



The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit | Spring 2024



Our team at Phoenix Children's Hospital



Apprentice Electrician Kaleb O'Brien works on a patient headwall on the 11th floor of Phoenix Children's Hospital.

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...AND MORE!

CECM Caps Off Work at Phoenix Children's Hospital

Casey Huff – Branch Manager | Phoenix, AZ

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) is proud to announce the completion of a \$4.5 million electrical contract for Phoenix Children's Hospital in Phoenix, AZ.

Phoenix Children's Hospital, one of the largest pediatric healthcare systems in the United States, offers inpatient, outpatient, trauma, and emergency care to Phoenix and its surrounding communities.

The CECM team completed work on the top two floors of the hospital: the 10th floor, which houses a patient recovery unit, and the 11th floor, which houses a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Between the two 44,000 square-foot floors, Commonwealth's team provided electrical capabilities—including lighting, power, low voltage raceways, cable trays, fire alarm systems, and headwalls—to a total of 96 rooms.

Working on the top floors of an active hospital came with a couple unique challenges. Because the floors below were filled with patients, noise levels became a crucial factor. The

CECM team worked as quietly and efficiently as possible, so as not to disturb patients with any loud noise. In addition, the team used a cargo elevator to move equipment back and forth each day, which called for extra planning. Despite these restraints, the Commonwealth team was successful in its completion of the project.

Construction on the 10th floor of the hospital began in November 2021 and was completed in October 2022. The 11th floor started construction in December 2022 and wrapped up in March 2024.

The CECM team worked in collaboration with Kitchell Contractors Inc., the general contractor for the project. Branch Manager Casey Huff and Senior Estimator/Project Manager Rich Scheuermann were the project managers, with General Foreman Bradley Voris leading the crew of 8-12 electricians.

CECM's Phoenix team is proud to have been a key contributor to this project. We look forward to continuing to offer exceptional service to our clients.

FEATURED PROJECTS

UNK Rural Health and Kearney SportsPlex Hold Topping Out Ceremonies

Rodrigo Venegas – Assistant Project Manager | Kearney, NE

April 1 this year was not just April Fool's Day; it also marked a significant milestone for the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) as it celebrated a topping-out ceremony for its Rural Health project. In the same week, the City of Kearney, NE, held a topping out ceremony at its new SportsPlex. Our team is working alongside General Contractor MCL Construction on both projects.

The UNK Rural Health project is led by General Foreman Jeff Trotta, who has done an excellent job coordinating and mentoring our up-and-coming apprentices. Jeff has been instrumental in ensuring that all deck pours for the project were on schedule, setting the stage for underground work to commence in mid-April. Our Building Information Modeling (BIM) team, comprised of VDC Designer Nick Friesen and VDC Detailer Ccelssii Parker, was critical to the successful preplanning of the project. Nick and Ccelssii have worked hard behind the scenes, and we are grateful they are on our team.

April 5 was another important date, marking the date our team installed the final precast panel. This was



Commonwealth's Kearney, NE, team watch as General Contractor MCL Construction lowers the final beam onto the Rural Health building at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

collaborative effort led by Senior Project Manager Dan Cahalan, General Foreman Ryan Roetman, and Journeyman Wireman Logan Irwin, in partnership with Enterprise Precast Concrete in Omaha, NE.

The Kearney SportsPlex project, led by General Foreman Preston Skalka, has been making steady progress with its underground phase. Over the past few months, he has gone above and beyond, coordinating with steel erectors to uphold Commonwealth's high safety standards. BIM Coordinator Sheri Stone has been doing a fantastic job communicating with Preston,

