

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Spring 2016



**Commonwealth Electric Company**  
of the midwest

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## Lincoln Branch's New Office - 5321 N 70th, Lincoln, NE 68507

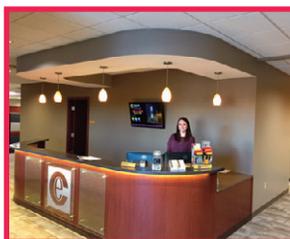
**Bob Philipps** - Sr. Project Manager

The CECM Lincoln Branch has moved into a new location. It has been a long journey for such a short move but as of January 29th, 2016, the Lincoln branch has moved into our new location at 5321 N 70th street in NE Lincoln. The new location has better access to I-80 along with space around the building for future growth. The long journey started some time ago as the staff that had been in the 1941 Y Street location since 2003 had grown from 10 personnel to 17. We had to divide our training room into 3 offices and then early last year we divided our conference room into 2 offices leaving us without a room to hold meetings or conduct business with our customers and vendors. The old branch office was approximately 3400 sq. ft. in a building that needed a lot of work to make it presentable. Our new location has 9800 sq. ft. of usable space that includes 17 offices, a training room, conference room, estimation office, LV Data closet, restrooms, ( 3) mechanical/electrical rooms , breakroom and a cube farm with 6 spaces for field personnel use. The process was a lengthy one as selection of an area in town that would allow growth, provide a positive identity for CECM and inspire our staff. It took longer than expected. Mike King and I started looking at locations 24 months ago and finally selected the location in August 2015. Working with Speedway properties' Brett Harris, we signed the lease and began the construction process. Hampton Construction was selected as the general contractor. We worked with Scott Lockard, Duane Mundt, John Hyland and on-site Foreman Chad Halstrom at Hampton along with DC Concrete, Biggerstaff Heating and Cooling as the other subs.

We then started the tenant finish of the existing building. Jan Wiedel with Graybar helped out with the fixtures, lighting control and devices. Jerry Van Amerongen also worked with Jan Wiedel and Corey Drystad at Graybar to provide CommScope equipment and materials.

Our electrical crew was headed up by Jason Rieckman, Justin Stone and Nick Lambert. Jerry's LV crew consisted of Aaron Gobel as lead with Jacob Demoret, Kristin Steggs, Jacob Malcom, Kiel Buhr and Eric Trost providing the installation. Our interior decorator was Office Manager Nicole Roach. She selected the carpet, paint, tile along with office furniture. We had our security division install camera and card readers. The crew was headed up by Clinton Stoffer with Tony Spencer and Brian Eledge providing the on-site installation.

Our immediate future plans include consolidating our north yard and bringing it to our new office site. We are in the process of grading, installing rock and fencing to facilitate that move. Please stop by and see our new office!



Stephanie Bellows at the receptionist's desk. (Note the monitor with advertising)



Front Entrance



Alli Beach enjoying the lobby



Lyndsey Harms & Marissa Richman in the breakroom

## HTG Clean Rooms

**Cody Hoobler** - Project Manager

CECM Tucson and Chestnut Building & Design recently completed Phase I of a new clean room project. Project manager/estimator Cody Hoobler, along with foreman Steve Stebner, are working with HTG Molecular Diagnostics to renovate the existing lab and storage spaces with new clean rooms that are needed for their research and development.

HTG Molecular Diagnostics is a new startup company in Tucson that creates products used for genomic testing. This research helps identify specific types of cancers through tumor profiling, which allows for more specific treatment.

The work for phase I included the buildout of seven new clean rooms, each with positive air pressurization and a UV sterilization lighting system with safety interlocks. A new 800A service was installed along with an ATS for normal and emergency power distribution. The emergency power is provided by a new 150KW diesel generator which provides backup for walk in freezers that store samples. Phase II of this project is currently underway which involves six additional clean rooms and an additional 150KW diesel generator.



## Solar Arrays – Target

**Randy Comolli** - Project Manager

CECM Tucson is working with Greenskies LLC providing solar arrays on Tucson and Phoenix area Target Stores. Greenskies LLC is a solar integrator located in Middletown, Connecticut. Greenskies is providing this solar work to the Target Corporation across the nation.

