

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Winter 2016/2017



**Commonwealth Electric Company**  
of the midwest

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CECM is Now an Employee Owned Company

Promotions

Columbus Community Hospital Circuit Reorganization

William C Knapp Emergency and Trauma Center – PEDS Emergency

Des Moines Office Ditches the Razor to Support Local Fundraiser

Amy Archuleta

Grand Island Planet Fitness

Love's Travel Stop – Norfolk, NE

## CECM is Now an Employee Owned Company

**David F. Firestone** - President/CEO

January 2017 marked another significant milestone for CECM as it became an Employee Owned Company (ESOP). With this transition of ownership, the current Commonwealth culture will be maintained which has been a very important part of the company's success! It has been the dedication and passion of all employees that have made the company what it has become today. This transition has been in the works for over three years and has finally come to fruition.

We have a lot of great people working at CECM and now that we are an employee owned company, we expect even greater things to come. This is a very positive change and a great opportunity for all. 2017 also marks the 30th anniversary for CECM. We have had a lot of very good and dedicated people working for us over the years that helped make this a great company and a great place to work. Thanks to all of those involved that helped put this ESOP plan in place.

There will be more to come on our 30th anniversary in the summer newsletter! If anyone has old photos that we can use for the article, please send them to Sharon Meyer so we can start to assemble a fun history of the company.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Let's have another great year!

## Promotions

**David F. Firestone** - President/CEO

The Board of Directors of CECM are pleased to announce the following appointments and promotions: Billy Friesen to Chief Financial Officer, Neil Davidson, Eric Hoge and Matt Firestone to Vice President, T. Michael Price and Jay Hoobler to Senior Vice President.

Billy joined the Commonwealth Team in June of 2014 and has been the Corporate Controller. Neil has been with Commonwealth since 1997. He started his career as a Project Engineer/Project Manager and was promoted to Branch Manager in 2012. Eric was hired as an Engineer in 2002 and has been in charge of our Engineering Services group. Matt started working part-time at Commonwealth in 1996. After graduating from UNL, he assumed the responsibilities of Chief Estimator and has been in charge of the Corporate Estimating group. Michael has held many capacities at Commonwealth. Most recently he has served as Vice President and Branch Manager of the Des Moines operations. Jay has served as the Branch Manager of the Tucson office since 1993 and was appointed Vice President in 2008.

Please join me in congratulating Billy, Neil, Eric, Matt, Michael and Jay on their appointments and promotions. These are certainly well deserved!



Billy Friesen



Neil Davidson



Eric Hoge



Matt Firestone



Michael Price



Jay Hoobler

## Columbus Community Hospital Circuit Reorganization

**Andy Sueper** - Service Manager - Columbus

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (Columbus) recently completed a project for Columbus Community Hospital Inc., updating and repairing the existing critical, normal, and life safety circuits. Columbus Community Hospital Inc. which is a community-owned hospital, opened its doors to a new facility in August 2002. Since then many new additions have been added including a multimillion dollar expansion in 2010, which consisted of a 30,000 sq. ft. expansion to the existing facility.

Columbus Community Hospital saw the importance of bringing these systems and their facility to the new modern standards, so a priority of the hospital was to put an added emphasis on revised code classifications in various areas within facilities, due to the large spaces where medical treatments are performed. In order to accomplish this, Columbus Community Hospital hired an engineering firm to consult and perform an analysis of their current electrical system. After review of the current electrical system of the facility, a report was created identifying changes that should be made.

Commonwealth Electric was assigned the task of reviewing the report, tracing and identifying the circuits and running the electrical to the proper panels. Hospital electrical systems are much more complex than those found in other buildings. Careful consideration and planning had to be made in order to not only complete the job on time and on budget, but also to prevent an outage that could potentially disrupt an operating room schedule, postponing procedures and or jeopardizing patient health.

Columbus Community Hospital's proactive approach of staying abreast of the latest codes and standard changes to essential electrical systems, coupled with Commonwealth's skillful electricians who understand the importance of these complex systems, has ultimately resulted in a relationship between the two companies that will continue to grow and prosper with many years to come.

## William C Knapp Emergency Department and Trauma Center – PEDS Emergency

**Kari Christeson** - Assistant Project Manager

The Pediatrics Emergency Department was the last phase of The William C Knapp Emergency Department and Trauma Center in Des Moines, Iowa. The staff began seeing their first patients in the new area on December 13, 2016.

Per UnityPoint's press release on the project, the new space will add 10 Express Care areas for pediatric patients who need care in the Emergency Department, but can be assessed quicker and receive treatment in 12 large, private rooms complete with state-of-the-art technology and equipment specially designed for children.

Graham Construction Company was the general contractor on the project and Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering was the design firm. Commonwealth's efforts in the office were led by Project Manager, Mike Duffy and foreman, Bill Schaff.