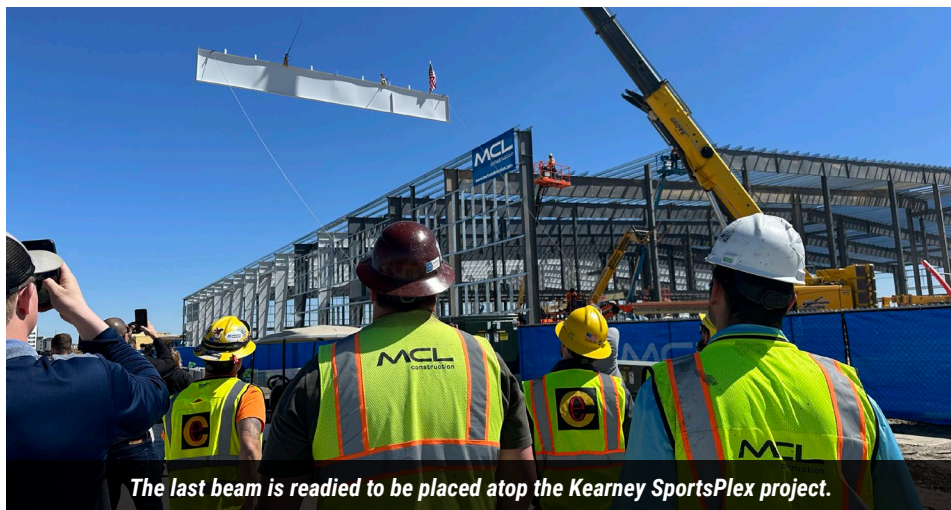
ensuring smooth progress and addressing any issues that arise.

We have been keeping our Grand Island, NE, Prefab shop and Prefab Manager Dan Harlow busy lately. Dan's timely delivery of orders, along with his support in streamlining our prefabrication process, has made him an invaluable asset to our team.

We are grateful to everyone who has been assisting with these projects. The teamwork and dedication our employees put into their jobs are nothing short of amazing, and they reflect their commitment to excellence.



Employees sign the beam at the Kearney SportsPlex topping out ceremony.



The last beam is readied to be placed atop the Kearney SportsPlex project.

Expo Team Powers Up NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament and Fan Fest

Dan Shannon – Vice President | Phoenix, AZ



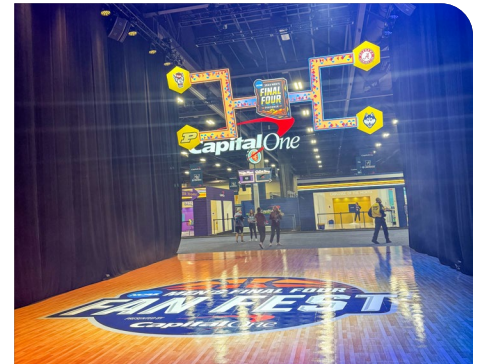
This past March and April, all eyes were on Phoenix, AZ, for the NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament at State Farm Stadium. While teams competed for the coveted championship title, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's Exposition and Trade Services (Expo) team was working behind the scenes to provide utilities to the stadium.

The tournament was a massive event, with 149,143 fans in attendance and approximately 33 million viewers worldwide. The Expo team provided over 1,000 services to accommodate courtside power, multiple press rooms, locker rooms, and concessions and merchandising—both inside and outside the Stadium. Upwards of 50,000 feet of cabling and cords were used to effectively do so.

Foreman Josh Castro did a fantastic job constantly adjusting labor and equipment with changes made every day and providing exceptional service to our customers. Account Manager Jennifer Sutherland was in constant communication with the staff at State Farm Stadium, coordinating new services and staying on top of new estimates and billing. While plans were in the works since early 2023, actual production began in mid-March of 2024; it took the Expo team 24 days to install equipment and three days to remove everything.

In addition to the tournament itself, the Expo team also provided services to the NCAA Men's Final Four Fan Fest presented by Capital One. This event, held at the Phoenix Convention Center, had an attendance of 52,283. Fans of all ages played games, met with players, watched slam-dunk contests, and enjoyed a pep rally.

As a part of Fan Fest, Commonwealth's Expo team donated services for the NCAA Final Four Dribble Presented by Buick, at which over 3,000 young fans dribbled basketballs through a one-mile course outside the convention center and



Backstage at the NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament.



