



The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit | Winter 2023-2024



Millcreek City Hall



General Foreman Jody Wahlberg (L) and Project Manager Chris Jensen (R)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Des Moines Upgrades Wells Fargo Arena Exterior Lighting** (Pg. 2)
- **Omaha Adopts Low Voltage Fiber Blowing Technology** (Pg. 3)
- **Lincoln Team Provides Work at New Two Landmark Centre** (Pg. 4)
- **Greater NE Team Leads Training at Kearney Sparks Academy** (Pg. 6)
- **Corporate Estimating Holds Q4 Training Class** (Pg. 7)
- **Brian Lund and Dan Maca Celebrate Six Years on Ownership Committee** (Pg. 10)

...AND MORE!

Rydalch Electric Completes Work at Millcreek City Hall

Mark Rydalch – President | Rydalch Electric, Inc.

Rydalch Electric, Inc. is proud to announce the completion of a \$7 million electrical contract for the new Millcreek City Hall project in Millcreek, UT.

The 76,000-square-foot, six-story building was constructed with flexibility in mind, with many spaces available for the growth of future city departmental needs. These spaces include offices, a police precinct, a ground-level dining hall and marketplace, a rooftop for events, and other dedicated community areas.

One notable facet of the city hall is a climbing wall on the building's exterior. Another unique area of the building is the top-floor ballroom, in which the Rydalch team installed custom-painted light fixtures to match the wood grain of the timber used in construction.

The Rydalch team installed raceways and pathways for the building's low-voltage systems, which included security systems, access controls, closed-circuit television (CCTV), a digital antenna system (DAS), audio/visual (A/V) systems, fire alarms, and lightning protection. In addition,

the team provided the backbone infrastructure for wind and solar energy systems, a battery energy storage system, and multiple energy-efficient generators.

The Rydalch team worked in collaboration with General Contractor Okland Construction. Project Manager Chris Jensen led the Rydalch Electric, Inc. team, with help from General Foreman Jody Wahlberg in the field. The project began in mid-2022 and was completed in late 2023.

We are proud to have been a part of this project and look forward to continuing to provide exceptional electrical construction services to our clients.



Custom-painted light fixtures

FEATURED PROJECTS

Des Moines Upgrades Wells Fargo Arena Exterior Lighting

Blake Morgan – Project Manager | Des Moines



Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s team in Des Moines, IA, has been working on an exterior lighting upgrade project at the Wells Fargo Arena in downtown Des Moines.

The Wells Fargo Arena opened in 2005 and hosts hundreds of concerts, sports games, and other special events each year. With its original fixtures still shining, this project was envisioned to be a facelift to the existing arena.

The exterior light upgrade project consists of demolishing the original flood lights shining on the “bowl” of the roof and installing a brand-new Digital Multiplex (DMX) lighting system on the arena’s roof. The DMX lighting system consists of over 550 new light fixtures, including floodlights and linear fixtures. The floodlights are designed to add light underneath the “bowl” of the roof, while the linear fixtures are designed to accent the building.

DMX lighting systems consist of data and power being combined into one, allowing the owner to control each fixture. This system is also programmed to have “scenes” integrated into the controls, providing premade light sequencing at the touch of a button.

The success of this project is thanks to a great collaboration with Oak View Group (Wells Fargo Arena) and Shive-Hattery Engineering. The Commonwealth team consisted of General Foreman Andy Stoll and Project Manager Blake Morgan. We are proud of the example the crew has set with their high standards and hard work. This truly shows their dedication to being “Committed to Excellence.”

Commonwealth’s Des Moines team was excited to work with our customer Oak View Group (Wells Fargo Arena) on this project and looks forward to many more successful projects in the future.

Omaha Adopts Low Voltage Fiber Blowing Technology

Dan Maca – Project Manager, RCDD | Omaha

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s location in Omaha, NE, recently performed a large outside plant (OSP) fiber installation at a nearby military base. As part of the project, Commonwealth purchased a new fiber-blowing system from Condux International and performed the installation in-house. The fiber portion of the Military Base Project scope was to place three 29,000-foot microfiber cables in three existing microduct pathways.

