

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit | Summer 2023



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## Commonwealth Celebrates Class of 2023 Interns

**Zach Lomison** - Internship Coordinator

Commonwealth was excited to welcome 20 interns for our 2023 Summer Internship program. During the Kickoff event in May, all of the interns were introduced to the Executive Leadership Team, heard about what to expect from the summer, and then teamed up to play Survey Says. It was a great way to get the summer started!

This year, CliftonStrengths was added to the Summer Internship experience. Before starting their internship, each intern was asked to complete the StrengthsFinder assessment. Each intern then scheduled two coaching sessions with an experienced CliftonStrengths coach. The interns spent time with their coach going over their top five strengths and how they can utilize them to grow in their careers and lives.

A Webinar Series was also implemented this summer to help the interns grow professionally and personally. Beginning on June 7, biweekly virtual webinars were held on the topics of CliftonStrengths, 401(k)s, Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs), and Health Plan Coverage.



*Interns from the Midwest visit a jobsite near Omaha, NE.*

In mid-July, each intern was given the opportunity to visit a project site to see the amazing work being done throughout the company. It was a day for them to learn more about Commonwealth as well as network with other interns in the program. Interns at the Midwest branches (Iowa and Nebraska) visited a site near Omaha, NE, interns in Arizona (Phoenix and Tucson) visited a site in Tucson, and our Rydalch Electric, Inc. intern was able to visit a project site in Salt Lake City, UT.

The second annual Summer Summit was held Aug. 3-4 in Omaha, NE. The event allowed all the interns to meet in person with each other, their supervisors, and the Executive Leadership Team to share what they learned during their internship at Commonwealth. On day one, the interns were treated to a professional headshot by the Commonwealth Marketing team before participating in a group icebreaker activity. After a few words from members of the Executive Leadership Team, everyone headed over to Topgolf for dinner and fun!

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## Commonwealth Celebrates Class of 2023 Interns

**Zach Lomison** - Internship Coordinator

*Continued from previous page*

On day two of the Summer Summit, each intern presented about their summer internship experience with Commonwealth to the group. Interns talked about tasks they completed, what they learned, and anything else they wanted to share about their experience. The interns had the opportunity to listen to an inspirational message from former Nebraska football and NFL player DeMoine Adams. His talk and presentation focused on career readiness with the message to the interns that “The Future Belongs to Those who Prepare for It.” DeMoine is now a motivational speaker and CEO of the TeamMates Mentoring Program in Nebraska.

“Thank you to all the interns and their supervisors for their hard work and dedication to Commonwealth and Rydalch,” said Neil Davidson, executive vice president and internship program advisor. “We look forward to supporting your growth and the continued success of our Internship Program,” said Neil Davidson, executive vice president and internship program advisor.



*Team building at Topgolf!*

### INTERN CLASS OF 2023

Intern	Department	Location	Supervisor
Aidan Coyler	Project Management	Omaha, NE	David Hitz
Alex Hunter	Project Management	Lincoln, NE	James Haake
Andre Smith	Information Technology	Omaha, NE	Steve Hernandez
Bekah Nelson	Project Management	Phoenix, AZ	Casey Huff
Brady Thompson	Project Management	Omaha, NE	Dan Cahalan
Chris Treu	Project Management	Omaha, NE	John Randall
Damyan Popov	Safety	Omaha, NE	Todd Longenecker
Easton Hoschar	Project Management	Omaha, NE	Justin Hess
Ethan Price	Project Management	Omaha, NE	John Randall
Karley Kaiser	Project Management	Omaha, NE	Dan Maca
Lauren Collins	Information Technology	Lincoln, NE	Steve Hernandez
Maddox Baack	Accounting	Lincoln, NE	Scott Harms
Marysa Duerksen	Human Resources	Lincoln, NE	Lindsay Selig
Mitchell Peabody	Project Management	Kearney, NE	Jacob Svoboda
Nate Liess	Engineering	Omaha/Lincoln, NE	Zack Tupper
Nico Guzman	Virtual Design and Construction	Omaha, NE	Gerald Holmes
Ramon Ortiz	Project Management	Salt Lake City, UT	Dave Smith
Ryan Ellerbach	Project Management	Des Moines, IA	Bill Schaff
Thomas Gokie	Automation	Lincoln, NE	Josh Muench
Vedha Mhapankar	Project Management	Tucson, AZ	Richard Lewis

# Ali and Joe Tupper Foundation Is Building a Legacy at YMCA Camp Kitaki

Eric Hoge - Vice President | Central Engineering

On June 18 last year, Zack Tupper—a member of Commonwealth's Engineering team in Omaha, NE—tragically lost two of his children in a car accident. Alice "Ali" Tupper, 16, and Joseph "Joe" Tupper, 14, lived beautiful lives surrounded by friends, classmates, teammates, coaches, teachers, and family.