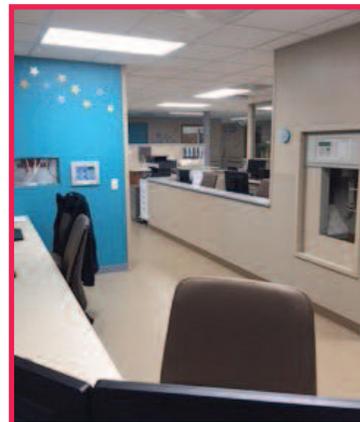
*Matt Hendrickson, Project Manager with Graham Construction states "It was a pleasure to work with Commonwealth on the Pediatrics ED project. The project underwent many challenges, Commonwealth's field and office always rise to the occasion to take on the challenges and triumphantly overcome them."*



View from Corridor of Treatment Rooms A B C



Exam Room



Nurse's Station

# Des Moines Office Ditches the Razor to Support Local Fundraiser

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator



November 2016 marked the third year that the Des Moines office supported a local Des Moines fundraiser. Since 2014, Commonwealth has participated in the annual event known around the metro as “Moes for Joes”. The Des Moines office, along with numerous businesses throughout the Des Moines area, took part in this well-known event in honor of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). “Moes for Joes”

challenges men to grow out their facial hair in sporting fashion for one whole month to show their support in the fight against blood cancers. Commonwealth’s Corporate office in Lincoln decided to join in the fun as well this year. Like “Moes for Joes”, their “No Shave November” challenge committed to raise funds for a local cause in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Des Moines office continues to look forward to this entertaining challenge every year and to show their support in the form of donations to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



Lincoln corporate office

“Moes for Joe” began back in 2011 in honor of a young Des Moines’ boy battling leukemia. Since then, the “Moes for Joes” fundraiser has raised thousands and thousands of dollars, with the incredible support of local Des Moines businesses, to benefit the children and their families fighting these cancers.



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

The Des Moines office is always excited to participate in this rewarding event and are proud to support the fight against blood cancers. The ladies of the office were even able to show their visual support in the form of stick-on mustaches.

## Amy Archuleta

Billy Friesen - Chief Financial Officer



Amy has been promoted to Corporate Controller effective January 1st in recognition of her contributions to the Company since being hired November 16, 2015. Amy has performed exceptionally, not only in her day-to-day role as Chief Accountant, but also in training Bill Lindburg and in using her technology “geekiness” to automate and bring efficiencies to all areas of the accounting department.

Amy is a 1991 graduate of the University of South Dakota and spent the first 10 years of her career in public accounting with KPMG in Omaha and Lincoln, and 14 years with the State of Nebraska.

## Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest remodels tenant space to become Grand Island Planet Fitness

**Danny Cahalan** - Project Manager/ Estimator

Commonwealth Electric was selected to perform the electrical work for Planet Fitness in Grand Island, NE. This job site was gutted and construction started in an empty tenant space. This project is a quick hitter with a project timeline of October, 2016 through December, 2016.

We are currently in the closeout stages of this project. This has been a fast paced project with long working hours throughout. The tenant space is approximately 23,895 square feet of remodeled space. The scope of work entails construction of a fitness area, 2 locker rooms/



showers, 6 tanning beds, 4 hydro therapy beds, circulations and storage areas. The largest obstacle we faced on this project was managing the manpower while trying to complete the project in the scheduled timeline. We will successfully finish this project under budget and within schedule.



The project has been designed by DKMullin Architects and GE'd by AnCor, Inc. out of Syracuse, NY. The crew is run by foreman Travis Limper. The office staff supporting Travis is branch manager Jake Gable, superintendent Jamey Beck, and project manager Danny Cahalan. We will be completed with this project before the new year just in time for people's new year's resolutions.

## Love's Travel Stop – Norfolk, NE

**Dusty Romshek** - Project Manager, Columbus

Commonwealth Columbus recently completed a project for a new Love's Travel Stop in Norfolk, NE. Our contract was with Petrowest and included performing all piping and wiring for the fueling. This was Commonwealth's first time working with the Petrowest who is out of Utah and performs the fueling contracts for many Love's stations across the country. The Love's Travel Stop in Norfolk consisted of four auto fueling dispenser islands, five diesel fueling dispenser islands, and a six tank field.

Commonwealth Lincoln also performed an almost identical contract on a Love's Travel Stop in Syracuse, NE at the same time. It was beneficial for Petrowest to use Commonwealth on both projects in order to streamline things. The two CECM foremen were able to work together and discuss the projects as they moved forward on their respective projects. It was a beneficial cooperation for both Columbus and Lincoln. I can speak for our Columbus branch in thanking the Lincoln group for helping us out at the project's beginning.

This project, and working with a new contractor, was a good learning experience for one of our younger project foreman. Overall it was a very successful project with both good margins and a satisfied customer.