

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2015



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Top Award

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

Seems like I keep mentioning safety awards we have won. All good and well deserved. Everyone at Commonwealth Electric works hard to achieve these awards.

As a member of our insurance group, we are challenged with goals that must be met in order to remain an active member. Some goals, to name a few, are reducing the amount of accidents, participating in meetings and maintaining effective safety and health programs. All goals and activities are judged on a point system.

Once a year awards are given to those in our group that have demonstrated above average safety performances. There are three awards given and all based on points. The three awards given are;

- Award of Merit
- Award of Excellence
- The James T Smerz Honor award. This award is given to the company who has met all the goals and has the highest point score.

The award of honor for the past policy period was awarded to Commonwealth Electric Company. Basically putting it, we are the best of the best. This a huge accomplishment that everyone in our family should be proud of. It sends a message to the customers and potential customers that we sincerely care about the safety of all employees. Everyone's safety is our top priority and will always be the foundation of our business. To all the members of Commonwealth Electric, this is our award and very well earned. Good job everyone!



James T. Smerz Award of Honor presented to Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest

Baldwin Filter's Manufacturing Plant's New 4000 Amp Service, Kearney, NE

Clayton Anderson - Project Manager

We are in the process of adding another service at Baldwin Filters in Kearney, Nebraska. Baldwin Filters is expanding its current operations at its Kearney, NE headquarters. CECM was hired to design & install a new 4000 amp 480 volt service.

During the design stage of the project, Brad Owen did the CAD work to create the drawings. We then submitted our drawings to our Omaha office's group of engineers for approval. Josh Muench made some necessary changes, dressed up the drawings & stamped them for owner approval.

The scope of the project is to install a 2-4" duct bank from an existing manhole to the new transformer location. Install new 15 KV cable from existing S&C gear to the new transformer, install a loop feed to an existing transformer, and install a new 3000 KVA Transformer. Baldwin's current facility has all loop fed transformers. We kept that design throughout this project as well. We also installed a new 4000 amp 480 volt service with capacitor bank and will install a new 1200 amp feed for new equipment in 2016.

Jacob Anderson is the foreman on site and is completing most of the project by himself. We utilized Dennis Mohlman and a team from a prior project to help with the installation and termination of the 15 KV cable.

We have completed the expansion of an existing duct bank, installation of the 15 KV cable, installed the new 3000 KVA Transformer and the new 4000 amp service. We are currently working on the capacitor bank installation.

Project completion is spring of 2016.



Des Moines Branch Achieves Office-Wide CPR & AED Certification

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator/Safety Coordinator

Did you know that sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in this country? Would you know what to do if someone needed help? In an attempt to raise awareness for the importance of CPR and AED safety, the Des Moines branch recently completed office-wide CPR and AED training. With the help of Diana Duffy, American Red Cross training courses were offered to all Des Moines office employees and interns this past spring and by July, all employees were fully CPR and AED certified. The push for this certification came in large part due to the addition of a new AED in the office.

It was important to the Des Moines branch that proper training was offered and attained in case an incident ever arose where CPR and/or the AED needed to be utilized. The Des Moines office takes pride in knowing our employees are prepared with the necessary tools and training should a lifesaving instance ever occur. Safety is and will always be one of Commonwealth's main goals and something we continuously strive to maintain.

McAninch Corporation Overhauls Their Facility

Dylan Busby - Project Engineer Intern

The Des Moines office has been diligently working with McAninch Corporation over the course of the past year. Everything from the office addition, accompanied by an office renovation, shop addition and the current replacement of all the shop lights has been set into motion. The McAninch Corporation, founded and located in Des Moines, Iowa, is one of the largest dirt work contractors in the state. Due to recent growth over the past few years, their 76,500-plus square foot maintenance/operations facility was in need of expansion and renovation. Commonwealth Electric furnished and installed fix-



McAninch Cold Storage Addition with 6-lamp T5HO fixtures

tures for the second floor expansion, as well as LED retrofits to the existing office spaces. McAninch followed the office addition and renovation with an almost 9,000 square foot cold storage addition. Commonwealth furnished and installed (25) 6-lamp, T5HO fluorescent fixtures, as well as the fire alarm system. The most current project is a (156) 1-for-1 fixture replacement of all existing shop lighting. Commonwealth is working to replace (121) 1000W fixtures with 8-lamp, T5HO fluorescent fixtures. The exterior night lights are included in this project as well. Commonwealth is replacing the (18) 400W wall packs with a more efficient LED fixture. Additionally, those same LED wall packs are being utilized to replace (10) wall packs in the wash bay. Key personnel for these projects include Nate Findlay (Project Manager), Kevin Harris (Electrical Foreman) and Lochlan McIntosh (Electrical Foreman).



McAninch Maintenance Shop with 8-lamp T5HO fixtures



McAninch Wash-Bay with LED wall-packs and T5HO Vapor-Tight fixtures

McAninch will benefit from this work with significant energy savings. The new T5HO fixtures have over 55% less input watts than the 1000W fixtures and the LED wall packs have about 25% less input watts than the 400W wall packs. With the energy savings alone, this shop lighting renovation will pay off in just under 3 years. Commonwealth is happy to be a part of the McAninch Corporation's growing success and eager to continue working with them on future projects.