To honor the memory of Ali and Joe, Commonwealth created The Ali and Joe Tupper Camp Kitaki Foundation to annually sponsor two children to attend the YMCA Camp Kitaki in Louisville, NE. Camp Kitaki is a special place for the Tupper family, as Ali and Joe loved going to camp there. Their mother, Stephanie, was also a counselor there during her college years.



*Camp Kitaki's Executive Director Jason Smith plays the guitar for a group of campers in Louisville, NE.*

Camp Kitaki is a summer camp for youth ages 7-17. Each summer, the camp welcomes nearly 3,000 youth to attend week-long overnight programs designed to allow kids to practice independence and grow self-confidence surrounded by positive role models in a unique outdoor setting.

"Ali and Joe Tupper personified the values we try to instill in our campers," said Jason Smith, executive director at Camp Kitaki. "They will be remembered at Kitaki for the positive impact they had on their peers, and the world around them. Annually, these camperships will grow that legacy by sharing those values with kids just like Ali and Joe."

Our Commonwealth family came together this past year to donate funds to The Ali and Joe Tupper Camp Kitaki Foundation, all of which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the company. As of this year, we have raised enough money to fund the two annual scholarships for the next 25 years, and we are very close to making it a perpetual scholarship.

This summer, the first two children were awarded the scholarships to attend camp: a rising eighth-grader at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School in Omaha, NE, where both Ali and Joe attended, and a rising sophomore at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha, where Ali attended. We are so glad to know that these two got to experience an unforgettable summer in their memory.

"We are honored to extend our support through the Ali and Joe Tupper Memorial Scholarship, enabling two young individuals to experience the joy of summer camp at Camp Kitaki," said T Michael Price, president/CEO of Commonwealth. "It's a meaningful way for us to remember and celebrate Joe and Ali's lives while making a difference."

Commonwealth is still actively fundraising and nearing the goal of raising enough money to ensure yearly camp scholarships continue in perpetuity. Interested parties can contact the Commonwealth Electric Corporate office at (402) 474-1341. We are so grateful to all who have donated to the Ali and Joe Tupper Camp Kitaki Foundation, and we look forward to helping provide this opportunity for years to come.



## Expo Keeps Rockin' at State Farm Stadium

**Melanie Hamner** - Account Manager | Exposition Services

Summer in Arizona is not our busiest time of the year. Between 110+ degree days, a few monsoons, dust storms (or “haboobs” if you’re an Arizonan), and weird bugs... who wouldn’t want to host their event in Arizona right now? While trade shows and conventions aren’t too busy, one area of business always picks up in the summer: concerts at State Farm Stadium. These events are fun to produce, seeing all the “behind the scenes” activity and, occasionally, bumping into a nationally-renowned recording artist or band.

Commonwealth Electric’s Exposition and Trade Services (Expo) Division in Phoenix has been contracted with the State Farm Stadium since 2020. When it comes to concerts, a lot of demanding work is involved to host 70,000 music lovers. The electricians lay out thousands of feet of cable and fill up huge water tanks containing thousands of gallons of water that hold up massive amounts of staging equipment. It is not unusual for us to hook up several 200 amp and 400 amp services to these huge sets for lights and sound. Backstage needs can be vast as well, providing power for broadcast trucks, catering tents, dressing rooms, and even laundry service for the traveling crew.

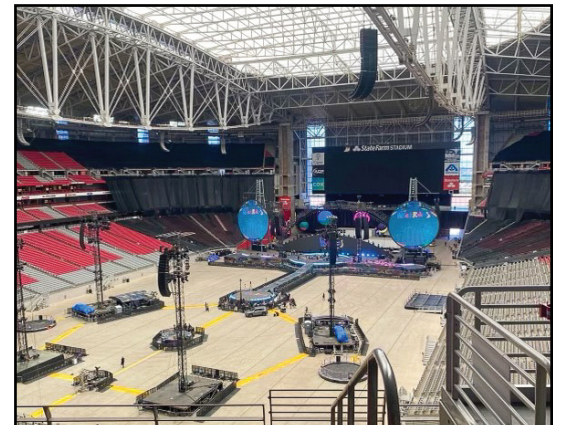
Just this past year, several artists, including Def Leppard, Coldplay, Mötley Crüe, Joan Jett, Poison, George Strait, Chris Stapleton, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Little Big Town, and Taylor Swift, all had concerts at State Farm Stadium. Taylor Swift kicked off her sold-out worldwide tour here on March 17 and 18. The tour’s production team booked the stadium a month prior and used this location to plan and practice for the rest of the tour. Foreman Josh Castro was there at State Farm Stadium every step of the way for all these productions to ensure every electrical need was met without a glitch. Clients have even gone as far as to say that we stood far apart from many other facilities’ electrical teams with the excellent service that was delivered. That is no small feat considering these acts are touring not only nationally, but also around the world as well. Fantastic job, Josh!