Inside State Farm Stadium

into the main event. Commonwealth also donated services for the NCAA Community Bike Build, where over 120 bicycles were built and donated back to the community.

Account Manager Cathee Cooper spent many months of planning for the event, and she was a key player in ensuring its success. Foreman Dave Perrault led our onsite crew. His experience in similar past events made for an efficient outcome; it took the Expo team two weeks to install and two days to remove over 20,000 feet of cabling and cords. Between Cathee, Dave, and the rest of the Expo crew, Commonwealth was able to provide impeccable service.

Great job to the entire Expo team for all their hard work these past several months. We are extremely proud to have been part of such a prominent event, and we look forward to working with State Farm Stadium on future events.



The Exposition and Trade Services team at the NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament.



NCAA Men's Final Four Fan Fest presented by Capital One

Iowa Western Community College: A Continuation of Growth

Scott Lamoreux – Low Voltage Project Manager | Omaha, NE

Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) has experienced considerable growth in the last year, both at its main campus in Council Bluffs, IA, and in nearby towns. In 2023, the college unveiled a newly renovated 17,000-square-foot facility in Missouri Valley, IA. In the same year, IWCC expanded its presence in Harlan, IA, doubling its capacity.

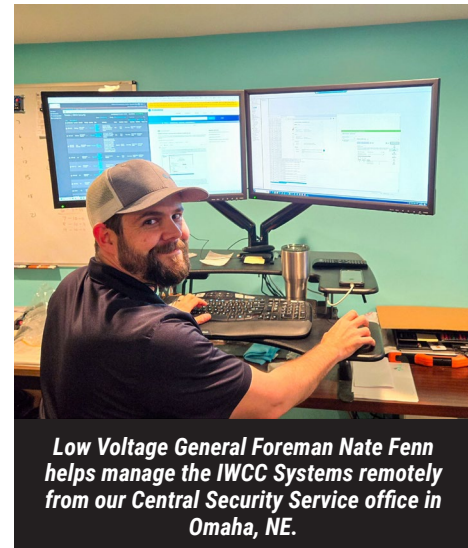
These campuses offer courses in welding, electronics, construction, and auto mechanics. Moreover, IWCC is currently working on adapting an existing building in Central Mills County, IA, where classes are expected to start in the fall of 2024.

At the main campus in Council Bluffs, IWCC keeps investing in its athletics departments. Recent improvements include upgrades to its home baseball and softball fields, with plans in

progress for a new soccer/football field. These improvements include new scoreboards, artificial turf, concession stands, and more.

As the preferred contractor for all low-voltage needs, Commonwealth provides a wide range of services, including communication/data cabling, backbone fiber connectivity, wired and wireless card access, and video surveillance. All our field technicians contribute significantly to these projects, but Low Voltage General Foreman Nate Fenn stands out as a key team member of the team. Nate not only handles physical installations, but also manages software systems, resolves design conflicts, and ensures our high standards are consistently met.

We are committed to supporting IWCC in its mission to provide quality



Low Voltage General Foreman Nate Fenn helps manage the IWCC Systems remotely from our Central Security Service office in Omaha, NE.

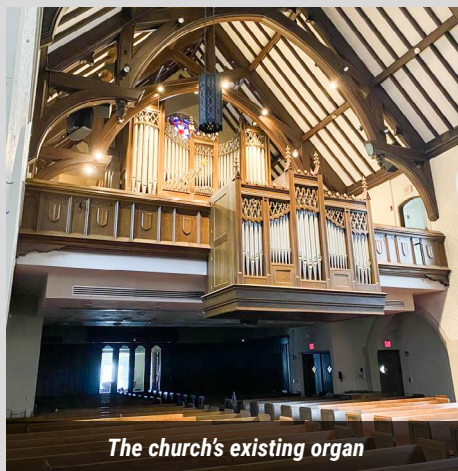
education and facilities to its students, faculty, and staff, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in their growth and development initiatives.

