



The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit | Summer 2024



The CECM team at Grand Island Casino Resort at Fonner Park



A digital rendering of the Grand Island Casino Resort (photo courtesy of DLR Group)

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...AND MORE!

Grand Island Team Begins Work on Casino Resort

Riley Fischer – Project Manager | Grand Island, NE

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's (CECM) Greater Nebraska division is excited to play a key role in the construction of Central Nebraska's newest hotspot: Grand Island Casino Resort at Fonner Park, owned by Elite Casino Resort. Our team worked directly with Baxter Construction Company, LLC, the owner representative for the project.

The new casino resort will feature 162 hotel rooms, a full-service salon, men's and women's spas, indoor and outdoor pools and hot tubs, and second-level meeting rooms with a rooftop terrace. The casino's gaming floor spans 37,000 square feet and will hold 750 slot machines and 20 table games.

In addition, the resort will also include a sports book, various food and drink options, and Ruthie's Steak & Seafood, a rooftop dining experience on the seventh floor with views of Grand Island and Fonner Park.

Construction for the Grand Island Casino Resort began in November 2023, with CECM joining the project in late April 2024. The project recently passed a large milestone, with its

topping out ceremony on May 15. An aggressive schedule is in place, in order to combat many site restrictions and obstacles, the biggest of which being the Nebraska State Fair, which shares the site. The casino is anticipated to open in February 2025, just in time for horse racing season at Fonner Park.

The CECM Greater Nebraska team, including Project Manager Riley Fischer, Project Manager Jeremy Braun, General Foreman Tyler Hellbusch, Prefab Manager Dan Harlow, and Project Management Intern Carter Abels, is closely collaborating with the CECM Central Engineering team, including VDC Designer Sheri Stone, VDC Designer JT Harrison, and VDC to Prefab Manager Stewart Bohrer. The two teams have worked together to leverage Building Information Modeling (BIM) and prefabrication to streamline material and labor delivery onsite.

With a few outstanding bid packages still pending, the team is fully committed to meeting the challenge of completing such a substantial project within an eight-month period.

FEATURED PROJECTS

Rydalch Electric Upgrades Lighting at BYU

Dave Gray – Service Manager | Salt Lake City, UT, and Chad Gardner – Service Foreman | Salt Lake City, UT



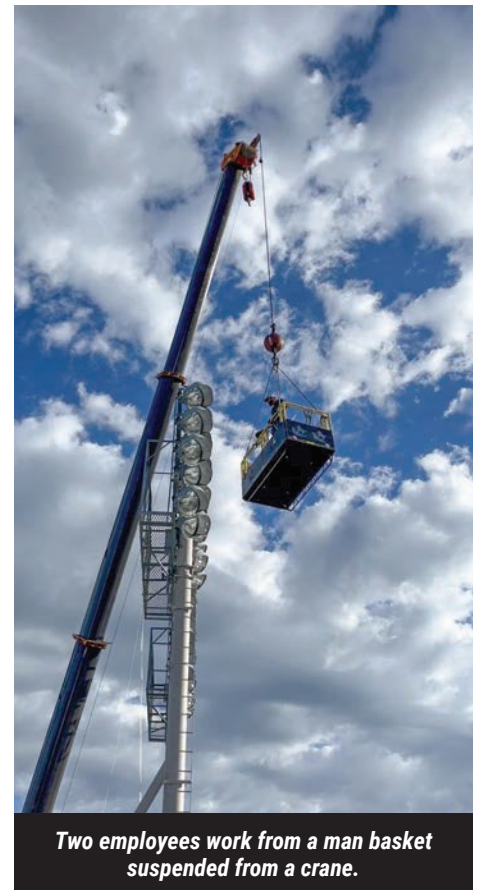
Rydalch Electric, Inc. has successfully completed a significant lighting upgrade for Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, UT. As part of this upgrade, the Rydalch team completed work on LaVell Edwards Stadium and the baseball and softball fields at Miller Park. This project was essential to bring BYU's lighting standards up to NCAA requirements, especially as the university joins the Big 12 Conference.

The project involved a comprehensive overhaul of the facilities' existing lighting systems. A dedicated team, led by Project Manager Dave Gray and Service Foremen Chad Gardner and Ben Howard, worked efficiently to install 225 new lights over a span of two weeks. This overhaul included the replacement of all the existing lights and controllers with a new state-of-the-art LED system. This new system allows for each individual light to be controlled from a computer, allowing for much more dynamic lighting scenes and colors.