In August, there are not just one but two world tours making a stop at State Farm Stadium: Beyoncé’s Renaissance Tour and—just a week later—Metallica’s M72 Tour. Together, these concerts will bring over 200,000 combined visitors into the stadium.

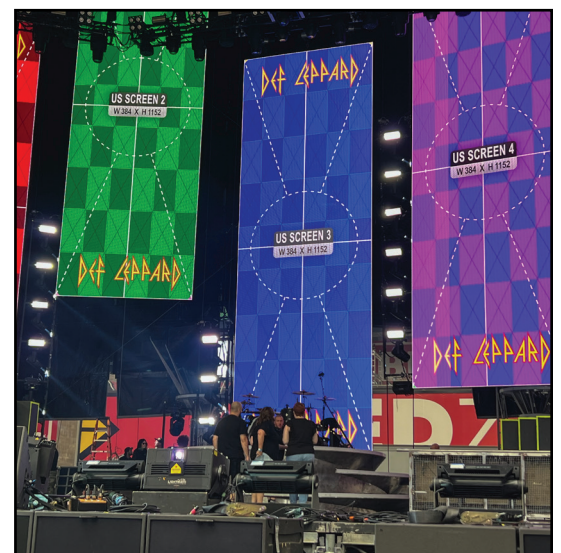
Being a part of hosting concerts takes a lot of planning, equipment, and labor, but we make it happen as a team. Our goal at State Farm Stadium is to provide great five-star customer care for anyone who steps foot into the building with electrical needs, making them look forward to their return in the future.



*Thousands of feet of cable are laid out each concert, much of which runs under the stage.*



*The Expo team sets up before Coldplay's Music of the Spheres World Tour.*



*The Expo team checks out the stage before the Def Leppard concert at State Farm Stadium.*



# Commonwealth Holds Electrical Safety Month Events

Todd Longenecker - Safety Director



*Employees pick out raffle prizes at a safety month event at a jobsite in Springfield, NE.*



*Corporate Safety Manager Nick Hansen talks to the crew at a project in Lincoln, NE.*



*Employees in Phoenix, AZ, take turns at a dunk tank at their branch.*

Here at Commonwealth, safety is one of our top priorities. This May, Commonwealth celebrated Electrical Safety Month across all our locations. Each of our teams held events at their branches, both to thank our employees for their dedication to building a safe working environment and to share information related to safety.

Below are some details on the events each location held:

- Des Moines, IA: Many of Commonwealth's jobsites hosted site safety lunches, with discussions on electrical safety and relevant accidents.
- Omaha, NE: Many jobsites hosted site safety lunches and safety discussions. One jobsite, in particular, had a turnout of more than 100 employees and featured barbeque, ice cream, games, a raffle, and more.
- Lincoln, NE: Many jobsites hosted their own safety lunches, with discussions on safety. Our team also spent an afternoon at a gun range, with a lunch and discussion on safety.
- Greater NE: Sites across our locations in Columbus, Kearney, and Grand Island hosted safety lunches with discussions on safety.
- Phoenix, AZ: Our team hosted a grill out with a discussion on safety. They also had a dunk tank!
- Tucson, AZ: Our team hosted a grill out with a discussion on safety and a cornhole tournament.
- Rydalch Electric Inc. in Salt Lake City, UT: Safety lunches were held, with involvement from the local leadership team at each one.



*Rydalch Construction Superintendent Tyler Wahlberg speaks at a safety lunch.*

In addition to these events, all our employees were provided with a t-shirt to help celebrate. Not only was this month a great time to reflect on the importance of safety policies, but it was also a great chance to come together as a team!

## Commonwealth Attends The ESOP Association National Conference

**Cathy Maddox** - Ownership Coordinator

Recently, two members of the Commonwealth Ownership Committee, Mark Hollingworth, project engineer from the Des Moines office, and Cathy Maddox, ownership coordinator from the Lincoln Corporate Office, attended The ESOP Association (TEA) 2023 National Conference, held in Washington, D.C., on May 16-19.

Mark and Cathy attended the Advocacy Academy, which is TEA's exclusive public affairs and advocacy training program. The academy helped to prepare them with the information needed to be advocates for Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) and communicate with their elected officials.

During the annual ESOP Advocacy Day on May 17, over 100 employee-owners convened at Capitol Hill, meeting with more than 130 House and Senate offices from 33 states to discuss critical issues and key policy priorities for TEA. These meetings are vitally important to educate Members of Congress about the value of ESOPs in our communities, especially when communicated directly by their constituents.

