

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2021



Commonwealth Electric Company of the midwest

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2021 CECM Progress Meeting

Cathy Maddox – HR Director

Commonwealth Electric has held a Progress Meeting, or as it was previously known, a Manager's Meeting, for quite a number of years. The purpose of this meeting is many-fold – to be brought up-to-date on the financial status of the company, to hear from branch and division managers in regards to their successes and challenges, and to spend time together reconnecting as a unified team.

This year's Progress Meeting was like none other previously! Thursday afternoon started with a Team Building activity, which was The Amazing Race planned and implemented by a third-party company called Venture Up. Employees had to split into teams and were then sent on their journey to solve clues and riddles, along with the chance to earn extra credit by collecting certain things while solving the clues. The extra credit items might have been uncooked spaghetti, a job application, a live bug, a photo with strangers or a picture with a police officer. The winning team was the Geese, championed by Sharon Meyer.

Thursday evening included a dinner, a report from our Safety Director, Todd Longenecker, and President Michael Price going through Part 1 of our quarterly VTO (Vision/Traction Organizer), which is a guiding barometer for our company. The VTO outlines not only our Core Values and Core Focus, but also our Core Target. Also listed is our 1 and 3-year plan which includes the quarterly rocks the Leadership Team sets. Dinner concluded with an outdoor social time on the Hilton hotel patio, with special guests RDLG Cigars, who demonstrated cigar rolling.



On Friday President Michael Price presented Part 2 of the VTO and went into more detail about accomplishing the Rocks that are set by the Leadership Team. Following that, a panel discussion was held, where Branch and Division Managers were asked various questions by Michael Price, and other employees who were attending.

New this year were breakout sessions – all employees were required to attend the EEO Training Session, and then could choose between the following offerings – Cash Flow, presented by Jay Hoobler and Neil Davidson; eCMS training for both administrative staff and project managers, presented by Krystal Sund; McCormick Tips and Tricks presented by Brian Millard and Nick Page, and, ESOP Q & A, presented by Billy Friesen and Cathy Maddox.

National speaker Aaron Davis ended the day with an outstanding presentation on maintaining a positive attitude and offering support to our fellow coworkers. Aaron also incorporated our Core Values into his 90-minute talk and involved some of the employees in demonstrating how valuable teamwork is. Aaron's positive and uplifting message was a great conclusion to the Progress Meeting!

Prior to adjourning, President Michael Price presented Challenge Coins to Dave Firestone and Glen Moss who are both retiring at the end of 2021. The Challenge Coins were presented for the specific Core Value – Employees. Both have empowered our employees in numerous ways, however, Michael called attention specifically in regard to both of them not only being supportive, but strong advocates for our company becoming Employee-Owned. Both received a rousing standing ovation, which they richly deserved!



The Amazing Race

Kristin Callan – Senior Marketing Coordinator



It's safe to say that this year's Commonwealth Electric Midwest Progress Meeting did not start in the most conventional way. In fact, you would not have been able to find any CECM employees in the main ballroom where the meeting took place. Instead, they were scattered across the Omaha Old Market making animal sounds, taking selfies with strangers, solving math riddles, and collecting live bugs to take back to the hotel. You may have several questions already, but let's just start with the easiest. Why on earth were they doing that? This year the leadership team at Commonwealth Electric decided to change things up and start with an organized team building event inspired by the reality TV series, *The Amazing Race*. Commonwealth employees had to split into teams and deduce clues, navigate their surroundings, interact with strangers, and perform mental challenges in the hope that their team would win.

Meeting attendees were split randomly into groups and given directions by representatives from Venture Up, the company that planned and executed the team building event. Soon, the teams would be spread out across the entire Old Market solving the 12 clues they were given at the beginning of the race. Some of these clues involved math problems that took them to a certain address when solved correctly or to a dead end when solved incorrectly. Some clues brought them to different sculptures or murals around the Old Market where they had to solve riddles in order to gain points.