Upcoming Electrical Service Replacement: St. John's Lutheran Church

Andrew Lawrence – Project Manager | Des Moines, IA

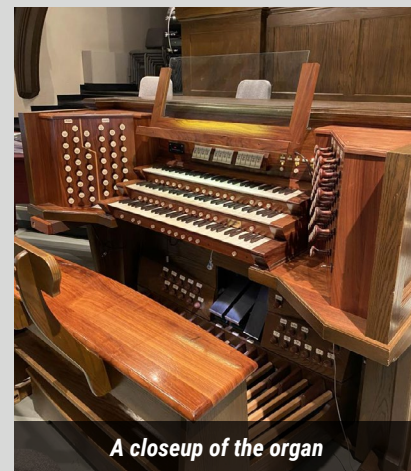
Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is pleased to work with Bergstrom Construction on an upcoming renovation at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines, IA. The project involves replacing the existing 1200A service switchgear, among other things.

St. John's Lutheran Church was established in Des Moines shortly after the Civil War ended in 1865. The church only had room for 24 parishioners when it was first built, but there have been numerous additions over the last 159 years. In the late 1990's, a major renovation added one of the biggest functioning pipe organs in the Midwest.



The church's existing organ

The current remodel is scheduled for completion in late 2024. We are thrilled to have Project Foreman Josh Leonard leading this project.



A closeup of the organ

We look forward to working with Bergstrom Construction and St. John's Lutheran Church on this historic and meaningful project.

Lincoln Team Completes Hangar Project for Duncan Aviation

Brad Owen – Project Manager | Lincoln, NE

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s team in Lincoln, NE, is nearing the completion of a new 46,000-square-foot maintenance hangar for Duncan Aviation Inc. at the Lincoln airport. The new hangar, which will be completed at the end of May, has a 32-foot-high door to accommodate larger aircraft and includes an extra 62,000 square feet for storage and back shops. In addition to the hangar and storage space, the Lincoln team also remodeled 12,000 square feet of existing storage space into a new office space and state-of-the-art training area.

Commonwealth collaborated with Tectonic Management Group Inc. from Wheat Ridge, CO, a design/build group that specializes in aviation facilities, to install the project’s electrical infrastructure, low-voltage communications, fire alarm system, security and access controls, snow melting system, and AV rough-in. General Foreman Jason Rieckman and



L to R: Mark Gawrick, Troy Bear, Tim Trent, Stacy Markel, Billy Walters, Robert Gewecke, Connor Mallery, Le Thanh.

Low Voltage Technician Cody Werth led Commonwealth’s efforts in the field.

Our team is proud of the work done on this project, which reflects our commitment to excellence and satisfaction. We look forward to working with Duncan Aviation again in the future to support their growth and expansion plans.

“We’ve always trusted Commonwealth to get the job done right. They have always been reliable, and we look forward to continuing our partnership down the road.”

**– Jason Matulka,
Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Duncan Aviation, Inc.**

Des Moines Service Team Remodels Hyperion Field Club

Jenae Frisch – Service Project Coordinator | Des Moines, IA

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s Service Team in Des Moines, IA, recently completed a lighting upgrade at Hyperion Field Club’s Clubhouse. Hyperion Field Club is a golf and country club located in Johnston, IA, and has been a loyal customer for Commonwealth in Des Moines.

Service Foreman David McQuiston completed this job with the help of Apprentice Electricians Alex Skeen and Brendon Stout. David and his team were supported in the office by Service Manager Tom Washington and Service Project Coordinator Jenae Frisch.



The bar at Hyperion Field Club’s Clubhouse



The newly-renovated dining hall

The Service Team renovated the club’s event bar, dining hall, kitchen, and common hallway spaces, as well as performing other electrical work during the project. This project was a great opportunity to work alongside general contractor Butzke Burch Construction

and strengthen our relationship with one of our regular service customers Hyperion Field Club. The Hyperion team appreciated Commonwealth’s commitment to excellence and quality of work on the job.