Mark and Cathy made visits to the offices of Sen. Pete Ricketts, Rep. Don Bacon, and Rep. Mike Flood, and also visited with staff members at Sen. Deb Fischer's office.

This year's TEA conference focused on culture and communications, featuring more than 50 educational sessions, roundtable discussions, and Chapter showcases covering key topics such as administration, board of directors and trustees, C-Suite, and ESOP fundamentals that all employee-owners need.



**Sen. Pete Ricketts meets with Mark Hollingworth and Cathy Maddox.**

## Ownership Committee Sponsors Annual March Mania Contest

**Cathy Maddox** - Ownership Coordinator

This spring, the Commonwealth Ownership Committee sponsored the annual March Mania Challenge, held in conjunction with the NCAA Basketball Playoffs. Employees were invited to fill out their brackets with the incentive of a cash prize, as well as a donation to a charity of their choice.

Commonwealth generously donated \$500 for this year's prize pot. In addition to a cash prize, the winner got to choose a charity to donate half of the pot to. These charities have previously included the American Red Cross, Prevent Child Abuse America, and Ukrainian Relief Efforts. This year's winner was Lead Systems Engineer Rick Maas, who works at the Corporate office in Lincoln, NE. Rick chose the Nebraska Forever Pink Foundation as this year's charity. In addition to the \$250 donated by Commonwealth, he also donated his \$150 cash prize.

This year's second-place winner was Human Resources Director Lindsay Selig—also from the Corporate office in Lincoln—who won \$70. The third-place winner was Accountant Amina Mujib from Des Moines, IA, who won \$30.

Rick was awarded the traveling March Mania trophy and displays it proudly in his office. Congrats, Rick, on a great win, and thanks to everyone who participated this year!



**Congratulations to Rick Maas at the Corporate office!**



# Rydalch Begins Work on Utah State Capitol North Building

Mark Rydalch - President | Rydalch Electric, Inc.



*Digital rendering of the completed State Capitol North project.*

Rydalch Electric, Inc. was selected as the electrical subcontractor at the new Utah State Capitol North Building in Salt Lake City, UT. This 183,000-square-foot building will consist of an office and museum to match the existing Capitol's façade, with an underground parking structure and a plaza on top.

Rydalch is working under the guidance of Okland Construction, the General Contractor, for this \$17 million contract. Project Manager David Smith and General Foreman Steve Clark are leading the Rydalch team on this project, which started in May 2023 and is scheduled to finish in Nov. 2025.

The upcoming Capitol Expansion project will be one of the first to utilize some of the new prefabrication (prefab, for short) opportunities available to Rydalch. Rydalch's construction team has begun the process of meeting with Commonwealth's Central Engineering team to determine the best opportunities for prefab, including pre-configured boxes, ceiling mount boxes, racks, and stub-ups for data.

"One of the things we are most excited about is the Engineering team's ability to take these assemblies and utilize their programs to count and create an itemized bill of material for the prefab shop to begin assembling. We look forward to using these abilities to complete this project more effectively and efficiently," said Mark Rydalch, president of Rydalch Electric, Inc.



*Work is underway at the new Utah State Capitol North Building in Salt Lake City.*



## **Tucson Branch Completes Nogales Centralized Processing Center for The US Border Patrol**

**Steve Sertich** - Project Manager | Tucson

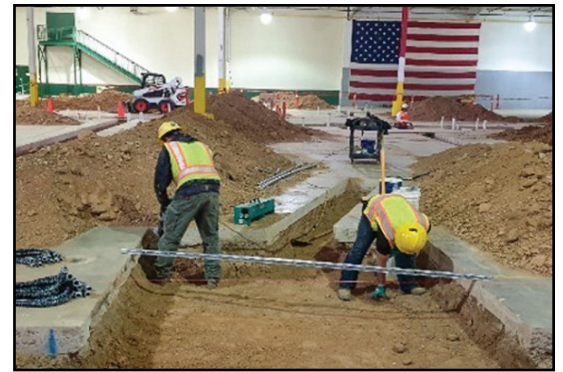
Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) in Tucson has completed a \$6.5M electrical contract with Cox Construction for the U.S. Border Patrol, Nogales Centralized Processing Center. This was bid as a design-build/assist project. This existing single-story, 83,000-square-foot building, located in Nogales, AZ, consists of 20 holding rooms able to contain a maximum of 500 detainees, 5 dedicated processing areas, various offices, training rooms, a mechanical equipment mezzanine, and a large exterior sallyport. This building is 100% backed up with two (2) 750KVA emergency generators for up to 72 hours.