To support the new equipment, our team installed new structures and cable raceways, as well as replacing much of the facilities' existing wiring. At Miller Park, several existing light poles and bases were replaced with new ones, which was a unique opportunity for the Rydalch team.

The lighting upgrade project began in February 2024 and is scheduled to be complete by late August. Despite some scheduling challenges, the Rydalch team demonstrated exceptional adaptability and coordination, successfully meeting project milestones, one of which was to have the lights fully operational for BYU's annual Stadium of Fire event on July 4.

The BYU lighting upgrade project was a great opportunity to showcase Rydalch Electric, Inc.'s commitment to delivering high-quality electrical solutions. Our team thanks BYU for the opportunity to be a part of this prominent project.



Sweet Success: Our Electrical Journey with James Skinner Baking Company

David Hitz – Service Manager | Omaha, NE

For nearly four years, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s relationship with James Skinner Baking has flourished, starting from our initial connection at Offutt Air Force Base. We’ve been proud to handle all of J. Skinner Baking’s electrical needs, working on various production lines, including cinnamon rolls, brownies, muffins, and, most recently, their ambitious Pie Line project.



The CECEM team at J. Skinner Baking

Shane Kuenning has been Commonwealth’s dedicated Foreman for J. Skinner Baking since the beginning of this partnership. The Pie Line project, while exciting, presented numerous challenges: one of which was an act of vandalism where a new 3000A switchgear was damaged just a week before energization. Despite these obstacles, Shane and his crew have persevered, demonstrating outstanding commitment to the project.

The electrical scope included installing a new 3000A service, upgrading the existing service, and adding new distribution and branch panels. The CECEM team also worked on HVAC systems, restrooms, and even brought in our security team for camera installations.

The centerpiece of this project is an impressive oven—reportedly the world’s largest pie oven—capable of producing 30 million pies annually. J. Skinner Baking plans to create 12 different pie varieties in three sizes, all destined for Walmart stores. In fact,



The J. Skinner Baking Pie Line oven

if you’ve enjoyed sweet treats from Walmart’s bakery section, there’s a good chance they came from James Skinner Baking Company.

We’re immensely proud of our crew’s hard work at James Skinner Baking and look forward to continuing our relationship. This project exemplifies our commitment to excellence and ability to overcome challenges, resulting in a state-of-the-art production facility that will delight dessert lovers nationwide.

Lincoln Technical Service Team Shuts It Down!

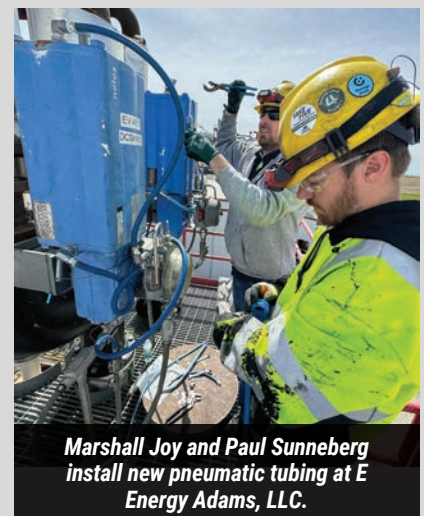
Owen Gubbels – Project Manager | Lincoln, NE

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECEM) plays a large role each year at E Energy Adams, LLC’s annual shutdown. E Energy Adams is a local 100MG Ethanol plant, located just outside of Adams, NE. At its facility, CECEM performs a variety of electrical projects throughout the year, along with day-to-day maintenance support.

For this year’s four-day shutdown, CECEM’s Lincoln, NE, team had upwards of 25 electricians on site performing a number of various tasks. The team, led by General Foremen Doug Standage and Sam

Pulec, was tasked with re-terminating over 30 motors, ranging from 15 to 300 horsepower. Along with over 130 devices and instrumentation tasks, CECEM also provided 24-hour start-up support to ensure all systems came back up running smoothly after the shutdown.

It was a successful weekend that allowed the CECEM team to display our industry mastery and provide learning opportunities to some of our younger leaders. We continue to provide our valuable experience, skills, and exceptional customer service to ensure that E Energy Adams continues to execute its current and future goals.



Marshall Joy and Paul Sunneberg install new pneumatic tubing at E Energy Adams, LLC.