Three of the Tucson local Target stores are enjoying the benefits of becoming a “Green” business. Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest has completed two of the Tucson locations, with a third currently under construction and are in the process of starting a fourth store in Tucson and an additional store in Surprise, Arizona.

Randy Comolli, Project Manager/Estimator teamed up with foreman Quang Tran, Tom Barnes and Daniel Chavez to complete these projects with great success. These projects require the installation of approximately 1200 to 1300 solar modules along with the racking system located on the store rooftops. This provides approximately 395 KW DC of Photovoltaic power. Each project has had a construction time frame of ten weeks for completion.

Greenskies currently has plans for installation of 13 more stores in the Phoenix Metropolitan area and one more in Tucson area.



## New Level 1 Certified Infrared Thermographers

**Eric Hoge** - Engineering Manager

For many years, Roger Troupe has been the only Level 1 Certified Thermographer in the Omaha, NE office. Roger continues to be the go-to guy for infrared scans, but he finally has some help! Bob Bergamine and Alex Sluga are now Level 1 Certified Thermographers in the Omaha office.

Many facilities are required to have IR scans performed annually either by corporate mandate or, more often, by insurance requirements. We have found that Level 1 certification is becoming the norm for the industry. The difficulty is that no standard exists defining what certification means. One has to find a reputable training company and take the course. We elected to train with Snell Group based on their longevity and recognition in the IR testing world.

Level I Certified Infrared Thermographer is a five-day course for the application of qualitative thermal imaging. The course covers infrared theory, heat transfer concepts, equipment operation and selection, standards compliance, image analysis, and report generation. There is an exam at the end of the course. Bob and Alex successfully completed this course in February.



Alex Sluga



Bob Bergamine

Eric Hoge  
Engineering Manager

## Des Moines Commonwealth Begins New Venture with OMG Midwest

**Allison Thomas** - Service Coordinator

CECM is excited to be working with OMG Midwest (Oldcastle Materials Group Midwest). OMG is a leading supplier of asphalt, ready mixed concrete, aggregates, and construction and paving services in the United States. They have over 1,200 locations across the nation.

OMG is made up of ten Midwest building and construction material suppliers. Seven of our technicians have been MSHA (Miner Safety and Health Administration) Certified as we take on quarry work as a new endeavor. CECM plans on growing the number of MSHA certified technicians in the near future.

Commonwealth has been working with Hallet Materials and American Concrete, two of OMG's ten building and construction material suppliers. Hallet Materials started in the pure sand and gravel industry in 1918. Hallet materials currently operates from over 40 aggregate deposits in Central and Western Iowa.

American Concrete began in 1980 in Johnston, Iowa and has been growing vastly ever since. American Concrete is now a leading supplier in high quality products and services such as ready mixed concrete, curing, sealing, fibers, and colored concrete.

**Derek Fredericksen, Operations Manager of American Concrete, stated, "Mining and excavating is a new venture for Commonwealth and I am glad to enter this new project with their team."**

Commonwealth's efforts in the office will be led by Project Manager, Brandon North. Our technicians have been servicing the equipment and facilities of five Hallet Material locations. CECM is very much looking forward to servicing more of their locations in the future.



"Providing electrical services at the Johnston, Iowa Hallett Materials plant."

## Commonwealth Employee Recognition

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

At the Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha NE, the general contractor, Kiewit Construction notified me that our employee, Chad Coy was going to be recognized for demonstrating safe work habits on the work site. Kiewit on-site safety representatives said Chad was going to be recognized at the weekly sub-contractor meeting. At that meeting, Commonwealth Electric was represented by myself, our on-site safety manager David Stading and Todd Longenecker, Omaha safety manager. His foreman and general foreman, as well as the site project manager, were also present. Per Commonwealth Electric's site safety manager David, *"What can I say? Chad is one of those guys who thinks before he acts. He is always looking at the logical breakdown of the work before completing a task to make sure there's not a smarter or safer way to get the job done. He is always asking questions, trying to learn more all the time about safer practices, safety devices, etc. He's very clear that he would not put his family's life at risk because of deadline pressures, taking shortcuts or rushing."*

According to Kiewit site safety representative Trinity Kobiela, *"Chad, he is not here for himself, he is here for his family. Always asks if he is unsure of the proper procedure when it comes to safety. He always stops and asks me to look over any concerns he may have with his operation if he is not comfortable with the situation. Production does not drive him to work in an unsafe manner, safety is always first with his tasks."*

Chad was presented with a Kiewit sweatshirt and a couple of Commonwealth items as a show of appreciation. Chad is just an example of the professionalism demonstrated by many of our team members. Being recognized by a major general contractor for safety is a complement to our entire company. Putting safety first will always be Commonwealth Electric's top priority.