The facility houses a centralized control room for video surveillance and security systems for all holding rooms. It consists of highly rated fire alarm and smoke detection systems for the protection of U.S. Border Patrol employees and detainees. The building also received a completely new telecommunication system with wireless internet access throughout the site.

General Foreman Mathew Merriman was handpicked for this project due to his extensive electrical knowledge, experience, and wide array of skills. He and his team of electricians have installed new utility power to the new SES switchboard, along with underground feeders to a new large interior electrical room and two smaller electrical rooms for the distribution of power throughout the building and site. A large part of this project was the special systems, including Fire Alarm/Smoke-Control, Access-Control, Duress, CCTV Video Surveillance, and Tele Data systems.

The success of this project was attributed to a great team collaboration between CECM, Cox Construction, and Coffman Engineering for final design and construction.

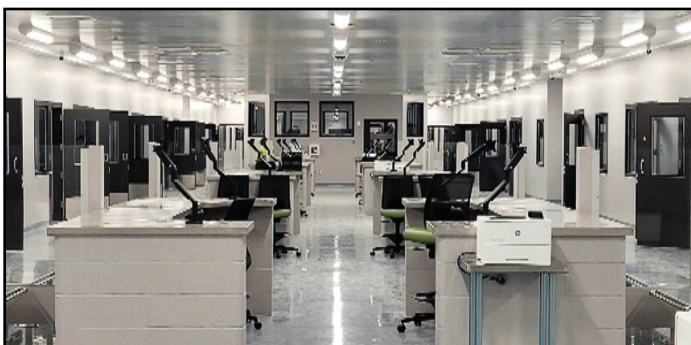
We would like to give special recognition to some of the key CECM field personnel that made this project a success: General Foreman Mat Merriman, Foreman Ryan Guthrie, Journeyman Wireman Colin Deputy, Journeyman Wireman Seneca Chaboya, and the rest of the team.



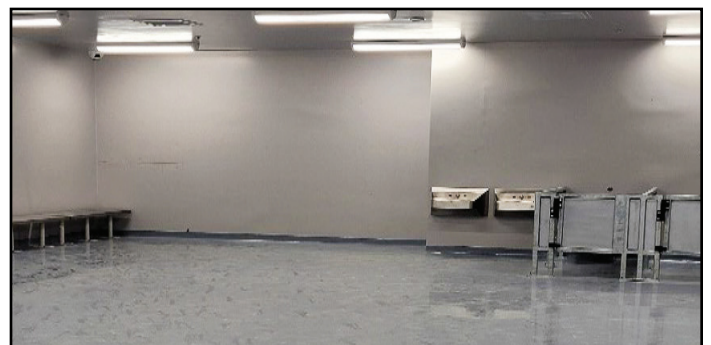
*Two electricians complete backfill work.*



*The Tucson team installs underground feeders.*



*The building's processing center for detainee paperwork.*



*A large detainee holding area.*



# Duchesne Academy Upgrades Chapel & Theater

Nick Reiners - Project Manager | Omaha

Jon Folkers - Corporate Business Development Manager



*The new theater at Duchesne Academy.*

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) in Omaha, NE, was selected to renovate the chapel and theater at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha. Duchesne has been a longtime customer, and we are grateful for this opportunity. CECM worked under the guidance of the General Contractor, MCL Construction.

The CECM team on this project consisted of Project Manager Nick Reiners and was led by General Foreman Mike Hayes and Foreman Derek Schwieger. The project consisted of a new modernized theater with state-of-the-art lights, sound systems, and controls.

There are challenges to be expected when updating a 100-year-old chapel. The new LED can lights that were installed in the chapel and theater could not take away from the aesthetics of the building. CECM knew that we had to respectfully maintain the historic look throughout the upgrade project.

CECM also provided Duchesne Academy with an upgrade from its previous lighting system package. The lighting control system installed is a more robust system for their team to use for years to come.



*Commonwealth's team in Omaha, NE, installed new LED can lights inside Duchesne Academy's chapel.*

CECM appreciates the cooperation received from the Duchesne Academy staff. The staff gave our team total access to the chapel and theater without interruption from their students and faculty staff, thus promoting a safe environment at all times.

"Mike and his team have worked hard during this project and have been committed to strengthening our relationship with the Duchesne Academy family and with our general contractor, MCL," said CECM Project Manager Nick Reiners. "We look forward to working with both Duchesne Academy and MCL on future projects."

## Omaha Team Renovates Airlite Plastics Office

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**Nick Reiners** - Project Manager | Omaha  
**Jon Folkers** – Corporate Business Development Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) in Omaha, NE, has recently been hired to renovate the Airlite Plastics Offices in Omaha. The company manufactures plastic containers and lids for the food industry, as well as drink cups, scoops, polystyrene coolers, and other custom plastic products.