Tucson Team Installs Systems at Project Pueblo Medical Sterilization Facility

Steve Sertich – Project Manager | Tucson, AZ

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s (CECM) team in Tucson, AZ, is working on a \$3.675 million electrical contract with Primus Builders, Inc. for Becton, Dickinson and Company: the Project Pueblo Medical Sterilization Warehouse. This new 83,700-square-foot building in Tucson includes an equipment support mezzanine, two multi-level conveyor systems, and Rhodotron gamma ray machines for sterilizing medical supplies. The site is fortified with high-rated concrete for gamma ray insulation and equipped with new LED lighting.

General Foreman Brandon Farnham was handpicked for this project due to his extensive electrical knowledge, experience, and wide array of skills. He and his team of electricians have



The New Project Pueblo Medical Sterilization Warehouse

installed new utility power for two 4,000-amp SES switchboards, with underground feeders connected to one large electrical equipment mezzanine and a smaller electrical room, distributing power throughout the site. A significant portion of this project included specialized systems such as Fire Alarm, Access Control, Tele/Data rough-in (which involved 2,000 LF of cable tray), and a comprehensive Lightning Protection system.



CECM employees install underground feeders.

We would like to give special recognition to some of the key Commonwealth field personnel that are making this project a success: General Foreman Brandon Farnham, Electrical Apprentice Kai Ciborowski, Electrical Apprentice Dillon Jones, and the rest of the CECM team.

Data/Comm Division Enhances Security for Physicians Mutual

Earl Schaffer – Project Manager | Omaha, NE

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s (CECM) Data/Communications Division in Omaha, NE, has been diligently working on upgrading the Physicians Mutual Insurance building in midtown Omaha. As the sole contact for all low voltage and security needs, CECM has played a crucial role in enhancing the building’s security infrastructure.

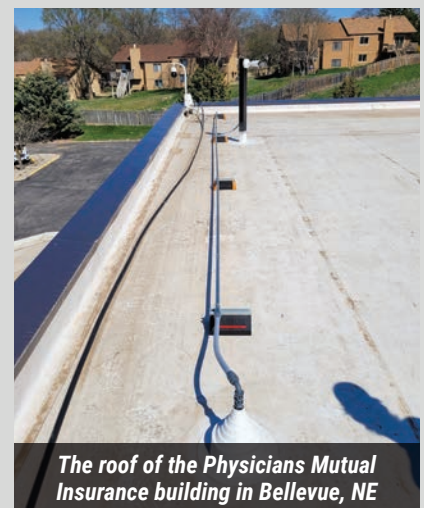
Physicians Mutual Insurance, based in Omaha and once home to the original Enron headquarters, has greatly enhanced its office building due to the CECM team’s efforts. These enhancements have included an upgrade to the building’s access control system, an overhaul of the existing conduit, cameras, emergency phones, and

intercom system, and a conversion of the existing analog cameras to IP cameras.

In addition to the main Omaha location, the Data/Communications team has also completed work at three other sites: another in Omaha one in Bellevue, NE, and one in Norfolk, NE. At the Physicians Mutual Document Processing and Imaging office in Bellevue, our team installed an all-new S2 access control system and Milestone camera system, as well as new IP cameras and photo beams on the roof. The other two locations received new access controls and cameras.

This project has been an ongoing effort over the past few years, with support from Project Manager Earl Schaffer, Low Voltage Technicians Zane O’Neil and Ken Sheldrick,

and Electrical Technician Matt Schaffer. Our team greatly values our relationship with Physicians Mutual Insurance and looks forward to continuing this partnership in the future.



The roof of the Physicians Mutual Insurance building in Bellevue, NE

Des Moines Team Completes Work at Stivers Ford Service Center

Kurt Umthum – Project Manager | Des Moines, IA

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest's (CECM) team in Des Moines, IA, is nearing completion of the new state-of-the-art Stivers Ford Pro Elite Commercial Service Center in Waukee, IA.

The 36,000-square-foot project started with the collaboration and coordination of each group's design-build engineering team. This process completed final design in mid-2023, with construction commencing that fall. CECM started onsite work in September of 2023, with underground rough-in for site and interior of the building. This July, the CECM team completed the final stages as they prepared for turnover.

The Stivers Ford Pro Elite Commercial Service Center had its soft opening on July 19. The new facility aims to support businesses in Des Moines and surrounding areas by focusing on efficiency, advanced technology, and equipment. This project was envisioned to decrease downtime and increase productivity, allowing local businesses to better serve central Iowans.