## Cargill Turkey and Cooked Meats – Design Build (Columbus, NE)

Cerone Thompson - Electrical Engineer

The Cargill Turkey & Meats Project in Columbus, NE is an expansion/renovation of their current facility. The project is over 100,000 square feet with a budget of \$2.5M. Essentially it is a complete gut of the existing building which will need to be upgraded along with the expansion. The scope involves installing a new 3000A 480/277V service and relocating the existing 5000A service. We will also be installing (4) new MCC's, 2 contractor furnished and 2 owner furnished, which will house the majority of the processing equipment loads.

The Project Team consists of Gary Demmel, Eric Hoge, and Cerone Thompson leading the engineering efforts and project coordination. Sean Martys is the Project Manager, Ron Castro is the Site Superintendent, and Doug Coleman aiding with design.

What makes this particular project interesting is that it is a "true" design build. We were called in to handle this project because it has a very aggressive schedule. The project needs to be done by mid to late June and this includes both design and construction. This type of project is right in our "wheelhouse" because we have the engineers on staff to design the project while the field personnel are in the process of constructing it. This of course comes with certain setbacks and growing pains but it's nothing that we are not accustomed to and can't handle.



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## How to Fabricate Assemblies Off-Site, Omaha, NE

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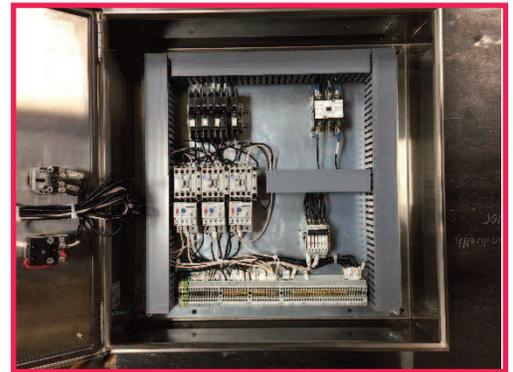
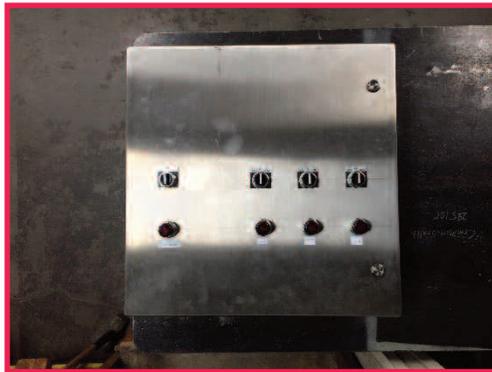
**Josh Muench** - Electrical Engineer

About 7 years ago, we began looking at how to fabricate assemblies' off-site, so they could be built in a controlled environment, in large quantity. At that time, we had a few electricians working in a small space behind the safety office, painting pipe and assembling devices in boxes. Since then, we have grown to a much larger shop, complete with most of the equipment that you would see on a typical jobsite. Currently, about 4% of our total labor for the Omaha branch comes out of the Prefab shop. Our shop labor is made up of electricians with varying levels of experience. This provides a great place for young electricians to get familiar with the tools, bending and threading pipe, and many other skills that are valuable to them when they move on to the field. Those with more experience are able to provide insight into what will provide the most value in the field.

We have a great group of electricians who are always thinking ahead and providing suggestions for ways to use Prefab on their jobs. We are set up to build anything from a box on a bracket with the plaster ring and conduit stub attached, to welded angle iron transformer stands. We have also built 3-tub panel assemblies, complete with grounding bushings, pipe rack and gutter installed. This kind of work is done in a controlled environment on tables, and sent out as one large assembly, reducing the field time for this portion of work, to mounting the assembly.