The CECM project team consists of Project Manager Nick Reiners and is led by Foreman Noah Keuck. Construction for this project started at the end of June 2023, with a planned finish date of October 2023. CECM has developed new relationships with Airlite Plastics, which has given us service jobs and a sizeable office remodel. CECM will be working under the guidance of the General Contractor, Boyd Jones Construction.

CECM will perform the office renovation in two phases. During the first phase the Airlite staff will relocate until their area is complete. Relocating the staff is essential to a safe and productive work environment for all parties.

During phase one, the office renovation area will be empty, giving us the liberty to make the necessary physical changes to the office space. Some of the new additions will include new conference rooms, new offices, and sample testing rooms, to name a few.

During phase two, all physical changes to the office will be completed. Upon completion of the offices, the Airlite Plastics administration team will move back into their original space. With their staff back in the working area, all actions by our team will be planned out to ensure the overall safety of their staff is achieved.

CECM looks forward to completing this project on time and on budget. CECM values the working partnership with Airlite Plastics and looks forward to growing this relationship with them and the General Contractor, Boyd Jones.



*The front of the newly renovated Airlite Plastics office.*

## Greater NE Starts Work on Wastewater Treatment Facility

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**Jacob Svoboda** - Senior Project Manager | Greater NE

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) in Greater Nebraska was recently awarded a project at the Lexington Wastewater Treatment Facility in Lexington, NE. The plant is located roughly 45 minutes west of the CECM Kearney office. The project consists of the installation of a new headworks building, three clarifiers, and support structures. There are also plans to renovate existing structures, relocate and replace a 600A switchgear, and install an Automatic Transfer Switch. Foreman Niko Ahrens is working with the General Contractor on a daily basis and coordinating with the facility staff to work in existing areas. The project is scheduled to be completed early this fall.



*The Lexington Wastewater Treatment Facility, as seen from afar.*



# Lincoln Crews Team Up for UNL Athletics Upgrade

**Todd Starkey** - Low Voltage Manager | Lincoln, NE

The Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) Low Voltage and Electrical Service Departments in Lincoln, NE, have teamed up with MSB Engineering to complete a project for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Athletics Department: a High-Density (HD) Wi-Fi and Local Area Network (LAN) upgrade.

CECM will be installing multiple TRs, cabinets, conduits, and pathways throughout both of UNL's campuses to accommodate the installation of new fiber optics, CAT6A cabling, and APs. These new additions will, in turn, support the new Wi-Fi and LAN upgrade. In addition to this project, CECM is also working in conjunction with HuskerVision, UNL's in-house production studio, on an antenna installation project for its new coaching headsets.



**Low voltage technicians work on the Wi-Fi and LAN upgrade on UNL's main campus.**



**A technician gathers wiring to be used for the new Wi-Fi and LAN upgrade.**

The new Wi-Fi network will be designed with the capability to utilize the latest Wi-Fi 6/6E technology to support 6 GHz, 5 GHz, and 2.4 GHz spectra. It will also have the capacity for MIMO and BLE features, ensuring that guests and staff alike will experience the very best service. It will also support a wide array of mobile devices, including tablets, scanners, and point-of-sales hardware.

The new project will have a reach spanning all across UNL's campus and beyond, including sites such as:

- **Memorial Stadium** – Football
- **Hawks Championship Center** – Football, Weight Training, and Beach Volleyball
- **Devaney Center** – Volleyball and Olympic Sports
- **Hibner Stadium** – Soccer
- **Dillon Tennis Center** – Indoor and Outdoor court viewing areas
- **Hawks Field at Haymarket Park** – Baseball
- **Alex Gordon Training Center** – Baseball
- **Bowlin Stadium** – Softball
- **Pinnacle Bank Arena** – Basketball (with Antennas for Coaching headsets)



**A member of the Lincoln team installs a new wireless access point inside UNL's Memorial Stadium.**

We are excited to work alongside MSB Engineering on this project, as well as our customers at UNL. The new upgrade will have a significant positive impact, and we are proud to have played a part in its implementation.

## **Des Moines Service Team Upgrades International Airport**

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**Jenae Frisch** - Project Coordinator | Des Moines

Longtime Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) in Des Moines customer, the Des Moines International Airport, has hired CECM for several projects. One project involves installing three new electric vehicle chargers. The new chargers are being installed for the onsite buses that transport people from various parking lots to the airport entrance. This project's aim is to become more energy efficient while also cutting costs.

Another project involves upgrading the security equipment at the airport's TSA checkpoint. The TSA aims to increase safety for all passengers by improving their checkpoint screening capabilities.

