

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Spring 2021



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Challenge Coin

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director

Recently, I and the now retired, Mr. Ruben J. Bera, made a trip to our Phoenix and Tucson locations. While doing our normal jobsite visits and squeezing in as much training as we could, we also found some time to recognize a couple employees for their efforts as it pertains to safety. Recently our company instituted a “challenge coin” recognition program. The challenge coin stems from the military and is something our company has chosen to use to recognize employees that go above and beyond and exemplify all our core values. Renee Vallejo and Tony Doar are two employees we chose to recognize on this visit because they absolutely deserve it.

Renee Vallejo is a field employee that volunteered to be the on-site safety lead for a job we are doing with Ventana Medical Systems. We were pleased to see, but not surprised, that Renee had all safety related posters up in the job trailer, JHA’s completed, safety equipment organized and properly issued, training needs met, and projecting forward for safety needs down the road. “Safety Professional” may not be her typical job title, but she certainly is one on this job.

Tony Doar is a field superintendent that has worked for Commonwealth Electric for many years, and he has run some of our biggest projects. One of the things I have noticed most about Tony in my 7 years at Commonwealth is that he is 100% whole heartedly bought into safety and is always trying to keep our people safe and productive. In fact, if Tony has an employee not following safety protocol or an employee that gets hurt, he might take it more personally than anyone in the company, and that is because he cares so much.

Thanks Tony and Renee for your constant support and dedication to not only your safety, but the safety of others!



Tony Doar



Renee Vallejo

Northeast Pump Station Pump 1 AFD Replacement

Brad Owen – Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric – Lincoln recently completed the Northeast Pump Station 1 MV Adjustable Frequency Drive (AFD) Replacement project for the City of Lincoln Water System. This turnkey replacement consisted of the removal of the existing MV AFD feeding a 4160V, 600HP pump motor and the installation of a new Rockwell Automation PF7000 MV AFD. This pump is part of a network that ultimately supplies water to the City of Lincoln. With the assistance of Barnhart Crane, Commonwealth Electric rigged, lifted, removed the old drive, and set the new drive into place. The original AFD was built into a premanufactured electric room, so working space was extremely limited for the removal and installation of such a large piece of equipment. After startup, the City of Lincoln personnel were trained in proper operation, troubleshooting, and maintenance of the new equipment.

The CECM project team lead by General Foreman Joe Bauer consisted of Roger Othling, Fredis Galdamez, and Chris Kaufman. Commonwealth looks forward to the next successful project with the City of Lincoln Water System.



Des Moines Administrative Team

Danielle Thompson – Project Coordinator

The Des Moines Branch continues to grow! We are excited to add two more team members to our Administrative team.

Kelly Bailey has recently joined the Des Moines Branch as an Administrative Assistant. Kelly comes to us from Karl Chevrolet. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, hunting and playing with her new puppy.

Michelle Kaldenberg has also recently come on board as a new Accounts Payable Accountant. Michelle also comes to us from Karl Chevrolet. In her free time, she enjoys long boarding, working out and cooking/baking!

These ladies have been quick to hit the ground running and have brought a fresh perspective to our team from their previous roles. They are both highly motivated and we are excited to see them grow in the company.

With the many contributions they will bring to the team we are excited to welcome them to Commonwealth!



Kelly Bailey



Michelle Kaldenberg

Des Moines Welcomes Terry Huss

Kalee Findlay – Low Voltage Coordinator



Please join the Des Moines Branch of Commonwealth Electric & Communications in welcoming Terry Huss to the team. Terry has accepted the role of Project Manager for the Low Voltage Systems Division and started at Commonwealth around the first of the year. Terry has been eager to learn and has hit the ground running during this busy time. Terry was most recently employed at Johnson Controls. During his lengthy tenure at JCI, Terry had served as a Security Technician until more recently accepting a role as a fire and security systems representative covering the Midwest. We are excited to have Terry join our team! Terry's vast experience in the security field will undoubtedly provide valuable effort in the growth of our team. He is very excited about helping to grow the security group at the Des Moines Branch and is ready for the challenges of this industry.

Outside of work Terry enjoys spending time with his family and friends. During the weekend or evenings, you can often find Terry instructing the motorcycle safety course at the local Harley Davidson dealership or serving as a scout leader for his local scout troop. Welcome to the Commonwealth team Terry!

Commonwealth Welcomes David Theisen

T. Michael Price – President



Please join me in welcoming David Theisen to our Commonwealth Electric Team. Dave has joined our team in the newly created position of Corporate Fleet and Tool Manager. David is a proud 20-year veteran of the United States Airforce and has helped handle fleet operations for The Airforce, Aramark and Waste Management. He also has a background in inventory and tool management. Dave is excited to dig in and help us manage our fleet and tools so we can continue to provide great service to our customers and employees.