Fiber cable blowing is a process that involves using a machine to push fiber optic cable through a conduit by suspending it in the duct with pressurized air. At the same time, a belt drive propels the fiber into the duct system. This installation method is great for long distances, with an effective range of thousands of feet under ideal conditions. It is also attractive for several other reasons, including having fewer splice points and handholes, needing less manpower for installation, and having a lower risk of damaging the fiber during installation. However, blowing fiber is a relatively new technology; training is required to operate, install, and maintain the equipment properly.

The greatest challenge when installing cables longer than five miles is managing how much footage one can

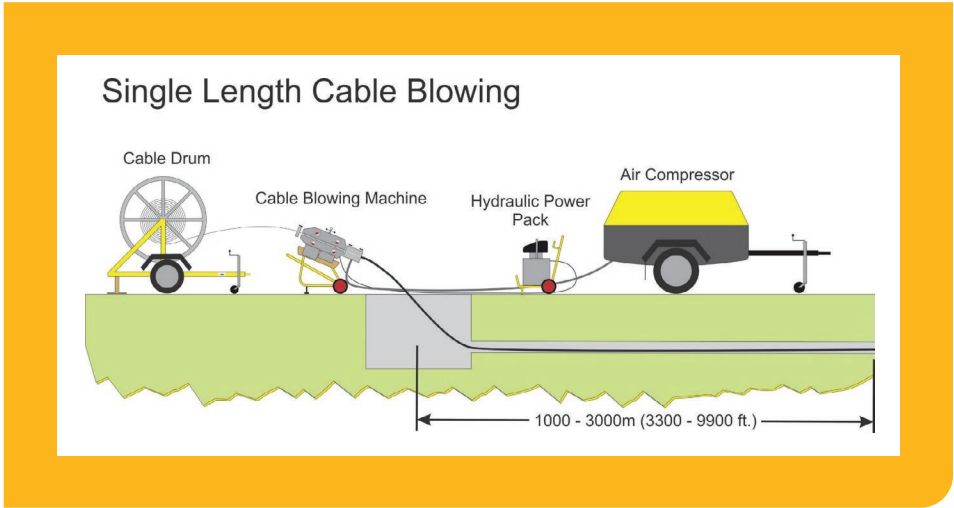


place before resetting pull points. The fiber blowing method is beneficial because the equipment allows one to move the fiber through several thousand feet of microduct before needing to re-spool and reset the equipment.

On this project, the team installed each cable while resetting our pull points just ten times. The crew averaged 2,900 feet for each pull

point. By comparison, if a contractor were installing one of these fibers using traditional pulling methods, the crew would have had to reset pull points 50 times for each of the three fiber cables. Pulling fiber in and out of 50 different manholes would have increased the manhours used on the project by five times what was worked.

Our team looks forward to using this technology for projects in the future.



Lincoln Team Provides Work at New Two Landmark Centre

Brad Owen – Project Manager | Lincoln



Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s team in Lincoln, NE, is finishing up a \$6.3 million electrical contract on a new three-story LEED Silver premier office building in downtown Lincoln.

The Two Landmark Centre is located in downtown Lincoln on Lincoln Mall, which features the Nebraska State Capitol to the east and the Lincoln/ Lancaster Government Complex to the west.

The building is owned by Lincoln-based NEBCO Inc. and will be leased to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The building will have 120,000 square feet of office and lab space and 28,000 square feet of underground parking, with another 16,000 square feet of available space for another tenant.

Commonwealth’s team, under the guidance of Sampson Construction, provided electrical work, low-voltage communication systems, and fire alarm installation, as well as security, access control, and A/V rough-in.

General Foreman Troy Huetson led the Commonwealth team, with Low Voltage General Foreman Jacob Starkey in charge of the low voltage team.

The project is set to finish final commissioning in February and have USDA move in early March.



There’s an Expo for Everything!

Melanie Hamner – Account Manager | Exposition and Trade Services



If there is one thing the members of Commonwealth’s Exposition and Trade Services Division (Expo) have learned since its inception in 1995, it is that there is a convention, trade show, or special event for nearly EVERYTHING. Many are familiar with auto shows, comic cons, and home and garden shows, but that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the list of over 250 events the Expo team sees annually.

For many music lovers, the 51st Annual National Flute Association Conference was one such experience. From Aug. 3-6, 2023, thousands of flute players, instrument companies, and music lovers from all over the world gathered in Phoenix, AZ, to share and learn everything there is to know about the flute.