The new state-of-the-art facility features 24 service bays for Class 1–7 commercial vehicles, an expanded parts department, storage area, and office space. This design is in line with the new Ford Pro Elite Commercial Service Center, which uses the newest



The CECM team at Stivers Ford Pro Elite Commercial Service Center

technology and equipment to maintain truck, heavy duty equipment, and van fleets.

The project was headed by both the CECM Electrical and Limited Energy (Low Voltage) Teams. The Electrical team was led by General Foreman Brian Neuenkirk and Project Manager Kurt Umthum. Their team of electricians did an excellent job adapting to the rapid pace of the job completing their scope of work involving—but not limited to—running conduit, feeders, poles, racks, and gear.

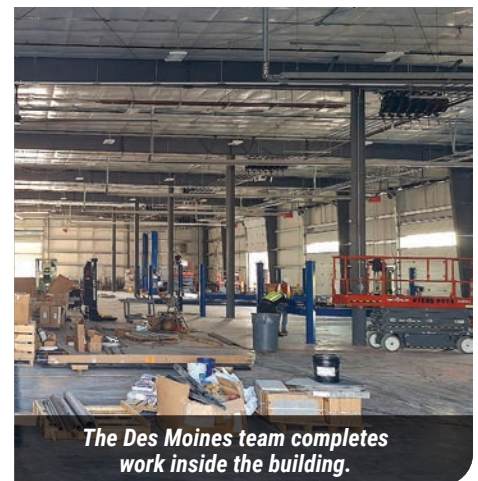
The Limited Energy team, comprised of Foreman Joe Schaff, Project

Manager Matt Sarcone, and their team of electricians, worked hard to install key systems such as the telecommunications, fire alarm, security, and paging systems. From rough-in to trim out, the CECM team was Committed to Excellence throughout this project. We are grateful and want to give credit to all our field staff for all the flexibility and hard work they put into making this a successful project.

We are proud to have been involved with this project and its benefits to our community. We also look forward to working with the Neumann Brothers and the Stivers Team on another successful project again in the future.



The Stivers Ford Pro Elite Commercial Service Center building in Waukee, IA



The Des Moines team completes work inside the building.

COMPANY EVENTS

Commonwealth Celebrates Intern Class of 2024

Alexandra Philipps – HR Generalist | Lincoln, NE



Commonwealth's Intern Class of 2024, along with their mentors and supervisors

The third annual Summer Summit was held on August 1 and 2 in Omaha, NE. Summer Summit gives our team an opportunity to celebrate our Intern Class of 2024 and highlight their contributions throughout the summer. On day one, interns were treated to a professional headshot taken by the Commonwealth Marketing team. After discussing our Commonwealth Cares initiative, our team engaged in a public service project and packed nearly 9,000 meals for Heartland Kids Against Hunger. After serving our community, we headed to TopGolf for dinner and fun.

On day two of Summer Summit, each intern had an opportunity to present about their summer experience. Interns talked about what they worked on this summer, what they learned, their key takeaways, and ideas to continue to improve the program. We then had a large group CliftonStrengths® session, where interns, supervisors, mentors, and the Executive Leadership Team had

an opportunity to invest in their own natural talents and embrace a growth mindset as we talked about strengths-based career development. We closed the Summit by hearing from keynote speaker Henry T. Buchanan who shared his personal experiences with career development and leadership.

Commonwealth welcomed 20 interns to our 2024 Summer Internship Program earlier this summer. During the kickoff event in May, interns were introduced to our Executive Leadership Team and teamed up with their mentors to play "Survey Says." It was a great way to kick off the summer experience!

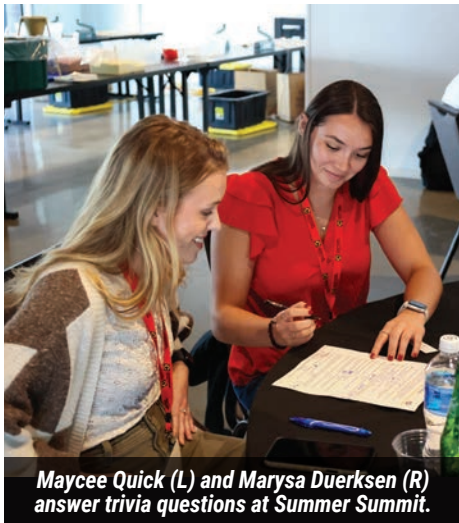
At Commonwealth, our goal is to develop young leaders through our internship program. We utilize CliftonStrengths® to provide our interns strengths-based career development opportunities. We want interns to understand and focus on what they do well and then work on emphasizing and developing those

strengths to become even more productive. Throughout the summer, interns completed four mini strengths activities and participated in two one-on-one coaching sessions with a Gallup Global Certified Strengths Coach.