Outside of work Dave enjoys spending time with his three daughters and friends. Growing up as a farm boy in South Dakota, he is an avid outdoorsman, to include hunting and fishing. He loves construction and woodworking. Welcome to the Commonwealth team David!

Des Moines Service Pursuing Small Projects

Tom Washington – Service Manager

The Des Moines Service Team has been chasing small to mid-sized projects the last few months. I am excited to kick off a new project with a new GC, McComas-Lacina Construction, out of Iowa City. We will be working together to build the new Green States Credit Union in Altoona, IA. The project will be kicking off in March.

Chase Kohler will be the foreman on this project, and we will be teaming with our Low Voltage Department as well. We are excited to work with this new GC and build new relationships through this project which will help our Service Department continue to grow.



The Omaha Office Has Added Bench-Strength With the Additions of 3 New Employees

Jon Folkers – Business Developer & Marketing



Commonwealth Electric – Omaha, NE: We are pleased to welcome to our branch Wyatt Hunter-Johnson, PMP to our Project Management team. Wyatt has spent his last 6 years with a local construction management & engineering firm where he served as a Project Manager, Process engineer, and construction manager for the food, beverage, pharma, and parcel industry clients.

Wyatt graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines in 2014. Wyatt was a student athlete and participated in football and track. He also attended Doane University where he achieved a Master of Business Administration in Project Management. Wyatt received his Project Management Professional Certification in 2018.

Wyatt is excited to continue offering his knowledge to our project management team. Wyatt and his wife, Alex, currently have no children, but they do enjoy their two cats and they do plan on having a family soon.

Hobbies: Smoking Meat, Fishing

Favorite Movie: Billy Madison

Best Advice to Live by: "Don't speak until its time to say check-mate."



We are pleased to welcome Brianna Ouedrago to our Omaha team. Brianna comes to us from a local electrical contractor, where she was previously employed.

Brianna is an Estimator for us. When she is not at work, Brianna is usually studying and is currently a student at Metro Community College. She will graduate in the fall of 2021 with an Associate Degree in Construction Management. Her immediate future plan is to continue her education and achieve a B.S. in Construction Management from Wayne State College.

Brianna enjoys spending time with her husband, Samuel. She is an active reader and enjoys cooking. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants with her husband, Sam. She stays active playing sand volleyball, and enjoys time with family and friends.

Hobbies: Reading, Cooking, and Sand Volleyball

Favorite Movie: Dumb & Dumber

Best Advice to Live by: "We rise up, by lifting others."



Commonwealth Electric – Omaha, NE: We are also pleased to welcome Samuel Ouedrago to our Omaha team. Samuel comes to us from a local electrical company, where he was previously employed.

Samuel is the newest member to our Project Management team. Samuel is from Burkina Faso, a neighboring country of Mali and Ghana, located in West Africa.

Sam graduated from Metro-Community College in 2017 with an Associate Degree in Construction Management. He is currently taking on-line classes through Wayne State College and he will be graduating this Fall 2021, with a B.S. in Construction Management.

When Sam is not at work, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and other outdoor sports. He is also learning to watch football and he has adopted the Kansas City Chiefs as his new NFL team.

Sam enjoys his time in the kitchen preparing meals. He also enjoys trying new restaurants with his wife Brianna.

Hobbies: Hunting, Fishing, and Cooking

Favorite TV Series: Blacklist

Best Advice to Live by: "It's never too late to achieve what you really want to achieve in life."

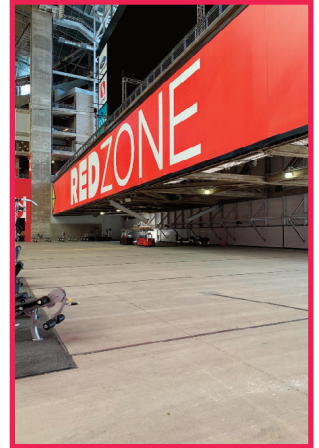
Back in the Game

Dan Shannon – Vice President

As we recognize the one-year anniversary of the pandemic, the Expo Division has started to see light at the end of the very dark Covid tunnel. With Covid numbers on a steady decline, the tradeshow, convention, and special event industry is beginning to take the necessary steps in returning to the world that we all knew one year ago. While very specific protocols have been set forth by the CDC and each municipality, it has been proven that events can be produced successfully and safely. It's no different here at Commonwealth Expo as we have had the privilege of producing trade shows and sporting events at multiple facilities throughout Arizona since the beginning of 2021.

While we are not yet seeing major tradeshow and conventions, we are ecstatic to see the smaller events come through leading the way for the reopening of our industry. Our partner of 10 years, Westworld of Scottsdale, has been producing several events since October of 2020 and we are proud to be part of their success.

