

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2015



Commonwealth Electric Company of the midwest

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Des Moines Commonwealth Supports The Iowa Clinic at Annual Charity Event

Lincoln Airport Entryway Corridor Project

Safety Awards

Iowa Radiology – Installation of New Sonialvision G4 Unit

William C Knapp Emergency Department and Trauma Center

Low Voltage Nebraska – Lincoln Division

Des Moines Commonwealth Supports The Iowa Clinic at Annual Charity Event

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator

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 continued with a Wild Wild West theme-inspired party that raised thousands of dollars. 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 try their luck at casino table games, enjoy a cocktail at the saloon, and participate in a silent auction.



Photo - Iowa Clinic Wild Wild West Party
Commonwealth Employees: Michael Price, Clint Bailey, Brad Ramsey, Dianna Merritt, and Ashley Huinker

Lincoln Airport Entryway Corridor Project

Micah Edson - Project Manager

The City of Lincoln along with Lincoln Parks and Recreation has had this project on their radar for quite some time. The entryway to the Lincoln Airport has been somewhat of an eyesore and only recently has gained enough funding for the re-beautification. Visitors traveling to and from the Lincoln Airport will be greeted by a dramatically improved roadway with decorative lighting, landscaping, and banners.



Lincoln Airport

Foreman Paul Hoegemeyer and his crew are now nearing completion of this project lead by Constructors, Inc. It has been a unique and challenging project from the start. The custom steel bases and fixtures were fabricated by Total Manufacturing Company of Lincoln and will line the entryway to and from the Lincoln Airport. A big thank you to the crew for another successful and accident free project!

Safety Awards

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

We are well into 2015 and awards for our safety performance in 2014 are being presented. The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) awarded Commonwealth Electric with the Safety Excellence award for 2015. The Nebraska Safety Council awarded Commonwealth Electric with an award for Superior Achievement in Injury Prevention and we have received this award for the past 9 years. In Arizona, the local NECA chapter recognized Commonwealth in their member newsletter. All great attributes for the work we do.

Awards are nice but they don't reflect what it takes to achieve them. Although work as an electrician can be a dangerous job, there are other parts of our work that are just as challenging. Working in trenches, working from elevated surfaces such as ladders and aerial lifts and working in and around the public. I can't tell you how much consideration we take when working with the public.

Once in Des Moines an electrician was working from a ladder in a department store. The area was barricaded to keep people out. As the electrician started coming down the ladder he saw a small boy coming up. Can you imagine what could have happened? It's not just about pipe and wire. Electrical work involves keeping our minds on the task and being prepared for the unexpected. The work we do is not about being recognized for our safety achievements, it's about what we do to insure our workers stay safe. Wearing hard hats, gloves, safety glasses and Hi-Vis clothing. Items we take for granted but there is a purpose, keeping the worker safe.

Congratulations to all the members of Commonwealth Electric for their safety achievement in 2014. As we approach the summer of 2015 we are on our way to another safe year. Safety is team work. Just like everything we do on the job and in the office, it's team work that makes us stand apart from the others and why we stand by our motto, Committed to Excellence!



National Safety Council Award



NECA Award

Iowa Radiology – Installation of New Sonialvision G4 Unit

Kari Christeson - Assistant Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is nearing the completion of the Sonialvision G4 equipment installation at Iowa Radiology in Clive, Iowa.

Commonwealth, Keith Marschel & Iowa Radiology has had a long standing working relationship. Keith has been a part of all equipment replacements within Iowa Radiology's facility. The newest is the Sonialvision G4 Unit. Iowa Radiology is going to be a "show site" for Shimadzu for the Sonialvision G4 Digital R/F room in the Midwest.

This unit will be used for digital fluoroscopy. Digital fluoroscopy allows the medical professionals to view deep structures of the body in real time. Unlike regular x-ray which records the image to film. Digital fluoroscopy records a series of images to a computer.