COMPANY EVENTS

Greater Nebraska in the Community

Eve Jacobson – Administrative Assistant | Columbus, NE

So far this year, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's Greater Nebraska team has really enjoyed getting involved with the community! This spring, our team at our Columbus, NE, location attended two local events.

In late February, the ladies of our Columbus office attended the annual Columbus Go Red for Women, hosted by the American Heart Association. This event aims to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease and inspire action to improve the lives of women globally. The Go Red for Women movement has been actively promoting women's heart health for over 20 years, and we are proud to support it.



In early March, the Greater Nebraska team attended a Shrimp Peel at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Columbus as a team-building event. In addition to raising money for the church and school, the annual fundraiser was a great opportunity to connect and enjoy time with each other outside the office.



Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for these events. We look forward to participating again in 2025!

Welcome, Class of 2024 Interns!

Alexandra Philipps – HR Generalist | Lincoln, NE

We are excited to welcome the 2024 summer class of interns on Monday, May 20!

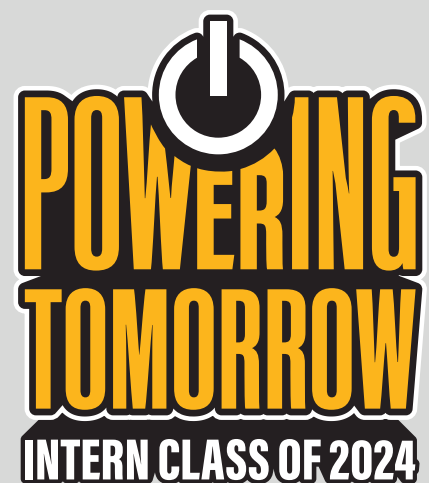
This summer, our interns will experience every aspect of Commonwealth through our Monday MasterClass series. Each Monday, a different team member will impart substantive skills and knowledge of the areas they work in. Interns will hear from employees in the field, project management, estimating, marketing, safety, and more to understand how our teams all work together to achieve success.

This summer will focus heavily on interns' professional development through CliftonStrengths training.

Our goal is to help students build upon and harness their strengths and natural talents. Individuals who use their strengths every day are six times more likely to be engaged in their jobs. Interns will have two one-on-one strengths coaching sessions and various mini activities throughout the summer.

Interns will also tour a job site and close out their summer experience with our Summer Summit in Omaha, NE. At Summer Summit, we will visit TopGolf, have a large group strengths session, and hear from a keynote speaker, who will speak on leadership and give advice on how this group can continue *Powering Tomorrow*.

We're so grateful to be part of this



group's career journey, and we can't wait to see what the future has in store for each of them!

Celebrating Women in Construction

Women in Construction Week, March 3-9, was a time of celebration for Commonwealth. Our locations across the company organized events during the week to recognize the contribution of women to the construction industry. We're very grateful to have such a wonderful group of women on our team, and we appreciate everything they do!



Our Greater Nebraska team



Our Omaha, NE, team



Our Lincoln, NE, team



Our Des Moines, IA, field team



Our Lincoln Corporate team



Our Des Moines, IA, office team

Omaha Team Celebrates 2023!

Cheryl Keyes – Office Manager | Omaha, NE



The Omaha, NE, team celebrates the holidays.

The Omaha, NE, team of Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) had their holiday party on a very cold night at the Hilton Hotel in Omaha on January 13. Despite the harsh weather, CECM friends and family showed up to celebrate another year of success.

The venue was filled with food, drinks, prizes, and happy faces. The night started with a stage presentation to recognize the hard work of the field staff and to honor those of the CECM family who passed away. After dinner, there was a live band and people were invited to dance. Everything was going well, until a fire alarm went off unexpectedly... the culprit was the band's fog machine!

It was a wonderful and memorable event. Nothing is better than bringing CECM together as a family with joy and laughter. It reminded us that we are more than wires and equipment, we are a close family who care for each other.

Employees Attend 2024 ESOP Winter Conference

Cathy Maddox – Ownership Coordinator | Lincoln, NE

On February 28-29, 2024, the Iowa and Nebraska Chapter of The ESOP Association held its annual Winter Conference and Roundtables at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids, IA.

