

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2014



**Commonwealth Electric Company of the midwest**

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## New Corporate Controller

**Glen Moss - CFO/Secretary/Treasurer**



Billy J. Friesen, our new Corporate Controller

On Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> Billy J. Friesen joined Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) Administrative Services Team as our new Corporate Controller. He replaces Cassie Janssen, who recently married and moved to North Platte, Nebraska to begin another chapter in her life after 22 years of service with CECM. Billy is a 1988 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney and spent the first 18 years of his career in Public Accounting followed by the last 8 years in the Private Sector.

Billy has been married to his wife Beth for 24 years in June. Beth is a Registered Nurse and works as a Medical Claims Specialist at Allied/Nationwide Insurance. They have three children: Bailey (18) graduated from Lincoln Christian in May and is headed to Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL to play volleyball, Landon (16) will be a junior at Lincoln Southwest, and Lexis (13) will be an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Lincoln Christian.

Billy has been involved at Lincoln Berean Church, serving on the Business Team for more than 20 years. He has served on the Board of Directors for City Impact and is currently serving on the Lincoln Christian School Board. Billy also is passionate about fitness, sports, traveling, and especially spending time with his family.

We welcome Billy to the CECM family as he embarks on what we trust will be a long career as a CECM Management Team player. His "Commitment to Excellence" will become evident to those inside and outside the organization as he establishes himself within the Commonwealth culture.

## Transition Announcement

**Glen Moss - CFO/Secretary/Treasurer**

*Change...*many of us do not like it, but it happens and as an organization, we cannot survive without it. As many of you may or may not know, Coleen Dieken was married a while back, became Coleen Wedge, and finally is going to join her husband in Kearney, Nebraska. So, after 33 years of service as Accounts Payable Coordinator in the Corporate Administrative Services Group in Lincoln, Coleen will be transferring to the recently established CECM Kearney Office on July 1<sup>st</sup> to assume their Office Manager responsibilities. Her experience, attention to detail, and unending loyalty to the Company will be sorely missed. However, our loss is the Kearney Group's gain and the good thing is Coleen will remain a part of the CECM family. We know she will do a stellar job and we wish her well in her new surroundings.



Coleen Wedge

## New Student Center on the Gvu Campus in Des Moines, Iowa

**Dianna Merritt** - CECM Project Estimator



*Mike Duffy, Michael Price, Mark Ramsey, Ashley Benda and Dianna Merritt at the Gvu student Center Ground breaking ceremony.*

Commonwealth Electric Company Des Moines recently attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new Student Center on the Grand View University Campus. The 65,700 square foot, design-build, two story addition consists of student assembly space, general offices and classrooms, as well as a bookstore and student dining and food services.

Commonwealth's scope of work includes a new electrical service, new power distribution equipment and feeders, site and interior lighting, automated lighting controls, fire alarm, sound systems, electrical for a new food service and kitchen area and telephone data cabling.

Venter Spooner is the General Contractor with FEH as the architectural firm. The Commonwealth team includes Mike Duffy and Mark Ramsey as Project Managers, Dianna Merritt as Project Estimator, Ashley Benda as Project Coordinator and Jeff Hoover as the Project Foreman. Additionally, Clint Bailey, RCCD will be managing our telephone and communication installations on the project.

The student center is scheduled to be completed by August 2015 and will be a beautiful addition to the Gvu campus. Congratulations Grand View on another great building addition to the campus. Go Vikings!

## Iowa Clinic Hosts Annual Charity Event

**Ashley Benda** - Project Coordinator



*Iowa Clinic 70's Party; Commonwealth Employees: Nate Findlay, Mark Ramsey, Brad Ramsey, Dianna Merritt, and Ashley Benda*

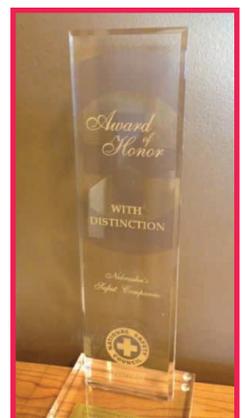
Every year, the Iowa Clinic Healthcare Foundation hosts a benefit event to raise money for their mission to build healthier communities. Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest has partnered with The Iowa Clinic on more than a dozen projects and has attended their annual charity event for several years. This past April, the benefit kicked off with a 70's theme-inspired party that raised over \$80,000. Commonwealth Electric Company was excited to be a part of this night and the worthwhile philanthropic support to charitable organizations in central Iowa. Guests at the event, including a few of our own Commonwealth employees, were able to get their groove on with 70's style apparel, a live 70's band, casino table games, and a silent auction.

## Safety Update

**Ruben J. Bera** - Corporate Safety Director

Congratulations to all Commonwealth Electric employees. For the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row we have been awarded the award of "Honor with Distinction" from the Nebraska Safety Council for safety excellence. Commonwealth Electric has been designated as one of Nebraska's Safest Companies. This is a high honor in which we all should all be proud of. It is a true reflection of the commitment everyone has made to keeping all workers safe. We know electrical work can be dangerous in itself, but there are many other areas we need to be concerned with as well. Our work involves many different areas where there are always the possibility of someone getting hurt. From the office staff, estimators, service departments, street crews and warehouse workers, we all play a part in our safety success.