There were even clues that led participants into certain businesses in the Old Market where they had to interact with the staff in order to get the next clue. For example, the players had to solve a math problem which, if answered correctly, would lead them to 1213 Howard St., the location of the Eat the Worm bar. When inside, the players had to ask for a bartender named Jessica who was supposed to tell them what her favorite rock band was in exchange for one thing: a single player from every team had to take a tequila worm shot, worm included. All but one team was able to complete the challenge, although some were a little more reluctant than others (understandably so).

Participants were also able to get "extra credit" by collecting certain things while they were solving the clues like a single piece of uncooked spaghetti, a job application, or a live bug. Other times participants could take photos that gained them extra credit, like photos with strangers or a picture with a police officer.

Once the time limit was up everyone went back to the hotel where they submitted all of their finished clues and extra credit. While everyone retired to their rooms, exhausted from all of the walking and hot weather, Venture Up counted the points and announced the winner at dinner later that evening. Below is a photo of our winning team, the Geese, discovering they won first place in *The Amazing Race*! Overall, it was a fun way for Commonwealth employees to meet people from different branches and departments while still including a competitive edge.

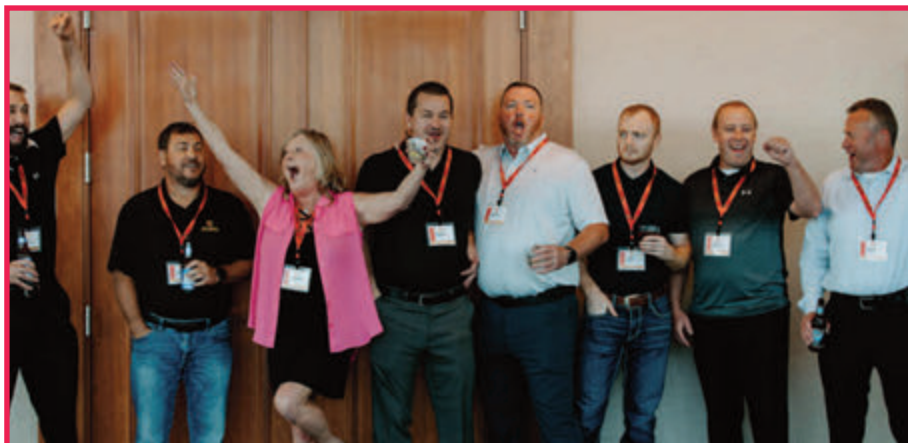


Photo Caption: Winning Team - Adam Cheever (LN), Chris Gall (DC), Sharon Meyer (Corp), Jason Turner (PX), Lance Nuzum (DC), Seth Richert (Corp), James Haake (GN), Kelly Reames (DM)

Blank STAR & Development Center

Michael Duffy - Branch Manager

Keith Marschel began his career at Commonwealth Electric in 1992. He started as a helper and then was accepted into the electrical apprenticeship program. Keith spent most of his apprenticeship years working at either Iowa Methodist Medical Center or Iowa Lutheran Hospital. It was as a Journeyman electrician that he began his leadership role for Commonwealth. In 1999 Keith took the lead role at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Soon after, when Commonwealth's lead foreman at Iowa Methodist Medical Center retired, Keith was asked to oversee both campuses. Fast forward a few years to today, Keith has added not only another UnityPoint Health campus, Methodist West Hospital, to the sites he oversees but also several UPH clinics.

Keith has always gone the extra mile for our customer, UnityPoint Health, and has spent countless nights and weekends working whenever and wherever he is needed. He also volunteers and helps the UnityPoint Health Foundation raise funding to help the children of Blank Children's Hospital.

Keith has made his work for the UnityPoint Health System more than just a job. He sees the good that UnityPoint does and the patient and family pain they try to heal, knowing that the work he does helps to make it all happen.



Keith Marschel & Spouse Tonia Marschel

In 2019 Commonwealth was awarded the electrical and low voltage work associated with the construction of the newly built UnityPoint Health Blank Star and Development Center. Once located in the heart of the IMMC campus, this new building houses the dedicated staff that assist children and families who have been involved in some form of trauma either through abuse or neglect and those children struggling with developmental issues. Commonwealth was given the opportunity to sponsor this project and a room in this new facility was dedicated to Keith Marschel and his wife, Tonia. A fitting tribute to a man and his wife who have both sacrificed so much of their time to make the lives of others better.