Iowa Radiology sees close to 300 patients a month. It was important that Iowa Radiology did not see any downtime. The current machine is still being used while the new equipment was being installed. The old will not be removed until the new is up and running.

"I just want you to know how much I like working with Commonwealth. Your crew is so easy to work with. They are all so detailed oriented and accommodating" states DeAnn Weuve with Iowa Radiology.



Keith Marschel & DeAnn Weuve with Iowa Radiology

William C Knapp Emergency Department and Trauma Center

Kari Christeson - Assistant Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest has been a part of many projects with UnityPoint. The William C Knapp Emergency Department and Trauma Center is the latest in Des Moines, Iowa.

Per UnityPoint's press release on the project, it will add 40,000 square feet of new space to the north entrance of Iowa Methodist and completely renovate the existing 20,000 square foot Emergency Department. This will create an all-new 60,000 square foot Emergency Department. It will include 26 adult treatment rooms, 12 pediatric treatment



Matt Speck, Adam Ivanovich and Tim Grubb working on underground rough-in at the ED Project

rooms and 1 behavioral health treatment room. 55,000 patients receive care in the Iowa Methodist and Blank Children's Emergency Department and Trauma Center.

Graham Construction Company is the general contractor on the project and Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering is the design firm. Commonwealth's efforts in the office will be led by Project Manager, Mike Duffy and in the field by Superintendent, Chuck Thompson and foreman, Bill Schaff.

Amy Feters, Project Manager with Graham Construction states "I look forward to a successful completion on the ED project with Commonwealth."

Commonwealth is very excited to be part of this project.

Low Voltage Nebraska – Lincoln Division

Jerry Van Amerongen - Telecommunications Manager

This year has already been extremely busy for us, with Lincoln Public School's projects and various new ventures in the service area. We are just now finishing up on one of the LPS Security and Technology packages (7 schools) we were awarded late last year and will be down to one high school out of 7 schools in the other package. We were successful in teaming up with our electrical team and securing a middle school, complete remodel, which will be running strong throughout the next 15 months. We also landed another LPS IAQ project with one of our other signatory contractors that will be completed by the end of summer 2016.

Our DAS project that we are doing with our Des Moines office has been substantially completed and was a great success. Efforts like this will continue to increase our worth in the national picture when it comes to that type of work. I want to personally thank both the Omaha and Des Moines offices in their help making this a successful project to be a part of. Jeremy Englehart (from the Omaha office) was our site superintendent and did an exceptional job bringing this project in on time and under budget. In Lincoln we continue to see DAS projects coming around. Ron Dodd is currently overseeing the DAS installation at the Beatrice Community Hospital and will be overseeing the upgrade for the DAS in Memorial Stadium that will commence in early June and complete before the first home football game. All of these DAS projects were partnerships, in some form, with Pierson Wireless.

We are also currently working closely with the University of Nebraska to start installing and splicing high strand count fiber optics cabling. With a MFS (Mass Fusion Splicer) we can fusion splice up to 12 strands of ribbon fiber at a time. With this capability we can now offer an installation of a smaller outside diameter cable with a very high strand count and also a 12:1 splicing time frame. We are currently awaiting the arrival of a 432 strand count fiber to install on UNL east campus that is requested to be completed by the end of June. We also are installing 144 fibers to the new soccer and tennis facility. We are very excited to prove this installation method so we can start selling this opportunity to others, like the City of Lincoln.

As I looked back into the 2009 newsletter we submitted, I had mentioned that we were employing 3 technicians and 3 apprentices. Today we are working 14 technicians and 13 apprentices, and we have a call in for 2 more technicians or apprentices right now. We have also started a low voltage apprenticeship subcommittee at the Hall to help in assisting with items such as application selection, interviews, setting up some in house standards, discipline (if needed), CEC records, etc. It is very promising to see all of the growth and to know that we have really been trying to form the best TEAM that we can.