

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Winter 2014/2015



**Commonwealth
Electric Company
of the midwest**

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Blank Children's Hospital Festival of Trees and Lights

T. Michael Price - Vice President

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest volunteered to help with the setting up and tearing down of the 31st Annual Blank Children's Hospital's Festival of Trees and Lights fundraising event in Des Moines. Over 60 Commonwealth employees donated over 500 hours during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend to help unload crates, setup the electric train and put up holiday decorations. Additionally, we helped with tearing down and repacking after the event was over.

Over \$480,000 dollars was raised to support the Child Life Program and the Center for Advocacy & Outreach at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. Commonwealth has a long history with Unity Point Health and Blank Children's Hospital. We were thrilled to be part of the event again this year and look forward to many more years of service to Unity Point and Blank Children's Hospital.

"Festival is an amazing event! The Unity Point Foundation staff does a fantastic job. Working with them and our employees for such a great cause is a true pleasure. "

-Mike Duffy, CECM Festival Drill Sargent

A big thank you to all the Commonwealth employees and their families that volunteered for this very worthwhile event. A special thank you to Michael Duffy for coordinating our efforts, to Trevor Schmidt for leading the train crew and Dianna Merritt for keeping us all on track! We really made a difference this year! Great Job Everyone!



Commonwealth employees during the Festival of Trees.



Some of the Christmas Décor at the Festival of Trees and Lights.

Safety, Giving Back to Others

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

As we approach the end to another successful year at Commonwealth Electric, I'm reminded of the many things we have to be thankful for. First of all, we have upper management who truly cares about the safety of all employees. From day one here I was told my main responsibility was to ensure all employees were trained and informed on how to get the job done and not get hurt. Throughout the years we made big improvements on how we protect our workers. New and improved tools, new PPE, training and education. I feel grateful reporting to our leaders that our employees are safe and our accident records are a testimony to that. All workers demonstrate daily the importance of working safe. Every company has responsibilities to ensure their employees are safe. Sure there are laws and regulations that must be followed, but it comes down to culture and belief in doing the right thing. Over the years, CECM has been recognized for quality workmanship and outstanding safety performance by the workers who push the wrenches. We are the leaders and we are only as good as those who lead and teach us.

I also reflect on those not as fortunate as us here at Commonwealth Electric. Five years ago I told my staff that during the holiday season we should keep those less fortunate in our minds rather than what the best gift is. I made a commitment that we will help others where we can.

We started volunteering at the Open Door Mission. Every year during the holidays we serve lunch to those who don't have the opportunities we have here at Commonwealth Electric. I'm humbled at the faces of those we help, especially the children. Part of safety is caring. When we are out on jobs and notice a behavior that might cause an injury, our reaction is not what I am going to do with this person, rather express our concern that we care about their safety and don't want them injured. The Open Door Mission is thankful for the commitment Commonwealth Electric has made that has helped them during a busy time of the year.



Commonwealth Electric Safety Department "Giving Back"

Double Dutch Dairy/ Tul's Dairy Lighting Upgrade Project Shelby, Rising City, Nebraska

Andy Sueper - Service Manager

CECM Columbus was recently awarded and has begun work on the replacement of lighting and pump house facilities at the Double Dutch Dairy Farms in Shelby and Rising City Nebraska. This existing dairy facility is comprised of six free-stall barns. Each barn is roughly 118,000 square feet and 300 yards long and holds approximately 1,000 milking cows.

Double Dutch Dairy has been growing rapidly in recent years. Along with operational growth their energy demands have grown as well. Currently, the six barns utilize a total of 400 T8 fixtures for lighting. The core of this project is to replace all of these fixtures with high bay LEDs. CECM will be installing roughly 1,000 LED fixtures in this project. This is a total increase of 600 fixtures (150% increase) at the facility. Despite the large increase in fixture quantities, the overall energy consumption for the customer will not change. During the planning process, CECM was instrumental in moving the project forward by guiding the customer to monetary and energy savings with this LED swap out. CECM helped them take advantage of the rebates from NPPD on the fixtures purchased.

Commonwealth Electric is excited to be involved in this lighting improvement project. The facility will save on energy while gaining increased lighting and they will improve the efficiency of their barn cleaning processes. This will directly benefit the health and welfare of the animals.



Expo Division 2014

Dan Shannon - Vice President

2014 was another great year for the Expo Division. A tremendous amount of work went in to what turned out to be one of our most successful years ever. This obviously could not have been accomplished without our full time staff of true professionals that have been with the Expo Division for over a combined 100 years. We have also been extremely lucky to look to both our Phoenix and Tucson construction offices when we are in need of additional labor for our larger events. These groups of consummate professionals are truly masters of their trade and work very hard in fulfilling all of our customer's needs. I am extremely proud to call each and every one of them a teammate and look forward to many more success stories to come.

A new member of the Expo team joined us in September. Dave Perreault is an 8 year member of IBEW here in Arizona. Dave taught at the local JATC for a year and worked in the field on multiple construction projects. Dave's outgoing personality, eagerness to learn, and pride in his work make him a great fit at the Expo Division. Welcome aboard Dave!