The Phoenix and Tucson Convention Centers, our partners since 1995, are beginning to hold events in the very near future and are solidly booked the second half of the year. These two facilities are home to many of Arizona's largest tradeshow and conventions and we look forward to many success stories with both. Our newest facility partner, State Farm Stadium, has hosted several sporting events as well as the first tradeshow since the pandemic started one year ago. Many events are on the horizon at the stadium.



The Omaha Branch Has Procured Land for a Future Office Expansion

Jon Folkers – Manager of Business Development



Pic. 1: Docs Bar (Front) with Motel 89 (Back)



Pic. 2: Docs Bar (Demo Complete) & Motel 89 (Back)

Omaha, NE: Commonwealth Electric – Omaha has procured the land, just south of our current branch office. We purchased the land, parking lot, and two buildings located here: Motel 89 and Doc's Bar. (Shown in Pic. 1)

The purchase of this land, along with the two buildings, will expand our footprint along the 89th Street corridor, referred to around our offices as "Commonwealth Row".

The purchase of the land made sense for Commonwealth Electric, nestled between our existing branch office and Line Crew Storage lot. (Shown in Pic. 3)

Currently we are in the demo phase of the project. The demo

of Doc's bar is complete (Shown in Pic. 2) and the demo started last week with Motel 89. (Shown in pic. 2)

The Omaha Branch has seen a lot of changes over the years and we are proud of our current facility and growing presence we have on 89th Street and to the city of Omaha.

So, it is with great anticipation, as we look toward the future and the expansion of our Omaha, NE operations.



Pic. 3: Yellow Box = Current Omaha Offices
Red Box = Corp. Offices & Green Box = New Land Purchase

What the Heck Is EOS?

Cathy Maddox - HR Director



Over two years ago, with the help and guidance of Leadership Resources, the Leadership Team at Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest began the journey of adopting the EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System) process as our company operating system. Since that time, this system has been fil-

tered down to all levels within the company, with all locations implementing the tools associated with EOS.

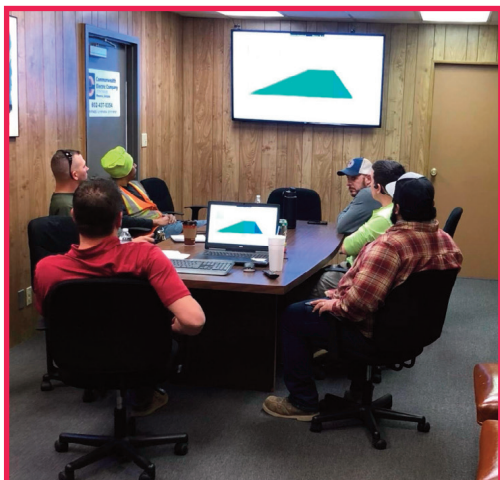
What is EOS, and are operating systems only about computers? The EOS operating system is the way that a company organizes all its human energy. It is the way that the people in the organization meet, solve problems, plan, prioritize, follow processes, communicate, measure, structure, clarify roles, lead, and manage. Why EOS? This system gives employees a well-defined structure in which they can grow, feel more fulfilled in their work, and achieve their personal goals. It helps them feel more “in-the-know” about what is going on. When you understand as an employee what the priorities of the company are, it helps you play your part in achieving them.

One of the most important components of the EOS process is setting Rocks, which is done quarterly. And these kinds of Rocks are not the ones that are found on the ground! Rocks are the most important things you must get done – they are goals, but attainable goals, that can be completed within 90 days. Why every 90 days? Because after about 90 days a person naturally will lose focus and become distracted. Setting goals every 90 days help you to refocus and keep moving forward.

Commonwealth works with an implementor from Leadership Resources who keeps each goal setting session focused and productive. Recently all locations met with Andy Grant, Strategic Growth Advisor and set new team rocks. Noted in the pictures are Commonwealth employees from the Administrative Services team, the Estimating team and the Safety Department team.

Training Classes in Phoenix, AZ

Jason Turner - Operations Manager



Commonwealth Phoenix has started Foreman development and training classes. Foremen are the key to Commonwealth’s success and keeping up with training is essential for our continued growth in the Phoenix market. The Foremen are being trained in a series of classes from beginner to more advanced levels. These classes will help with Commonwealth procedures and practices, as well as ways to streamline jobsite performance.

We have quite a few new journeymen who have shown interest in learning the process of running jobs, and this will get them the information they will require to be successful. We are also committed to growing our core group of field employees, so we are teaching classes with our core group to build team leadership and promote our core values. Our goal is to create buy in on the field level to increase productivity and increase margins.