

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2016



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Des Moines Commonwealth Sponsors Walk for Apraxia Fundraiser

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator

This past May, the Des Moines office supported an amazing cause within Des Moines and the surrounding communities in CASANA's Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech. While most children learn to speak without effort, children with Apraxia struggle immensely to accurately pronounce sounds, syllables, and words. This in turn leads to difficulties with expressing or articulating speech and programming movements, such as our lips and tongue, which underlie speech. Childhood Apraxia of Speech is considered a rare speech disorder, thus making it particularly challenging to overcome.

The Des Moines' office was eager to participate and put their support behind not only a tremendous organization for children, but also to support a Commonwealth family whose young daughter is affected by Apraxia of Speech. The Walk for Children event was a huge success, raising more than \$16,000; the most yet in the seven years the event has taken place. The funds raised will allow these children struggling with Apraxia to finally find their voice with the help of therapy grants and iPads to aid as communication devices. Without proper help and services, such as these, a great deal of other challenges may occur for children with Apraxia, including social, emotional, and learning difficulties related to limited speech and communication.

"Our people are our most valuable asset. To help a child is a valuable gift; to help a child of someone inside our organization makes the satisfaction even greater."

- Nathan Findlay, Commonwealth Electric Project Manager

Every child does deserve a voice. Commonwealth was proud to be a part of this dedicated mission to give these children and their families a web of support, but also a fighting chance to overcome Apraxia. We look forward to sponsoring this wonderful event in the future.



Walk for Children with Apraxia participant wearing the Commonwealth Electric sponsorship t-shirt



Walk for Children with Apraxia participants

Arizona – Sonora Desert Museum

Cody Hoobler - Project Manager



CECM Tucson recently teamed up with Lofitn Equipment and Kohler Power Systems to install a new 150KW propane generator for the Arizona - Sonora Desert Museum. The new generator was installed to replace a smaller existing generator that provides emergency backup for the aquarium exhibit and ticket booth. This prime project included a new 1000-gallon propane tank, gas line, concrete pad and asphalt paving.

The Desert Museum is a very popular tourist destination in Tucson, and as such it is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This posed a challenge to running the necessary conduits and conductors to the transformer and switchgear, while maintain-

ing the utility power as well as the existing emergency generator. By working closely with the local utility company, we were able to complete these runs and tie them in during one overnight shutdown, while maintaining backup power for the aquarium life support systems.

The Desert Museum has expressed great satisfaction with the workmanship and coordination displayed by Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's employees. Tom Barnes and Quang Tran did a great job completing this job.

Lincoln Low Voltage Division Ramping Up for a Busy Summer

Ron Dodd - Systems Service Manager

After a somewhat lackluster yet steady spring, the Lincoln Low Voltage Department is gearing up for summer. Historically, summer has always been one of our busiest seasons especially with schools being out for summer vacation, and the fact that some of our long standing customer's fiscal year ends hitting in the end of June. Work has steadily increased for UNL inter-building fiber projects and structured cabling projects.

We are also pleased to announce that since Commonwealth has upgraded to our new VOIP phone system that was installed by Datavizion, a partnership has evolved between our companies. In working with Tim Nass and Kelly Schrad, Datavizion has handled the networking and hardware procurements and Commonwealth has been able to support the premise's wiring aspect for a few projects. Currently, we have jointly been awarded a new Planet Fitness in Lincoln, a new office building in Lincoln for Apples Roofing, and a closet remediation project for Bruning State Bank in Bruning, NE. We are hopeful that we will soon receive authorization to perform a new Brocade Network Switch Upgrade Project and Campus Wide Single Mode Fiber Installation for the Fremont Area Medical Center in Fremont, NE. We are extremely grateful to Datavizion for our team approach to combine our efforts and resources!

Des Moines Low Voltage Systems Division Performing IDOT Campus-Wide Fire Alarm System Installation

Clint Bailey - Commonwealth Communications Low Voltage Systems Manager

Rapidly changing technology provides ever-increasing opportunities to upgrade specialized low voltage system infrastructure, cabling and equipment. One specific facet of the specialized low voltage industry involves fire detection and alarm systems. Since this particular low voltage system is classified within the life safety category, in Iowa it must be installed by Technicians with a specific level of certification, knowledge and skills. As an added level of importance toward the accuracy and quality of the installation, a building owner will be refused occupancy without a fully functioning fire alarm system that meets all of the AHJ and NFPA requirements for the type of occupancy.

Commonwealth Communications of Des Moines has recently partnered with the Iowa Department of Transportation to replace the existing fire detection and alarm system with a new modern fire alarm system to protect each of the 18 buildings on their campus in Ames, Iowa. This project has been slated to be performed during the course of 13 months.

Each of the 18 buildings on the IDOT campus will have their individual fire alarm system controls interconnected via a campus-wide dedicated optical fiber backbone. Graphical display stations located at the central command center and facility management offices utilize this optical fiber communication backbone to provide a graphical floor-plan display of each of the 18 buildings and their status with regard to the fire alarm system and the related life safety functions.

This project is managed by Clint Bailey, Commonwealth Communications Low Voltage System Manager. He is assisted in the field by Jon Jasper, Certified NICET II Fire Alarm Technician Foreman. Jon is also supported by a capable team of telecommunication technicians and installers.



Derek Smith, Technician, performing panel terminations.



Jon Jasper, NICET II Fire Alarm Technician Foreman and Derek Smith, Technician

TMC Rincon Health Campus - Tucson, AZ.

Cody Hoobler - Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest – Tucson was recently awarded a million plus dollar electrical contract to perform work on a two-story, 49 thousand square foot medical office building. Working with the Haskell Company, a Florida based general contractor, this new medical office building is being constructed in the Civano area on the far eastside of Tucson.

The new medical offices will provide much needed health care services in the form of exam rooms, imaging, infusion and wound area lab space, physical therapy and future surgical rooms. The project is being built against a very aggressive construction schedule and is slated to be completed in November 2016 with a January 2017 public opening.



Pictured left to right –
Robert Ervin, Foreman and
Zeus Corona, Apprentice

Iowa Ortho Expands to Pella, Iowa

Dylan Busby - Project Engineer



Rendering of new Iowa Ortho Pella facility

The Des Moines office is on the brink of constructing another Iowa Ortho facility. This time it will be located in Pella, Iowa, directly west of the Pella Regional Hospital. This new facility is almost a direct replica of the Ankeny, Iowa facility, which the Des Moines office also constructed. This facility will be approximately 10,000 square feet spanning over two stories with the top story being a lease space for a physical therapy firm. Construction is slated to start September 2016 and be completed by June 2017. The scope of work for this project is very similar to that of the Ankeny facility consisting of a 480 volt distribution system, low voltage lighting controls, nurse call and X-ray call systems, sound-masking and voice/data system, and a complete fire alarm system.

This design-build facility will house an x-ray room, patient exam rooms, along with other patient care services on the first floor. As mentioned previously, the second floor will house a physical therapy firm to cover everything from athletic training to individual therapy treatments.

Nathan Findlay will be the Project Manager with Marijo Bosiljevac and Dylan Busby assisting on the engineering side. The Des Moines office is excited to be working alongside Ryan Companies yet again on another design-build oriented Iowa Ortho facility. OPN Architects is the only change to the design team from the Ankeny project. Commonwealth is excited to have the opportunity to further our relationship with OPN along with the rest of the design team from the Ankeny project.