Both projects are being led by Service Manager Tom Washington and Service Foreman Chase Kohler. We are excited to continue our partnership with the Des Moines International Airport on future projects.



## **Commonwealth Communications Provides Cabling for Creighton University Graves Hall**

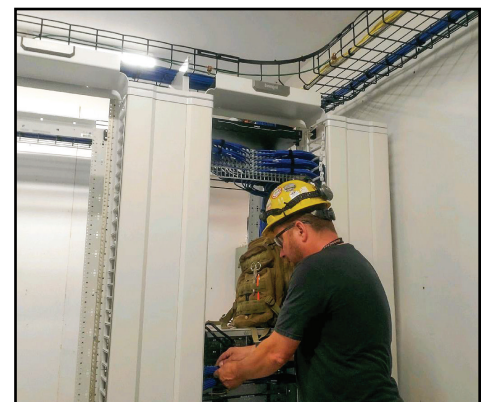
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**Lance Nuzum** - Service Manager | Commonwealth Communications

Commonwealth Communications in Omaha, NE, was selected by Project Advocates and the Creighton University IT Team to complete the communications cabling for the new Graves Hall in Omaha, NE. The 400-student Graves Hall, opening in the fall of 2023, will be the first residence hall built exclusively for first-year students. The \$37 million project broke ground in the fall of 2021. With state-of-the-art living and community space, the building is made up of 4 floors with 100 suite-style rooms.

The project was led by on-site General Foreman Travis Keller. Travis was picked for this project due to his experience working on numerous Creighton University projects, as well as his customer service skills and expertise in knowing exactly what the customer wants in the end. Due to the construction phasing of the project, manpower needed to be moved around several times. Travis was able to keep our teams moving in the right direction throughout the entire project.

Another project with Creighton University started March 2022. The project consists of building out five data closets with fiber backbone between them and running Category cabling on each floor for data and security cameras. Once cabling was completed, wireless access points were hung throughout the building.



*Travis Keller installs the communications cabling at Creighton University.*



## Mesa Team Streamlines Work with Prefab

**Casey Huff** - Senior Project Manager | Phoenix

Commonwealth's Mesa, AZ, location has prominent growth possibilities in the area due to the high demand for new construction. The team is committed to excellence by focusing on the field staff to ensure they receive the necessary material and assistance to get the job done on time and accurately. They have continuously strived to improve processes to become more efficient. One instance in which this has been accomplished is through the utilization of pre-fabrication (prefab) for the team's project objectives.



*L to R: Bekah Nelson, Project Manager Intern; Jake Overstreet, Project Manager; Casey Huff, Senior Project Manager; Kati Turner, Project Administrator; Steve Ercius, Project Engineer; Jason Turner, Field Operations Manager; and Christian Roberts, Project Engineer.*

The Mesa location Warehouse is home to all the Phoenix, AZ, prefab needs. The Prefab Manager and his team manufacture complex components offsite, minimizing on-site labor and overall construction times. This approach streamlines the process, resulting in cost savings, as the material is better utilized and fewer on-site workers are needed. Quality control is enhanced due to components being created in a controlled environment. Utilizing the assembly of pre-built components enables better project coordination and scheduling, as it can be more easily synchronized with project requirements.

## Commonwealth Partners with Martin Marietta

**Andrew Lawrance** - Project Manager | Des Moines

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest in Des Moines, IA, has continued to partner with Martin Marietta Inc. at several aboveground and underground mine sites throughout central Iowa in 2023. This partnership began in 2019 and has grown significantly since.

In 2023, CECM has performed daily service work and has had the opportunity to add in multiple site-specific projects. Projects include rebuilding the medium voltage switch framework for the Saylorville Sand site in Des Moines, adding thousands of feet of fiber for security and network capabilities at the underground Sully Mine site in Lynnville, IA, rebuilding the aboveground medium voltage line distribution for the Malcom Mine site in Grinnell, IA, and numerous other smaller projects across the area.



*The 1500-horsepower booster pump will be moved by Commonwealth.*

Leading these projects are Project Foremen Kevin Harris and Alex Van Den Broek, along with Apprentice Parker Marschel.

Most of the sites worked on are above ground; however, a few are underground mines. These mines fall under Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) safety regulations, which are some of the strictest guidelines in the industry. Through the strong leadership of our field staff, we have had ZERO safety incidents on any of the sites. Our team of electricians has completed a 40-hour MSHA 48 safety training course, as well as a yearly refresher, to safely work in the deep mines.

## Keeping Up With the Des Moines Limited Energy Systems Team

**Jenae Frisch** - Project Coordinator | Des Moines

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's (CECM) Limited Energy Systems team in Des Moines, IA, has been busy with several projects.

