keep pace with the events exorbitant and ever changing needs. Along with this event, we also hosted the All Star Gala which was a celebration held in the south building to host all MLB VIP's, players and celebrities alike. Arlen Rowland headed this operation with Amy Dolan as the Account Manager. Show Managers from both of these events



Kids Enjoying the Fan Festival

personally told me that these were the best events they have ever had electrically. This again means a ton to us seeing that these events travel all over the country and have been doing so for over 20 years. This was entirely due to the tireless work from all four of the individuals and the entire Commonwealth staff that collaborated to ensure our success.

With Major League Baseball taking up so much of our lives in the last month, we still needed to focus on other large events that we would be producing such as the Elks Annual Convention and the Assembly of God Convention. These 2 events alone will bring over 25,000 delegates through the City of Phoenix. LeAnn Whitehead took on both of these events and has done an incredible job in doing so. Sometimes with high profile events like the MLB All-Star game, we put other events on the backburner. LeAnn did not let this happen and happily took on anything we threw at her.

All of this success is entirely due to the dedication and commitment that the Expo Staff has shown. I can only say that I am truly proud of everyone and I'm happy to say that I am a part of this great team.



Fan Festival

Columbus Crews Busy with Plant Shutdowns and Project Completions

Ruth Chermok - Business Development

The Fourth of July brought many projects to our Columbus Team, particularly at B D Medical facility. We had 24 electricians working on over 12 various projects within B D on the 4th of July. Teams have continued to work in that facility during the balance of the week and throughout the shutdown. They have done an incredible job of completing a variety of projects that have required a lot of innovation and skill.

We are in the final stages of scope and bid review for another new building project at B D Medical that will be a very fast-track and challenging job. We greatly value our relationship with B D Medical and look forward to working on another project with Bierman Contracting, if we are able to finalize this job.

We were pleased to have a shutdown project at Nucor Steel Cold Finish Plant in Norfolk, NE as well. Our team worked one day at that facility during this period.

In this same period, ADM has continued to develop a number of smaller and varied projects. We are grateful to the many electricians for their dedication, and working throughout a holiday period to insure that our customers are taken care of.

We are just beginning projects at several other new facilities. Our project with Bierman Contracting to build a Special Ed Facility in partnership with ESU and Columbus Public Schools is nearing completion. We piloted the use of color conduit to mark runs and it has been well received by the owners. Our low voltage team also played a huge role in this project. Together Commonwealth shines as a very organized, logistical, and innovative contractor.



Color coded conduit has been very well received by owners



Project is nearing completion and is a great installation on time!