Congrats to all of us!



# Commonwealth Focuses on its Low Voltage Division in Des Moines

**T. Michael Price** - Vice President

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest has always been known for delivering exceptional products and services while developing long-term relationships with its customers. Building upon that same successful model, Commonwealth Electric Company has re-focused its efforts on our Communications Division. Commonwealth Communications, a Division of Commonwealth Electric, will specialize within and focus upon a highly dynamic low voltage systems industry. An industry that includes structured copper & fiber cabling infrastructure, distributed antenna systems (DAS), fire alarm, video surveillance and security systems, and various other low voltage systems.

Commonwealth Communications has hired Clint Bailey, RCDD as its Low Voltage Manager. Clint has acquired 34-years of experience and knowledge in the industry, both as a field Technician and a full-time apprentice instructor. Clint's knowledge of system requirements and design, his knowledge of Industry Codes and Standards, his commitment to excellence and his desire to exceed a customer's expectations will undoubtedly contribute to the future success of Commonwealth Communications in Des Moines.



Clint Bailey, RCDD Low Voltage Manager in Des Moines, Iowa

We are excited about Clint joining our team and the additional expertise that we are able to offer our customers.

## Plunging for Landon

**Rochelle Burr** - Communications Admin

Landon Shaw is a 6 month old baby from Tarkio Missouri. In February Landon's parents took him to Kansas City Children's Hospital because he was losing weight and kept getting sick. The parents found out that their little boy was battling a rare cancer that started in his kidney and soon moved into his brain.

Soon after the diagnosis residents of Tarkio began "taking the plunge". They would challenge friends and pledge donations for Landon with each person that chose to jump into a freezing body of water.

It didn't take long for this fundraiser to gain some steam and start getting participants all over the world.

Within weeks the plunge had raised thousands of dollars. Within a few months there were plungers from all 50 states and 25 foreign countries and over \$100,000 had been raised.

I was lucky enough to be challenged by a few family members. Braving the freezing cold water at Lake Manawa in Council Bluffs was not something I was looking forward to but on April 12<sup>th</sup>, with Gary Demmel's promise of a donation to Landon's fund, I put on a smile and took the plunge off the dock along with my daughters and my niece.

At this point in time the plunging is still going strong. There are some amazing videos of children and adults plunging into anything and everything including lakes, creeks, bathtubs and kiddie pools. At last count the amazing participants of this fundraiser had raised over \$230,000.

As for Landon, he is still fighting with everything he has. He will be starting radiation treatments soon and you can see his smiling face in pictures and videos his parents post on the "Plunge for Landon" Facebook page. He's a brave little boy and hopefully each plunge will give his family a little less to worry about.



Rochelle Burr

## Commonwealth Electric Selected For Medical Office Building Addition Columbus Community Hospital

**Ruth Chermok** - Business Development

The Columbus Community Hospital has an existing Healthpark Medical Office Building located adjacent to the hospital. This building houses a variety of offices making available services in all types of healthcare by physicians primarily located in Columbus; and those visiting specialists that maintain hours and practices that keep community members “close to home” for their necessary treatments and visits.



The expansion of several “visiting physicians” and specialty practices has required more room for this Healthpark. Thus TSP Architects were enlisted to design a 33,000 sq. ft. addition to the existing facility. We worked closely with Architect, Karl Person, in the Omaha office of TSP to provide budgeting, value engineering, and other information throughout the design and bidding process. We were pleased to earn this project, and have the opportunity to work with Journey Construction (Sioux Falls Construction) who has completed numerous healthcare and MOB projects in partnership with TSP.

Commonwealth was involved from day one with the underground services, and some required changes to the existing service to allow for this expansion. Our tight coordination with TSP and Journey insured that the existing facility was not disturbed in any manner and services were not interrupted as we prepared for the expansion of the MOB. The new addition will have five clinics within the building, two for visiting physicians, two clinics for services for women, and one general surgery clinic.

We are most pleased to have earned our first major project with Columbus Community Hospital and hope to expand our partnership with TSP and Journey Construction on other projects throughout the area.

## Commonwealth Electric Chosen to Build New Gene Steffy Ford Dealership

**Ruth Chermok** - Business Development



Commonwealth Electric is the preferred contractor selected to partner with B D Construction on the new Gene Steffy Ford Dealership being built on Highway 30 in Columbus, NE.

This state-of-the-art facility will encompass 32,000 square feet and provide the latest in lighting to showcase the vehicles.

Gene and Joe Steffensmeier and his team have operated at the existing location in downtown Columbus for many years. This new facility on East Highway 30 is just underway and is expected to be completed by December 2014.

B D Construction is the General Contractor we are working with to bring this project to opening. The Steffensmeier family are longtime supporters of the Columbus community, and their selection of local contractors for this project is part of their civic commitment.