The annual conference is an opportunity to network with other employee-owned companies, attend breakout sessions to learn more about Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) in general, and to glean ideas that can be incorporated at Commonwealth.

Attending from Commonwealth were President/CEO T Michael Price, who co-led the CEO Roundtable on February 28, Ownership Coordinator Cathy Maddox, who co-led two breakout session on February 29, Marketing Director Erin Stieren, HR Director Lindsay Selig, Project Manager Jody Boeckman (Omaha, NE), and Project Manager Mark Hollingworth (Des Moines, IA). The 12 breakout sessions covered effective communication, financial wellness, and hot topics about employee benefits, recruitment, and retention.



L to R: Jody Boeckman, Mark Hollingworth, Cathy Maddox, Erin Stieren, Lindsay Selig, T Michael Price

Cathy Maddox Wins Employee Owner of the Year Award

Commonwealth's Ownership Coordinator, Cathy Maddox, was presented with the annual Employee Owner of the Year award at the 2024 Winter Conference. Cathy's enthusiasm for Ownership is contagious, and she truly believes that—while education and communication are important—one must work on developing a culture of ownership within a company. Helping employees to understand their role in the overall success of the company is critical. As the Ownership Coordinator for Commonwealth, Cathy is instrumental in creating



Congratulations, Cathy!

educational opportunities for all employees to learn more about ownership and ESOPs. Cathy is always willing to share information with fellow employee-owners from other companies, helping them with their ownership journey. Congratulations, Cathy!

THE COMMONWEALTH CUP

Tucson Wins the 2023 Annual Commonwealth Cup Award

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director | Omaha, NE



Congratulations to our Tucson, AZ, team!



Kai Ciborowski holds the Commonwealth Cup.



The women of our Tucson, AZ, team

We're excited to announce the winners of our first annual Commonwealth Cup: our team in Tucson AZ!

The Commonwealth Award of Safety Excellence ("The Commonwealth Cup") recognizes the location with the best safety record, both quarterly and annually.

Congratulations to the entire Tucson team—keep up the great work!

Tucson Celebrates Employee Appreciation Event



Richard Lewis and T Michael Price



Terri Beilman celebrates a successful lasso.

This spring, in addition to the Commonwealth Cup presentation, our Tucson team held an employee appreciation celebration. Along with a delicious meal, our employees enjoyed a special activity in honor of Branch Manager Richard Lewis: cattle roping!

It was a fantastic time bringing all the Tucson employees together to recognize their efforts. Congratulations to the Tucson team, and thank for all you do!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Accounting Department Promotions

Billy Friesen – Chief Financial Officer | Lincoln, NE

Commonwealth’s accounting team is excited to announce the promotions of Krystal Sund to Director of Systems and Processes and Scott Harms to Corporate Controller.

Krystal’s position of Director of Systems and Processes was developed to coordinate the efforts of Accounting, Operations, and IT as we continue to evaluate and embrace new technologies.

Scott has proven to be a great asset to the accounting team, and we know he will do well as the Corporate Controller.

Scott is also our newest Certified Construction Industry Financial Professional (CCIFP®) on the accounting team. The CCIFP® designation is the only accounting certification for construction financial

professionals accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The CCIFP designation reflects a high level of competence in all areas of construction financial management, including Accounting & Reporting, Revenue Recognition Methods, Budgeting and Planning, Risk Management, Taxes, HR, Legal, and IT.

The CCIFP designation also strengthens credibility and trust. It demonstrates a commitment to excellence in construction industry financial management, as well as a dedication to continuing education and quality improvement.

If you are specifically interested in obtaining your CCIFP certification, learn more at <https://ccifp.cfma.org/> or reach out to Scott or Krystal.