Thank you, Keith Marschel, for being one of the finest examples of "Committed to Excellence" that Commonwealth has to offer.

Great Opportunities for the Phoenix Arizona Low Voltage (LV) Department

Jerry Van Amerongen – Low Voltage Manager

We have been growing steadily over the past 18 months. We currently have nine technicians working full time, with three being in service. Without having a Low Voltage apprenticeship program in place, or even an IBEW labor pool to hire from, it has been a challenge to find qualified people to fill the need for manpower. The work in the area has a lot of potential with ever increasing opportunities, so we will continue to hire whenever we can find the right qualified technician(s).

We have hired a few new Technicians. First is Enrique Bustos. Enrique will be the foreman on our Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport – new Air Traffic Control Tower where we will be installing fiber optics, fire alarm, structured cabling, security and access control systems. Next is Thomas Trzaska. Thomas has earned his RCDD and RTPM from BICSI and is currently working towards obtaining the DCDC certification. He will be working on the installation of the 30+ Outside Digital Menu Boards we are installing at Popeye's restaurants, for Bailiwick. Welcome aboard Enrique and Thomas!

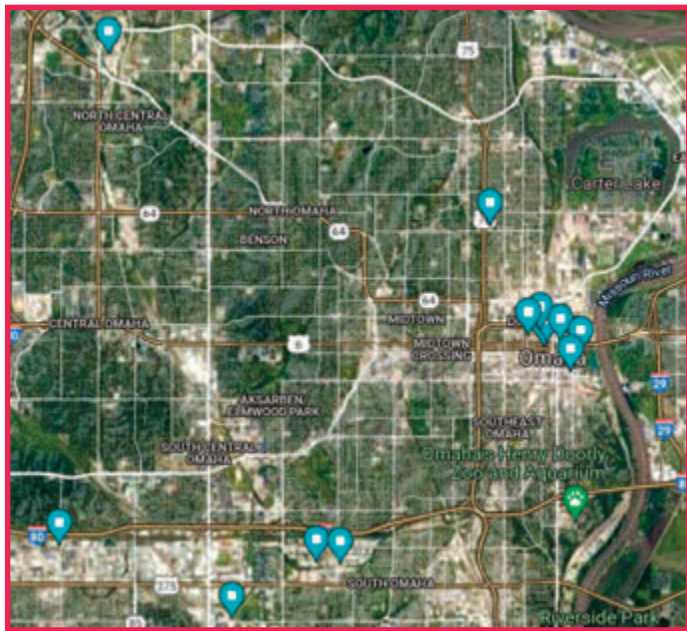
We have developed a few good relationships with some HVAC controls contractors. Albireo Energy out of San Diego and Shambaugh & Sons (a Havel/EMCOR company). With Shambaugh we are currently working on a datacenter and a distribution center (which is 2.66 million square feet!). We continue to do the controls work with Albireo Energy at the DEXCOM facilities. Since we started work at DEXCOM, we have been successful in picking up the data networking cabling, in full, the security/access control system and the fire alarm systems on a parts and smarts basis.

We are making slow and steady progress and the future looks very promising.



Car Charging Stations are Gaining Momentum

Jon Folkers – Manager of Business Development & David Hitz – Project Manager



Car Charging Locations are shown above.

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest – Omaha: Recently our Service Team was awarded a project by the City of Omaha to provide them with 20 electric car charging stations at 13 locations in the Omaha area.

Funded by the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), this electrical prime project consisted of providing charging stations to locations inside parking garages in downtown Omaha and near public work site locations throughout the city.

We also worked with OPPD to bring new electrical services for 3 of the charging station locations to supply them with the power they needed to run. David Hitz, Project Manager, estimated this project and is currently overseeing it for the city of Omaha. Blake Harper was selected as David's Project Foreman for this project.



The charging stations were manufactured by Charge Point Stations. As part of the contract requirements, Blake was tasked with earning certification through Charge Point University, which he successfully completed. Achieving this certification means that Blake has the credentials needed to program all units once installed.