Fong's is Finally in Ankeny, Iowa

Dylan Busby - Project Engineer Intern

Commonwealth has finished the final touches of Fong's Pizza's new location in Ankeny, IA. Fong's Pizza is an Asian inspired pizza restaurant, which has become a Des Moines, IA favorite. The décor and menu were influenced by King-Ying-Low, Des Moines' oldest Chinese restaurant, which is where the first location is housed. Due to the wide success at the Des Moines location, local owners Dan and Andy Massoth of Full Court Press Inc. decided to open a new location in the Prairie Trail district of Ankeny, just north of Des Moines.



Commonwealth provided electrical services for the new 6,000 square foot restaurant. The project consisted of a 400 amp service entrance, numerous forms of custom lighting, fire alarm, telephone data, sound system, wireless access points, video, and security. Key personnel for this job include Clint Bailey (Project Manager), Brad Ramsey (Electrical Foreman), Brent Kruse (Technician Foreman), and John Coffey (Systems Technician).

"We were happy to have Commonwealth involved with the construction of our new restaurant in Ankeny, IA. Commonwealth's user-friendly, responsive attitude allowed them to quickly adapt to our custom needs."

- Andy Massoth, Full Court Press Inc.



The new Ankeny location has a top-of-the-line kitchen, dining area, separate take-out counter, and a full-service bar. The kitchen is about three times larger than the kitchen at the original location in Des Moines. The dining area includes custom picked pendant lights in the shape of paper lanterns and antiqued rectangular lanterns to give it a more authentic Asian feel. LED tape lights were utilized to accent the bar shelves

and pendant lights were used for the seating area. Multiple televisions hang around the bar and dining area so guests can enjoy their favorite teams. The separated take-out counter and entrance incorporate the pendant lights from the dining area, as well as a television screen to display the daily lunch specials.

Commonwealth Communications was also contracted for the job. They provided a phone system, video, security, and wireless services. The Communications Team worked in partnership with Audio Labs to install a complete audio visual installation to owner's specifications. Clint is still in continual communication with the owners to make sure everything works like a well-oiled machine.



The Kearney Branch

Ed Burmood - Branch Manager



Left to right Jacob Svoboda, Coleen Wedige, Ed Burmood

Like most branch offices, Kearney started out small. The branch was started long before I got here with just a few people working in the field. But then it gained an Office Manager Coleen Wedige, who had been with the company for many years at the corporate office in Lincoln, started coming out once a week in July of 2014 until she was here fulltime in October of that same year.

Then, it was my turn to join the team. In December of 2014 I (Ed Burmood) signed on with the company. Having grown up in Kearney, with a background as an electrician for over 20 years, and a retired Police Officer from Hastings, I was excited to be back in Kearney working for a company that I can see really cares about its employees.

Then Jacob Svoboda joined the team in June 2015 as Kearney's first Project Manager. Jacob, a native of Hastings, Nebraska, recently moved from Colorado where he had been working as a PE. We just about have the Colorado influence worked out of him and he is starting to become a true Husker Nation son.

Kearney became its own entity in January meaning that the Columbus Branch no longer had to do our booking. Though that just doesn't happen overnight, Jake Gable and his team still continue to support us in many ways and for that we are truly thankful.

Kearney has had three main projects that were recently completed, BD Medical in Holdrege, BD Medical in Broken Bow and the hospital in Gothenburg. We also have Dan Greene - Service Tech. Dan has done jobs from Hastings to McCook and everything in between. Dan has also done several jobs at UNK which he is currently working on the installation of a new chiller in the Central Utility Plant.

Mark McKelvey, Marv Neilson and Chris Mueller just finished a large demo in Holdrege at BD Medical. Some of you may know Chris's Grandfather Frank Mueller. Frank was the Chief State Electrical Inspector a few years back, I know I sure remember him.

Anthony Brown who has been with the Kearney branch from the beginning is currently out in Gothenburg on the next phase of the hospital. Chuck Wendt from North Platte recently joined us and is now helping in Gothenburg as well. Jeramiah Slack works there when he is not helping out in Broken Bow at the BD plant. Cory Colgrove will be returning from the Lexington job to assist Anthony as well.

Another team member is Tony Arnold from Kearney. Tony is working in Broken Bow and has helped with service work at Cabela's and the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Tony runs our second service van and helps as a backup when Dan is overloaded.

Pending jobs that we hope to get include the Arts Building at Hastings College, the new addition to Kearney Regional Center, and the next phase at Gothenburg Hospital. Some future jobs we plan to bid are the new VA Home, the UNK Village and the Software Center in Kearney.

We hope to expand into North Platte with a satellite office for a service van hopefully when Bruce Buckmaster moves to North Platte. We have been turning down a lot of work in this area because we are not set up to do that yet.

Our plans for the future are to move into a larger building with a lay down yard. The addition of some more equipment to be more competitive in our bids. We also will be expanding our office staff to include a Service Manager and an assistant to help Coleen.