Another notable expo this year was the Abilities Expo, an event created to promote, fundraise, and bring awareness to different types of disabilities. All sorts of products and services that help people with disabilities were displayed from Sept. 8-10, 2023, at WestWorld of Scottsdale in Scottsdale, AZ. One highlight was a wheelchair football competition, which was very competitive and so much fun to watch. The people involved are amazing, and the overall expo is impactful to many.

In February 2023, Commonwealth Expo helped with an expo focused on a topic many people share excitement for: money! The team was lucky enough to provide services to the American Numismatic Association (ANA) National Money Show, an event all about different types of currency. During the event, the ANA hosted hundreds of coin collectors and



currency enthusiasts to trade, buy, and sell rare and unique coins. Like currency—and just as popular—there are many gem and jewelry shows held each year across the country. Each year, the Commonwealth Expo team works on not one but THREE shows dedicated to gems, diamonds, and other various regalia. Collectively, these shows attract thousands of exhibitors and attendees from across the globe.

The Expo team is looking forward to the year ahead with shows such as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Conference and Trade Show. This premiere event is the country’s largest golf industry trade show, and Commonwealth is excited to be a part of it. Another upcoming

event is the Sneaker Expo in August, which is expected to have over 3,000 attendees. Lastly, the Expo team is excited to host the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men’s basketball Final Four Tournament this April. Like all the mega sporting events Expo has hosted in the past, this will take a lot of work, but it will also be a great point of pride for Commonwealth’s team to play such a big role while gaining national exposure.

Overall, a year at Expo is filled with busy and unique shows. Commonwealth’s Expo team takes pleasure in getting to know everyone and experiencing a new niche. With each show being different in its own way, there is something new to learn each day.



COMPANY EVENTS

Des Moines Hosts Annual Ugly Sweater Party

Michelle Kaldenberg – Accountant | Des Moines

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s Des Moines, IA, office kicked off this year’s holiday season by hosting its annual Ugly Sweater Party at The Hall in West Des Moines. Employees gathered for a night filled with lots of delicious food, laughter, and fun. In addition to spending time with coworkers, all who attended participated in a white elephant gift exchange and the eagerly anticipated ugliest sweater contest.

A big congratulations to this year’s ugliest sweater contest winner, Chris Fisher! Thanks to all who helped organize the event, as well as everyone who attended!



The Des Moines branch celebrates the holiday season.

Greater Nebraska Team Leads Training at Kearney Sparks Academy

Dustin Allen – Service Manager | Greater Nebraska

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s Greater Nebraska team recently had the pleasure of educating some of the young minds at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC) in Kearney, NE. This training included a short discussion on electrical safety and basic knowledge pertaining to the electrical equipment used in today’s industry. After a high-level overview, the team introduced the students to some of the common tools in the electrical field that are utilized on jobsites.

The average class size was 12-15 students, so the students were separated into two groups in order to have one-on-one training. The students learned to install simple devices, such as duplex



Project Manager Intern Mitch Peabody, Service Manager Dustin Allen, and General Foreman Rhett Cervantes lead a training session at the YRTC in Kearney, NE.

receptacles, single pole switches, circuit breakers, and light fixtures.

One of the main purposes of the training was to expose the students to some of the possibilities seen within the electrical trade. It was fascinating to observe some of the emotions when the circuit the students were working on was completed, and they

flipped the switch to turn the light on.

The team’s ultimate goal was to “spark” interest in the students to see the opportunities in the electrical field, with the hopes that some may consider joining the electrical trade.

Class Is in Session: Corporate Estimating Holds Q4 Training Class

Nick Manes – Project Estimator | Corporate Estimating

This December, the temperature may have been dropping, but things were heating up in the Corporate Estimating Training Facility following a successful McCormick Software and Estimating Class. Hosted by Senior Project Estimator Nick Page, six participants from across Commonwealth’s Midwest branches converged in Lincoln, NE, for a two-week course aimed at learning the ins and outs of the McCormick Estimating Software and the Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) Estimating Core Processes and Procedures.