Although we have installed car charging stations before, this is the first time that we have performed a job of this size. We started this City of Omaha project in May 2021 and we should be completed by November.

Facts about car-charging stations & electrical vehicles

- 43,800 EV charging stations in the United States. Compared to 136,400 gas stations.
- At the end of 2020, just over 1.8 million electric vehicles on the road with worldwide numbers being over 10 million electric vehicles in operation.
- Existing technology gets EV batteries for commuter vehicles with 80 miles of range to about 80 percent in around 30 minutes.
- With the ChargePoint app installed, you can start a charging session by holding your phone over the reader symbol on the station. Make sure you have the app and are signed into your account. ... Pick "set it up," add your ChargePoint pass to Apple Wallet and tap your phone on the station to charge.
- Most ChargePoint stations will have rates between \$2 and \$3 per hour. Some stations have a charging rate-per-minute.

Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility: 3 Projects to Enhance Operations

Jon Folkers – Manager of Business Development & **Adam Brumbaugh** – P.E. / Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric – Omaha is in the process of helping the Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility with upgrades and improvements.

The City of Omaha procured the services of Hawkins Construction Company for three separate projects at the City's facility. CECM will be providing all electrical upgrades to Hawkins on all three projects at the Missouri River facility. Adam Brumbaugh, P.E./Project Manager will be overseeing all three projects.



Name of Project #1: Digester Upgrade Project

Project Start Date: September 2021

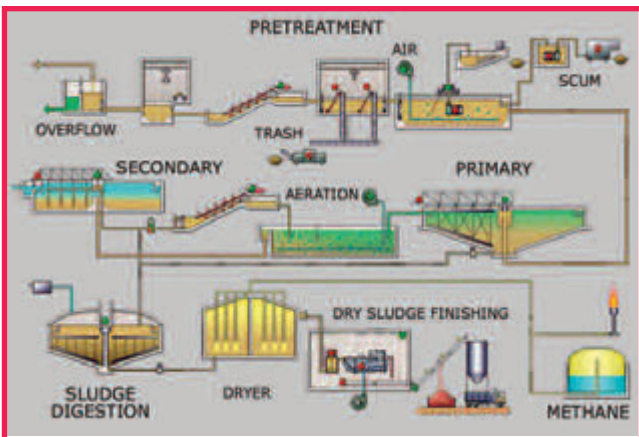
Project Duration: 3 months

Adam will be assisted on the Digester Upgrade Project by Cameron Arseneau, Project Foreman. Adam and Cameron have previous history in working with one another and together, they will bring their knowledge and commitment to excellence to this project.

The water treatment facility is making improvements to their digester. The digester breaks down all organic waste. This process produces digester gas from decomposition of sewage sludge from primary & secondary clarifiers. The digester in turn creates the methane gas, as a byproduct as shown in the picture.

The facility has 5 digesters. For this project, we are working on 2 of the 5 that needed the most attention. Each digester project is scheduled to take approximately three months to complete with a break between each project.

The improvements made to digester #1, combined with the installation of new parts to digester #5, will enhance the facility's digester improvements need today and for the future.



Name of Project #2: 2019 Flood Repairs Project

Project Start Date: October 2021

Project Duration: 12 months

The flood waters of 2019 created havoc for Omaha and surrounding communities. The MO River Water Resource Recovery Facility experienced heightened levels of flooding during this time. The combined efforts of Missouri River, The City of Omaha, Hawkins Construction, and Commonwealth Electric will combine our efforts to make the needed changes since the flooding occurred in March of 2019. All work completed for this project is funded by FEMA and the work performed will get the plant back to fully functioning.

Project #2 is a one-year long project and will consist of the various items that needed addressed due to the damage caused by the 2019 flooding experienced at the Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Areas that will be addressed are:

- Instrumentation replacement
- Conduit cleaning and wire replacement
- VFD replacements
- Various control panel replacement
- New PLC cabinets

Cameron Arseneau has been assigned the role as Project Foreman, due to his familiarity with previous water resource recovery projects, the owner, the GC, and this project site. Cameron will be supported by Adam Brumbaugh, P.E./Project Manager with this upcoming project.