Director of Systems and Processes
Krystal Sund



Corporate Controller Scott Harms

Des Moines Crew Is Committed to Safety

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director | Omaha, NE

One of Commonwealth’s Des Moines, IA, crews recently flew to Phoenix, AZ, to perform medium voltage work. Upon arriving on site, they were asked to work in an environment that they identified as being potentially life-threatening. Upon informing the client of the situation and offering multiple alternative solutions, the client did not approve. Ultimately, the crew ended up flying back home without completing the work.

The courage these individuals displayed to stand their ground



We’re proud of our Des Moines, IA, crew!

and not jeopardize their safety is incredible. At Commonwealth, we expect and empower all our employees to be champions of their own safety and use stop work

authority when necessary. We are proud of our crew’s commitment to safety and are very thankful they were able to make it home safely.

Greater Nebraska Service Team: Where We Are Everything but Common

Andy Kallhoff – Service Manager | Columbus, NE



Donald "Boone" Engel and his kids

A great service technician can often be hard to come by; it is rare to find someone who has lots of expertise in all aspects of the electrical trade, can switch quickly from one project to another, is well-organized, and—most importantly—has great customer service. Thankfully, we are lucky to have an awesome team here in the Greater Nebraska area who check all those boxes.

Donald Engel, also known as “Boone”, has been a service technician for Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) for seven years. Boone lives in Columbus, NE, and has three children: Cash (13), Hearty (10), and Tarek (8). He also has a golden retriever named Kobe. When Boone is not helping our customers around the community, he likes to spend his time outdoors, doing things like four wheeling, playing sports with his kids, listening to music, playing the guitar, or just hanging out with family and friends.

When asked what is something CECM is doing that is different from other companies in the electrical industry, Boone said, “CECM is great at giving us the tools and resources to succeed in our profession and also taking our feedback as service technicians to improve each customer experience.”



Cameron Birkel and his daughter, Charlee

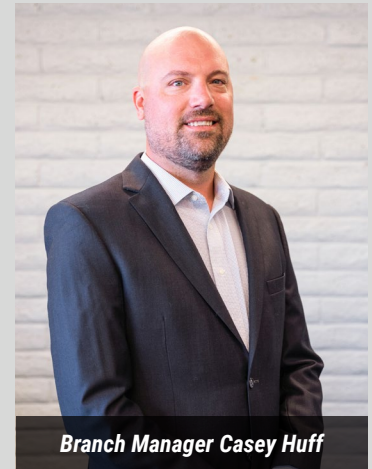
Boone also said that CECM has been a wonderful fit for him and his family, and he enjoys serving Columbus and nearby communities as part of the CECM team.

Cameron Birkel has been a key member of the service team since August 2019. Cameron lives south of Columbus, and has a daughter, Charlee (9). When Cameron is not working, he likes to do as many outdoor activities with Charlee as possible. They include watching her play softball, tending to their garden, taking care of all the animals on their farm, fishing, and traveling as much as they can. Cameron was also asked what CECM is doing differently from other companies, and he said, “Even though CECM is a large company, they do a very good job at making it feel like a much smaller company, where we are not just a number but a voice in the company as well.”

We are proud to have these two leaders as part of our Greater Nebraska service team. The knowledge and experience they bring—and their willingness to share and teach our apprentices—are priceless. These gentlemen are leading the way to make sure we continue to offer the best possible experience to our customers for years to come.

Casey Huff Promoted to Phoenix Branch Manager

Neil Davidson – Chief Operating Officer | Omaha, NE



Branch Manager Casey Huff

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) is excited to announce the promotion of Casey Huff to Branch Manager at our Phoenix, AZ, location.

As Branch Manager, Casey will be responsible for overseeing operations at CECM’s Phoenix location, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects of the business.

Casey has 19 years of experience in the electrical contracting industry in Arizona, including healthcare, medical manufacturing, higher education, heavy industrial, and commercial construction. He has held roles within CECM in estimating, pre-construction, design build, and, most recently, as a Senior Project Manager.

Congratulations, Casey!

Committed to Excellence

CUSTOMERS | EMPLOYEES | CHARACTER | MASTERY



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