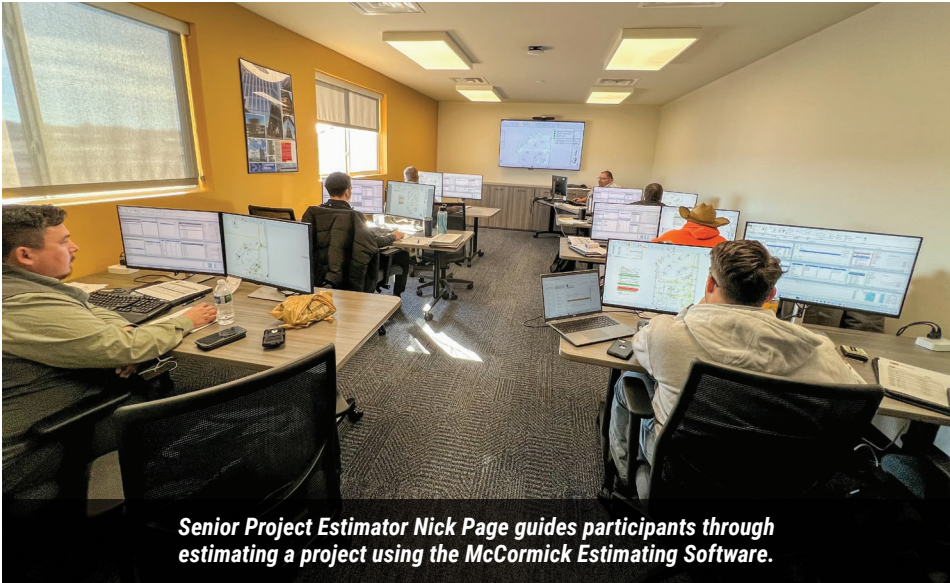
This was the third class of 2023 as part of an ongoing effort to educate and develop the teams across the company. By bringing employees together for this class, Page was able to quickly—through an intense two-week class—educate McCormick Software users through hands-on, real-world projects.

During their time in Lincoln, participants worked on numerous projects, ranging from a small cell phone service provider location to a large corporate office for a general contracting company. Page integrated competitive aspects into the course to keep participants engaged and vying



Back Row (L to R): Dan Ramsdell, Matt Sarcone, Mitchell Shaw, Ethan Price, Nick Page. Front Row (L to R): Rodrigo Venegas, Eric Bradley.

to graduate at the top of their class. As classes continue, the goal is to have the entirety of Commonwealth adhere to a standard, uniform estimating procedure through the McCormick Software platform. This consistent product elevates our commitment to mastery while creating reliable and dependable estimates for customers and branches.



Senior Project Estimator Nick Page guides participants through estimating a project using the McCormick Estimating Software.

“The McCormick estimating class was the best experience. Nick is an amazing instructor and really gives you all the tools to be successful. He adapts to every learning ability and takes the time so you know the why behind the what. The atmosphere is also simply amazing! It is a fun and engaging environment to be in. I feel as if I learned so much and enhanced my personal skill set. Nick and Brian are first-class and give you everything you need to enhance personal growth for oneself and the company.”

-Ethan Price, Project Manager Intern

Corporate Estimating Manager Brian Millard and Page headed to Salt Lake City, UT, to visit Rydalch Electric, Inc. to conduct the fourth class of the ongoing series. Spaces are open for the spring training class (date TBD) in Lincoln. Please contact Brian Millard (bmillard@commonwealthelectric.com) to be included for consideration for the upcoming class; space is limited.

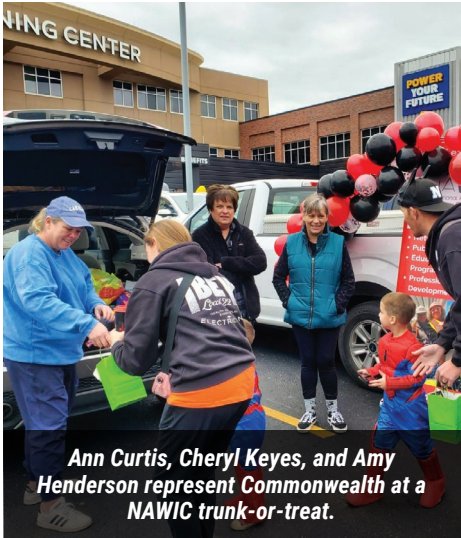
Omaha Office Participates in NAWIC Trunk-or-Treats

Brianna Ouedraogo – Estimator | Omaha

This fall, Commonwealth’s Omaha, NE, office participated in multiple trunk-or-treats around the city, two of which were sponsored by the National Association of Women in Construction – Greater Omaha Chapter #116.