One such project is performing the limited energy systems scope at a new water tower for the West Des Moines Water Works (WDMWW). In 2020, CECM installed a new wireless redundant loop communication system to network all existing water towers to the main headquarters of the WDMWW. The network transports information for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition systems, access control, and surveillance systems for each tower location. The Project Manager for this project is Lance Christianson, with Senior Security Technician Terry Huss and Field Superintendent David Vander Horst leading the field installation.

Several projects are also underway at the Iowa Judicial Branch facility. The CECM team has spent the past several months designing and installing a new security network to support a new surveillance camera system, access control system, and intrusion detection system. These projects are being led by David Vander Horst.

The CECM team is currently performing a large project for UnityPoint Health. Due to the ever-increasing demands placed upon the network infrastructure, CECM is installing a new single-mode optical fiber backbone system at three UnityPoint hospitals. The project includes over 65,000 feet of single-mode fiber, supplying over 65 communications spaces in the facilities. This new backbone system will meet the current and future needs of these vital facilities. Joe Schaff is performing the superintendent duties for this project while supporting Project Foreman Ryan Bettcher.

Another healthcare client, The Iowa Clinic, is constructing several facilities in central Iowa. The CECM team is installing structured cabling, security, nurse call, fire alarms, sound masking, and overhead paging systems in these facilities. These projects will be performed by Field Technicians Curtis Wheeler and Taylor Brown.

One last project in progress is a large-scale fire alarm project at Iowa State University. The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) certified life safety group of the Des Moines Branch has been working on this project. This project will enhance the safety of the students residing in the on-campus apartment complex. Due to the success of the project, the Iowa State University team has recommended the CECM team perform subsequent fire alarm projects for the remainder of the apartment buildings within the complex. This project is led by Foreman Technician Kay Mealey, NICET II.



*The view from on top of the West Des Moines Water Tower*



*Iowa Judicial Branch Building*



*West Des Moines Water Tower*



## Limited Energy Systems Team Achieves Elite Partner Status With TekTone

**Clint Bailey** - Project Manager | Des Moines



*Terry Huss, Ryan Bettcher, and Zach Owens train with TekTone products.*

The Limited Energy Systems team in Des Moines, IA, has increased its ability to serve the healthcare industry by achieving elite partner status with TekTone. After completing all design and installation training requirements, the Des Moines Branch is now certified to design, distribute, and install all nurse call, wander management, alert integration, and mobile staff application product lines available from TekTone.

Whether it may be at a hospital or within a clinic environment, the Des Moines Branch of Commonwealth Electric is now a full-service provider of all electrical and limited energy system needs for healthcare end users.

## Three New Faces Join the Greater Nebraska Branch

**Eve Jacobson** - Administrative Assistant | Greater NE

Nathan Holtzen joined the Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) Greater NE branch in April 2023 as Warehouse Manager. He graduated from Central Community College in 2014 with a degree in Mechatronics and, for close to 10 years, worked for Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc. (CED) in Columbus, NE, specializing in automated systems, industrial switchgear, and contractors. Nathan and his wife Erin live in Osceola, NE, with their two dogs, Spock and Sophie. They are expecting their first child this summer.



*Nathan and Erin Holtzen.*

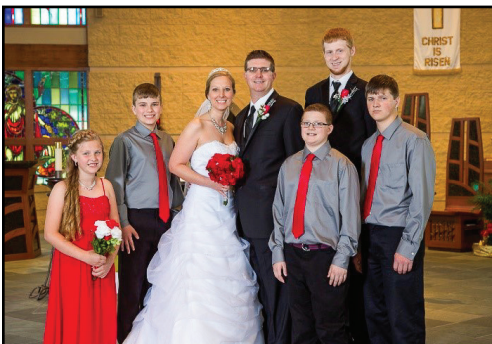


*Kip and Hannah Kudron.*

Kip Kudron recently began his role as Special Systems Manager for CECM Greater NE in February 2023. Shortly after graduating from Hastings College in 2012 with psychology and sociology majors, Kip joined CECM in 2013 as an Electrical Apprentice. In 2018 and 2019, after becoming a Journeyman, Kip and Greater NE Vice President

Jake Gable started the low voltage division. Kip married his wife, Hannah, in 2014, and they live on an acreage where they raise goats, chickens, ducks, and five dogs.

Jennifer Olson recently joined the CECM Greater NE branch in June 2023 as Accounting Specialist. She brings much experience in accounting, including 12 years as Accounts Payable for CED in Columbus. She grew up in Lincoln, NE, and moved to Columbus in 2011. Jennifer and her husband Jay have five children between them – Justin (28), Ashtin (24), Zach (22), Carstin (21), and Alexandria (19). They also have a 12-year-old Shih Tzu named Shadow.



*Jennifer Olson and her family.*

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