Another great application for Prefab is building control cabinets. There is a definite advantage to mounting and wiring the interior components on a table, and because we have our engineering and design department next door, questions or changes to the design are easily communicated. This is another great opportunity for a young electrician to learn about relays, control power transformers, hand-off-auto switches, and much more.

Looking forward, we are continuing to look for new opportunities to provide value to our current projects, as well as developing a catalog of products and services provided, to help bring awareness to what the Prefab shop is capable of.



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## High Rollers - Des Moines Office Supports Annual Foundation Event for the Iowa Clinic

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**Ashley Huinker** - Project Coordinator

Once again, the Des Moines office represented in true vintage casino style as they supported The Iowa Clinic Healthcare Foundation at their annual fundraiser. Each spring, The Iowa Clinic 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 healthcare foundation event for several years. This past April, the benefit continued with a Vintage Vegas theme-inspired party that raised thousands of dollars in support of numerous special projects and health related charities.

Commonwealth Electric Company is always excited to be a part of this night and the worthwhile philanthropic support to charitable organizations all across 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 live music and cocktails, and participate in a silent auction.



The Iowa Clinic Vintage Vegas Party  
Commonwealth Employees:  
Michael Price, Mark Hollingworth,  
Brad Ramsey, and Ashley Huinker

## Des Moines' Communications Division Works to Enhance Infrastructure for UnityPoint Iowa Methodist Emergency Department

**Clint Bailey** - Commonwealth Communications Project Manager

Anyone working within the low voltage systems industry, specifically those partnering to provide service for healthcare facilities, are well aware of the vast technology changes that have increased the demand upon the network infrastructure. Not only has the amount of cabling increased to accommodate the amount of data connections required for the needed equipment, the cabling types have increased to accommodate specific services or signals.

Commonwealth Communications of Des Moines has partnered with UnityPoint Health Des Moines to design an information transport system infrastructure that is robust enough to meet the current and future needs of the customer. All systems connect via a 72-strand redundant backbone fiber system installed and terminated utilizing fusion-spliced pig-tails and tested using an optical power meter and an OTDR. In addition to the traditional voice, data, video and sound cabling, there has been cabling installed for antenna systems to provide wireless temperature monitoring of refrigerators, wireless tracking as to the location of mobile medical equipment, wireless tracking of a patient's telemetry and of course distributed antenna systems to provide cellular coverage within the facility.

In addition to accommodating the many changes in technology, we have also experienced changes in our culture where it is now necessary to ensure the safety and security of the healthcare employees and patients while in the healthcare facility. Commonwealth Communications of Des Moines is a certified access control integrator and has installed access control devices and equipment to ensure a secure facility is maintained. This project is managed by Clint Bailey, Commonwealth Communications Project Manager. He is assisted in the field by Travis Briggs, Foreman Technician along with a capable team of telecommunication technicians and installers.



UnityPoint Iowa Methodist Emergency Department Communications Crew  
Left to right: Andrew Peacock (Installer), Scott Casebolt (Installer), Scott Gamble (Technician), Kevin McCarty (Technician), Derek Smith (Technician), Jordan Palmer (Installer) and Travis Briggs (Foreman Technician).

## Fontenelle Forest – Raptor Woodland Ridge

**David Hitz** - Project Manager

Recently we had the opportunity to do a Raptor Woodland Refuge project with JE Dunn at Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, Nebraska. This project was roughly 3500 sq. ft. of space fitted out for bird interaction and education for visitors of Fontenelle Forest. As Fontenelle Forest describes it:

**“Raptor Woodland Refuge will provide an opportunity for the public to view nearly two dozen birds of prey in a unique outdoor setting that inspires both adventure and education. Species of raptors on display will include Bald and Golden Eagles, six species of owls, five species of hawks, and more. The birds will be housed in a variety of distinctive treehouse-like mews, including several amongst the treetops on a suspended walkway high above the forest floor. Visitors will be able to enjoy Raptor Woodland Refuge year-round.”**

This project was a unique and enjoyable project that went smoothly due to the combined efforts of Walt Secord and Shea Connelly. In speaking with Fontenelle Forest recently they said they were very happy with the success of this project and hope to see birds coming in this summer. We look forward to the opportunity to do more work with Fontenelle Forest as they continue to grow the experience of education and adventure.