The first of these trunk-or-treats that Commonwealth participated in was held at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 22 Hall. The second such trunk-or-treat was held at Metropolitan Community College’s Fort Omaha Campus.

Many thanks to all who helped organize the event and to everyone who attended. We look forward to participating again next year!



Ann Curtis, Cheryl Keyes, and Amy Henderson represent Commonwealth at a NAWIC trunk-or-treat.



Brianna Ouedraogo hands out candy.

Keeping the Culture: A Look at the CECM Corporate Culture Committee

Nick Manes – Project Estimator | Corporate Estimating

For many years across Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest, our branches have taken the initiative to build a positive and engaging culture for both our employees and their families. During the summer of 2023, the Corporate Office in Lincoln, NE, formed a Culture Committee to focus on the office’s culture by planning and implementing engaging activities that emphasize fostering a positive, fun, and inviting work environment.

Throughout the year, the Corporate Culture Committee hosted several events, providing opportunities for employees and their families to engage with one another, including an evening at Roca Berry Farm and Pumpkin Patch in October, a Thanksgiving potluck in November, and a casino-themed Christmas party in January.

This past year was an incredibly

prosperous one—not only for Commonwealth as a company but also for Commonwealth’s culture. As a company grows, it is bound to experience both the positives of expanded responsibilities and the negatives of growing pains and obstacles. However, with the right people in the right places and with the continued faith and trust of the employees in our culture, we know that our future is strong and true.



The Corporate Culture Committee celebrates a successful Christmas party.



Employees and their families roast hot dogs at Roca Berry Farm.



Attendees at the Corporate Christmas party enjoy a game of Bingo.

On behalf of the Corporate Culture Committee, cheers to a great year and an even better 2024!

THE COMMONWEALTH CUP

Rydalch Electric Is the Fourth Quarter Winner of The Commonwealth Cup!

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director | Omaha



(L to R): Mark Rydalch, Braxton Pearson, Tyler Wahlberg



(L to R): Mark Rydalch, Steve Clark, Tyler Wahlberg

Congratulations to the winners of this quarter’s Commonwealth Cup: the Rydalch Electric, Inc. team!

The Commonwealth Award of Safety Excellence (“The Commonwealth Cup”) program is designed to recognize the location with the best safety record each quarter and, ultimately, for the year.

Each quarter, the top-performing location is given two prizes for two employees, who are chosen by random draw. This quarter, the two lucky winners were Braxton Pearson and Steve Clark. Congratulations to Braxton, Steve, and the entire Rydalch Electric, Inc. team!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Des Moines Low Voltage Department Welcomes New Faces

Beth McQuiston – Project Coordinator | Des Moines

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is excited to welcome two new faces to the Des Moines, IA, team.

Project Manager Matt Sarcone has stepped into his role with Commonwealth after 15 years at Johnson Controls, Inc., where he held positions in the field and sales throughout his time there. Throughout his career, Matt partnered with Commonwealth, which is how he eventually found his way to joining our team. He enjoys the fast pace of this ever-evolving industry, as well as working with customers to create custom-tailored technology plans.

In his time with Commonwealth, Matt has jumped right into the project management role and has become a

key component to new work, including jobs with the Des Moines International Airport, The City of Ames, and The Mercy hospital system. We can’t wait to see Matt thrive in this role and push the low voltage team to excel in new opportunities.

Beth McQuiston has been with Commonwealth’s data center team since May 2021, but has recently moved to the low voltage team as a project coordinator in November 2023. Prior to working at Commonwealth, Beth worked with the Iowa Department of Corrections and in the insurance industry. She came to Commonwealth looking for somewhere to call “home” and make a career after hearing about the company from her husband, who is a service driver for Commonwealth.



Beth McQuiston and Matt Sarcone

Beth feels lucky to be able to take on this new challenge, learn more about Commonwealth’s processes and procedures, and become a more well-rounded employee on the low voltage team.

Brian Lund and Dan Maca Celebrate Six Years on the Commonwealth Employee Ownership Committee

Cathy Maddox – Ownership Coordinator | Corporate

The Commonwealth Ownership Committee was created in 2017, the same year Commonwealth became employee-owned and adopted an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). The committee's primary aim is to inform and educate employee-owners about the advantages and benefits of being part of an employee-owned company.