(continued)

Jon Folkers – Manager of Business Development & **Adam Brumbaugh** – P.E. / Project Manager

Name of Project #3: Monroe Lift Station Remodel

Project Start Date: October 2021

Project Duration: 14 months

The Lift Station Remodel, project #3, will be a complete renovation of the (main) south intake at the Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility. The facility will utilize bypass pumping for the duration of the project which will eliminate the need for project phasing, due to our ability to work in all project areas at once. Some of the areas that are being addressed are listed here:

- Bar screen room
- Replacement of all pumps (2 electric and 3 diesel pumps)
- Enhanced odor control fan upgrade
- New gear replacement
- Generator installation
- All new conduit/wire replacement
- Replacement of all electric panels

We are working alongside Huffman Engineering, as the design integrator, for this project.

We are proud to be working alongside strong teams on all 3 of these projects. The efforts of Hawkins Construction Company, The City of Omaha Public Works Department, Commonwealth Electric, and Huffman Engineering are working in unison to deliver a quality project.

Although all teams are 100% committed to the success of these 3 projects, we are equally committed to each other. The diligent efforts of all contractors give us satisfaction that all tasks will be done right the first time. All contractors understand their role in delivering a quality project to our client, while providing a safe and productive environment for their employees.

Growth-Minded Team Driving Line Crew Division

Jon Folkers - Manager of Business Development & **Isaiah Edson** - Assistant Project Manager



Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest – Our Omaha location is proud to welcome Isaiah Edson, Assistant Project Manager-Line Crew, as our newest member to our team. Although Isaiah is new to Omaha, he isn't new to Commonwealth Electric. He comes to us from CECM corporate office in Lincoln where he has been employed since June 2015.

Isaiah was initially hired as a staff accountant for the Lincoln corporate office. He served the corporate branch in this role for four years. He later transitioned to the corporate estimating department. Here he worked two years as an estimator and recently made his transition to Omaha's line crew team.

Isaiah grew up in Gothenburg, Nebraska. Upon graduation from high school, he attended the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and studied Business Administration.

During his college years, Isaiah would spend the summer months working for his uncle Max, who helped start a line crew company. Max was a field superintendent for 30+ years and he hired Isaiah to follow him on projects primarily in the states of Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It is here where Isaiah was taught how to work on transmission power lines and distribution power lines. He learned the importance of working safe, while becoming an effective member to the field line crew team.

Isaiah earned his degree from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2013. Shortly thereafter, he joined our CECM corporate accounting team.



Isaiah Edson

(continued)

Jon Folkers - Manager of Business Development & **Isaiah Edson** - Assistant Project Manager

Adding to his thirst for knowledge, he recently completed his Associates Degree as a Utility Line Technician. His education, his understanding of CECM core values, and his experience working on a line crew team makes him a great addition to the Omaha team.

Isaiah is up for the challenge in his new position as Assistant Project Manager. His understanding of estimating, combined with his knowledge of accounting, and previous line crew experience, will benefit him as he learns to adapt to his new role. He is currently estimating and tracking all small cell tower projects and bidding line crew jobs. He also combines his efforts with those of Jody Boeckman, Line Crew Manager, to bid projects on the Blair Industrial campus in Blair, NE. Jody Boeckman officially took over the position of Line Crew Manager, on May 1, 2021. Jody and Isaiah are finding their stride as a cohesive project's team. While they both continue to refine their departmental bidding processes and define their own departmental roles, they understand the privilege afforded them by having a strong field team to support their estimating efforts. This team is headed by Rick Brock, Field Superintendent.

Rick has close to 29 years with Commonwealth Electric as a member of the line crew team. During this time, he has worked on all types of projects, and he has developed relationships with countless customer contacts.

Rick and his team are known for their strong work ethic. He is known for getting the job done right the first time and he has instilled this mindset into those who work with him. Our customers know what they are getting when they hire us to perform a line crew project.

Rick's field team is comprised of 24 members, which has doubled in size from last year when we had 12 members. The future is bright with the winning combination of a strong field team, combined with the efforts of a strong project's support team. Each team is equally invested in the growth of the line crew team.



Jody (Grey Shirt) & Rick (4th from left) with a small group of their team.