The biggest news of 2014 for us is that we signed new contracts for both Phoenix and Tucson Convention Centers. We have held these exclusive contracts since our inception in 1995 which has been no small feat. Since inception we have seen both facilities go through several changes both physically and administratively. We continuously adapted to every change and continued to provide exceptional services. For the past 20 years we have made it easy for both facilities to choose their utilities service provider as our record across the board remains flawless. We are proud to be service partners with the two largest convention centers in Arizona and look forward to many more years of dedicated service and success.

2015 promises to be a very exciting and successful year for the Expo Division. Among several other National Events coming to Arizona, the one that stands out the most is Super Bowl XLIX. The Phoenix Convention Center is proud to host the Media Center as well as the NFL Experience, and NFL Honors. All of these events will encompass the entire Convention Center using approximately 1 Million square feet for over three weeks. Mostly every interview and press conference on radio and TV will be held at the Convention Center for the week leading up to the big game. The NFL Experience is a huge interactive event for children and adults alike that is said will bring over 1 million visitors to the downtown Phoenix area. We are proud to be part of such an amazing high profile event. I look forward to telling you all about our experiences and successes on what promises to be a very fun event.

As long as we're talking about sports, some other exciting news for Arizona. 2016 will bring the College Football Championship Game and 2017 will bring the NCAA Basketball Final Four tournament. As you can see, Arizona is fast becoming a destination for Premiere Conventions, Tradeshows, Sporting and Special Events. Here at the Expo Division, we look forward to being part of it all.

Central Nebraska Regional Airport New Passenger Terminal Building, Grand Island, NE

Dusty Romshek - Project Manager - Columbus

Commonwealth Electric Columbus has been awarded the electrical contract for the Central Nebraska Regional Airport (CNRA) Passenger Terminal Building in Grand Island, NE. The general contractor on this project is Hausmann Construction out of Lincoln, NE. CNRA has seen an almost 600% increase in boarding passengers since 2008. The passenger terminal project is the first of several projects to come in order to keep up with the airport's growing customer base. The extensive growth in recent years can largely be attributed to the addition of direct flights to and from Las Vegas, Phoenix/Mesa, and Dallas/Fort Worth. These destinations have made CNRA a hot spot for both business commuters and vacationers from central and western Nebraska.

This project consists of the construction of a new 33,750 sq. ft. building which will replace the airport's existing 10,000 sq. ft. passenger terminal. The total investment made by the CNRA will be approximately \$14.1 million. A large portion of the project will be funded by the FAA, which is providing a grant of approximately \$10.8 million. The new passenger terminal will offer passengers vast improvements over the current facilities. One of the major improvements will be the addition of two jet bridges as part of the new passenger terminal building. The current passenger terminal does not have jet bridges, therefore passengers must bare the elements when boarding and de-boarding aircraft. The new terminal will also be utilizing geothermal technology for heating/cooling energy savings. On Oct. 29th, CNRA had its official ground breaking ceremony. All demolition of existing structures has been completed and footings are currently being poured. One of the largest challenges with this project is that it complies with the Buy American Act since it is federally funded. Therefore, all efforts must be taken to purchase American made materials only. The project also complies with the Davis-Bacon Wage provisions. The project is slotted to be complete in early 2016. This is the first time Commonwealth Columbus and Hausmann have teamed up together and there are high hopes to build a lasting relationship with the contractor.



Central Nebraska Regional Airport

Low Voltage Nebraska – Lincoln Division

Jerry Van Amerongen - Telecommunications Manager

2014 has kept the communications division in Lincoln right in line with all of the other years since 2007 (steady growth), and so far the backlog is predicting 2015 will fall right in line as well.

In 2014 we have had “large” projects such as; installation of the WiFi system into Memorial Stadium, finishing up the DAS (Distributed Antenna System) and the WiFi at Pinnacle Bank Arena, installing the WiFi system at the Nebraska Heart Institute and Hospital, and a sizable project with Phillips Telemetry for Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, for an all new monitoring system. We are currently working on LPS projects (14 different schools), this is a joint effort with our electrical team. We are also going to be starting a project at Life Science (UNL). We are just getting started on a project with the Des Moines office on installing the DAS at the Des Moines International Airport. This, along with all of the normal service accounts, has allowed us to grow into a nice workforce. In 2007 we had a total of 3 people working under the low voltage agreement in Lincoln, today we have 22 and a standing call into the Hall for more. All of this is possible because of the way we work together with Omaha office. They have helped tremendously in estimating and we share manpower when we can. Word on the streets right now, has been that CECM – Communications in Nebraska (Both Omaha and Lincoln combined) has become the largest installation contractor for low voltage systems in the state. Way to go TEAM!