When the committee was formed, the original objective was to include representatives from every location. However, as some areas, such as Des Moines, IA, and Omaha, NE, required more than one representative, the committee has expanded accordingly. Committee members commit to a term of three years, with an optional additional three-year term available. There have been four members who have been on the committee since its inception: Brian Lund and Dan Maca from the Omaha office; Cathy Maddox, who is the chairperson and represents our Corporate location in Lincoln, NE; and LeAnn Whitehead, who is located at the Exposition and Trade Services (Expo) Division in Phoenix, AZ, and will



Brian Lund

continue on the committee as a co-member of our Expo division.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Brian and Dan for serving on the committee for six years. Dan has set up the yearly March Mania contest, which has been a huge hit with employees and has benefited numerous philanthropic efforts. Brian is an officer of The ESOP Association Iowa/Nebraska Chapter serving in the Advocacy Role and will keep the



Dan Maca

chapter informed about any legislative efforts in Washington, D.C., that may affect ESOP companies in general.

Thanks to you both for your dedication to the Ownership Committee. Your efforts to educate our employee-owners and instill our culture of ownership—as well as your commitment to learning more about ESOPs and passing on that knowledge—are very much appreciated!

OWNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Cathy Maddox
Corporate



Emily Schamber
Corporate



Lindsay Selig
Corporate



Ashley Huinker
Des Moines



Mark Hollingworth
Des Moines



Seth Richert
Estimating



LeAnn Whitehead
Phoenix Expo



Jennifer Sutherland
Tucson Expo



Andy Sueper
Greater NE



Hannah Masters
Lincoln



Jamee (Gray) Strickland
Omaha



Jody Boeckman
Omaha



J.T. Holmes
Omaha



Rich Scheuermann
Phoenix



Robin Hancock
Rydalch



Terri Beilman
Tucson

Greater Nebraska Gains Assistant Project Manager and Security Manager

Eve Jacobson – Administrative Assistant | Greater Nebraska



Assistant Project Manager Rodrigo Venegas and his family

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's (CECM) Greater Nebraska team is excited to welcome two new members: Assistant Project Manager Rodrigo Venegas and Security Manager Eric Bradley.

Rodrigo Venegas joined CECM's Greater NE team in November 2023 as Assistant Project Manager. After high school, he spent four years on active duty in the Marine Corps. In 2022, he obtained a degree in Construction Management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. During college, he completed multiple internships in maintenance planning, project management, and project/field engineering. After his time in the world of general contracting, Rodrigo decided to switch gears to electrical contracting.

Rodrigo and his wife, Nelly, live in Grand Island with their 8-month-old daughter, Luna, and two dogs, Scout and Sailor. He enjoys spending time with his family, as well as many outdoor activities including hunting, ice fishing, and golfing.

Eric Bradley joined CECM's Greater NE team in October 2023 as Security Manager. He has over 30 years of experience in the electronic security industry, beginning as a technician, advancing to application engineering, and finally working in project management.

Eric grew up in Upstate New York and moved to Columbus, OH, after high school to attend DeVry Institute of Technology for Electrical Engineering. Over his lifetime, he has worked for Nationwide Insurance's corporate headquarters, Matrix Systems, Inc., and Security 101 before making the trek to Nebraska in 2023 to work for CECM. Eric spends his spare time caring for his and six others' horses. He loves to trail ride and do trail obstacle courses and is currently learning to work cattle and train horses.

Welcome to the team, Rodrigo and Eric!



Security Manager Eric Bradley and his horse

New Safety Manager Hired to Support Southwest Branches

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director | Omaha



Welcome, Brian!

In January, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest hired Safety Manager Brian Kasitz to support the safety efforts of our Phoenix, AZ, Tucson, AZ, and Rydalch Electric, Inc. teams.

Brian is a passionate safety professional who brings many years of experience to our team. His commitment to ensuring a secure work environment aligns perfectly with our company's values.

Outside of work, Brian likes to spend time with his family, golf, cheer on the Eagles of Philadelphia, and create culinary masterpieces on his two smokers, flat-top grill, and pizza oven.

Welcome to the Commonwealth Family, Brian! We are glad to have you on board!

Committed to Excellence

CUSTOMERS | **E**Mployees | **C**hARACTER | **M**ASTERY



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Be the first to hear the latest and greatest from Commonwealth! We will never share your information and only send one email per quarter filled with great content.

FOLLOW US