Lincoln Engineering Working to Keep Customers Coming Back

Adam Schlotthauer – Electric Engineer

WARNING		
Arc Flash and Shock Risk		
54 in Flash Protection Boundary	2.66 cal/cm ² Calculated Incident Energy	Working Distance 36 in
13200 VAC	Shock Hazard	Arc-Rated Clothing with Arc Rating >= Incident Energy;
2	Glove Class	Arc-Rated Outerwear (AN)
60 in	Limited Approach	
26 in	Restricted Approach	
Location: ELEC3-MVP01		Hard Hat; Safety Glasses or Safety Goggles (SR);
Job#:	By:	Arc-Rated Face Shield and Balaclava or Arc Flash Suit Hood (SR); Hearing Protection; HD Leather Gloves; HD Leather Footwear (AN)
Prepared on: 9/7/2021	JDM	
Commonwealth Electric of the Midwest (515) 288-5783		
DANGER		
Arc Flash and Shock Risk		
318 in Flash Protection Boundary	82.9 cal/cm ² Calculated Incident Energy	Working Distance 18 in
480 VAC	Shock Hazard	Arc-Rated Clothing with Arc Rating >= Incident Energy;
00	Glove Class	Arc-Rated Outerwear (AN)
42 in	Limited Approach	
12 in	Restricted Approach	
Location: ELEC3-UP018-01		Hard Hat; Safety Glasses or Safety Goggles (SR); Arc Flash Suit Hood; Hearing Protection; Rubber Insulating Gloves w/ Leather Protectors or Arc-Rated Gloves (SR); HD Leather Footwear
Job#:	By:	
Prepared on: 9/7/2021	JDM	
Commonwealth Electric of the Midwest (515) 288-5783		

The Lincoln Engineering Department – supported by both the Lincoln Tech Services Department and Central Engineering – has seen a great increase in the number of repeat customers that have been asking Commonwealth to continue to provide the services they need. Our department, headed by professional engineer Josh Muench, specializes in technical studies and projects such as arc flash analysis, automation control design, and power quality analysis along with many other areas. These services have provided us with a way to either get our foot in the door with new customers or a reason to reach out to see if there are any new or continuing ways we can support our existing customers. This capability was further expanded by new arc flash standards requiring updates every three years as opposed to the previous five-year standard. However, the case recently has been that customers are now reaching out to Commonwealth either directly or through the field to use our services. Customers such as Lincoln Industries, Smithfield Foods, and eXmark Manufacturing have been more than happy to use Commonwealth to get them what they need. This has gone beyond Lincoln as well, as other clients outside of this area, such as Merck, Microsoft, and BD Medical are becoming more and more frequent customers. While far from the largest projects at many job sites, these services provide another way for Commonwealth to take care of our customers and to expand our marketing strategy to new customers.



The Iowa State Fair came to Commonwealth!

Danielle Thompson – Service Coordinator



Winners: Michelle Kalenberg, Kelcie Steenhoek & Nate Findlay

As we all know, world events have put a damper on many fun activities this last year and a half. One of the many things canceled last year was our beloved Iowa State Fair. Well, this year it was back and in full force. No restrictions! It was time to celebrate! The Des Moines Culture Committee started planning our festivities to mimic the great Iowa State Fair. On August 10th the Culture Committee hosted a fair-themed afternoon. We had a yummy grill out with hamburgers and hot-dogs. We played carnival games like Ring Toss, Guess How Many, and of course, it's not the Iowa State Fair without the main event: The Butter Cow Sculpting Contest! Each team was given a picture of what their cow should look like. They had 30 minutes to complete their sculptures before judging would start. Another tradition at the Iowa State Fair is Crowned Royalty! In Des Moines, we had that covered. The butter cows were judged by the 2021 Jasper County Fair Queen, Kelcie Steenhoek (daughter of Lisa Steenhoek). She got down to business picking the winner; not even bribery worked on Kelcie. Congratulations to the winners, Michelle Kalenberg and Nate Findlay! It was a great time spent celebrating summer and a fun way to let our competitive and creative sides out.



Working: Michael Duffy & PJ Carey