With this growth we are always keeping our sights set on obtaining qualified personnel both in the field and now in the office as well. We have been transitioning Ron Dodd from field superintendent to becoming the low voltage service manager. Ron has been with us since November 14th, 2005 and has been a great leader and technician. Our service department is taking shape with the assistance of Ron and Alli Beach doing billings, scheduling, and administrative work with Ron. We have seen the numbers steadily rise every year in service. Since 2007, the service revenue has increased approximately 125% and with the addition of a full time person to manage, it should continue to increase. We have all the confidence in Ron doing a fine job in maintaining the standards we have put into place and continuing to grow the department.



Ron Dodd,
Low Voltage Service Manager

Flix Brewhouse; A Unique Opportunity

Clint Bailey - Low Voltage Manager

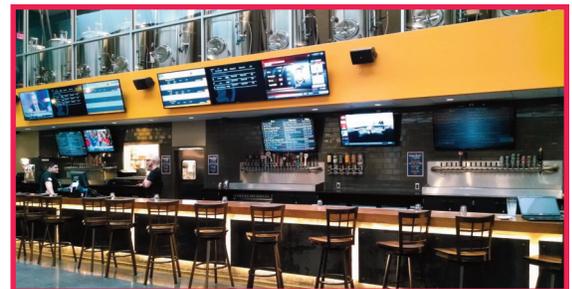
Commonwealth Communications was contacted by the Flix Brewhouse organization to become a partner in their latest venture located at Merle Hay Mall in Des Moines, Iowa. Flix Brewhouse, by Galaxy, is America’s Cinema Brewery® – the only first run movie theatre in the world to incorporate a fully functioning microbrewery. By combining these concepts, Flix delivers to your theatre seat three of America’s great loves – craft beer, great food and the latest movies.

As discussion progressed with Matthew Baizer, Vice-President of Flix, the scope of the project began to broaden. Commonwealth Communications took-on the role of coordinating and installing the cabling and infrastructure for each of the three specialty vendors supplying systems necessary for this unique project. These systems included, wireless connectivity for in-auditorium ordering, a point-of-sale network, audio cabling for the numerous speakers in each auditorium, low-voltage lighting control of the in-auditorium LED lighting and the digital display network throughout the space.

One of the auditoriums commanded additional attention. Flix took this auditorium to a new level by creating a certified Dolby ATMOS auditorium. Fewer than 200 movie screens worldwide are equipped with the three-dimensional sound system so far, about half of them in North America.

As the Flix Brewhouse project progressed, the relationship between Flix and Commonwealth Electric & Communications expanded further to include the installation of line-voltage and control wiring connections to supply the brewhouse and kitchen equipment. The Commonwealth Communications team included Clint Bailey as Low Voltage Project Manager and Brent Kruse as the Project Foreman.

The Commonwealth Electric team included Brandon North as Electrical Service Manager and Jeff Hoover as Project Foreman.



Flix Brewhouse serving area



Dolby ATMOS Theatre

Des Moines office supports “Moes for Joes”

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator



During the month of November, the Des Moines office had the chance to participate in the annual social event known as “No Shave November”. However, this was not your typical “No Shave November”. Rather the Des Moines office, along with numerous businesses throughout the metro, took part in a new and exciting event known as “Moes for Joes”. In 2014 “Moes for Joes”, in honor of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), allows men a chance to grow out their facial hair in sporting fashion to show their support in the fight against blood cancers. The Des Moines office eagerly participated and also showed their support in the form of donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Beginning in 2011 in honor of a young Des Moines; boy battling leukemia, “Moes for Joe” raised over \$1,000 in its first year. With the support of some local businesses, “Moes for Joe” was able to raise over \$6,000 in 2012 and an astounding \$27,000 in 2013. Currently in its fourth year, the focus was turned to recognize that MANY children and families are affected by blood cancers, thus coining “Moes for Joes”.

Throughout the month of November while the men were growing their beards and mustaches, the ladies were also able to participate in the affair. Ladies were treated to mini-manicures featuring mini mustache decals courtesy of a local Des Moines salon. At the end of the month, “Moes for Joes” culminated in true fashion with a Shave-off Party at a local Des Moines business. The Des Moines office had great fun participating in this event and are proud to support the fight against blood cancers.



The men of the Des Moines office sporting their facial hair in support of “Moes for Joes”

New Practice Facility for the Grand View University Wrestling Program

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator

Commonwealth Electric recently completed the construction of the newly improved Grand View University wrestling practice facility in Des Moines. The space was part of an extensive remodel of an old bowling alley that Grand View University acquired and converted to a multi-sport athletic facility. The project consisted of the removal of approximately 20 bowling lanes which transformed the space into four wrestling mats, an office, lounge, conference room, and men’s and women’s locker rooms.



Newly renovated Grand View University wrestling facility

CECM also removed the old parking lot lights and replaced them with new LED pole lights. The CECM project team was led by Jeff Hoover in the field and Mark Ramsey in the office. Hoover, Ramsey and the rest of the Des Moines field crew and office team worked diligently with Greg Spooner and the Gvu staff to see that this project was completed in time for the widely supported and nationally ranked Gvu wrestling team to start training. Go Vikings!



Locker room in Grand View University wrestling facility