This summer, we introduced a Monday MasterClass series to the program. Each week, different team members imparted substantive skills and



Senior Project Manager Dan Cahalan (R) shows Logan Katzer (L) and Rylie Steele (Center) around a jobsite.



Maycee Quick (L) and Marysa Duerksen (R) answer trivia questions at Summer Summit.



Project Manager Mike Tworek (L) accompanies Morgan Micek (Center) and Dylan Rejcha (R) on a site visit.



Elijah Ashbrook participates in the CliftonStrengths® session at Summer Summit.

knowledge of the areas they work in. Interns heard from professionals in the electrical field, as well as fields such as project management, estimating, marketing, engineering, and more. The goal of the MasterClass series was to give interns an opportunity to learn every aspect of Commonwealth and how we all work together to achieve success.

Throughout the summer, interns also received a weekly email which shared timely recognition for each intern and touched on CliftonStrengths®, our core values of Customers, Employees,

Character, and Mastery, and highlights from the summer experience. Our internship program aims to create a recognition-rich environment where interns are engaged and connected to our employee ownership culture.

In mid-July, our Midwest interns participated in a large group job site visit at Warhorse Casino in Lincoln, NE, where they had the opportunity to see the project’s progress. This visit allowed our interns to network with their peers and industry experts, all while gaining additional hands-on experience. The on-site project

manager, James Haake, did a great job of explaining the challenges faced during a project and shared insightful tips for interns to use as they move forward in their careers.

Thank you to our Intern Class of 2024 for being an integral part of our team! We appreciate your hard work, dedication, and positive energy. You have made a significant impact during your time with us, and we’re grateful to have had you as part of the Commonwealth team. Stay curious, stay hungry, and keep shining brightly. You are Powering Tomorrow!

2024 Summer Interns

Name	Department	Location	Supervisor
Carter Abels	Project Management	Grand Island, NE	Riley Fischer
Dylan Rejcha	Estimating	Lincoln, NE	Melissa Brown
Elijah Ashbrook	Information Technology	Lincoln, NE, Corporate	Steve Hernandez
Eli Dorsett	Project Management	Columbus, NE	Trey Burdick
Ethan Bodtke	Information Technology	Des Moines, IA	Steve Hernandez
Grant Barker	Project Management	Omaha, NE	John Randall
Grant Lewandowski	Engineering	Omaha, NE	Eric Hoge
Hayden Knickerbocker	Engineering	Lincoln, NE	Eric Hoge
Kameron Sorensen	Estimating	Lincoln, NE, Corporate	Brian Millard
Karley Kaiser	Project Management	Omaha, NE	Dan Maca
Lane Sullivan	Project Management	Des Moines, IA	Travis Powell
Logan Katzer	Project Management	Omaha, NE	Dan Cahalan
Maddox Baack	Accounting	Lincoln, NE, Corporate	Lisa Jamison
Marc Maquiling	Project Management	Phoenix, AZ	Celine Williams
Marysa Duerksen	Human Resources	Lincoln, NE, Corporate	Lindsay Selig
Maycee Quick	Marketing	Lincoln, NE, Corporate	Erin Stieren
Mitch Peabody	Project Management	Kearney, NE	Jacob Svoboda
Morgan Micek	Project Management	Lincoln, NE	Mike Tworek
Nishi Kant	Engineering/Programming	Omaha, NE	Eric Hoge
Rylie Steele	Project Management	Omaha, NE	Dan Cahalan

Ready for Takeoff: Corporate Estimating Hosts Estimating Training Class

Nick Manes – Project Estimator | Lincoln, NE

This June, participants from across the country converged in Lincoln, NE, to join Senior Project Estimator and Trainer Nick Page for a McCormick Estimating Software MasterClass. The second class of the year following a class at the Rydalch Electric, Inc. office in January, Page led a group of multi-faceted and diversely experienced individuals through the full estimating process of Commonwealth. All participants were able to build on their existing knowledge and experience, while honing their skills within the ever-evolving McCormick Software. For two weeks, the class drilled into past completed jobs while mastering how to estimate, following the Estimating Core Processes and Procedures.

As Commonwealth continues to develop and grow, these exercises and training opportunities bolster our commitment to excellence and our ability to provide our customers with the expertise and mastery that has come to be expected from the



L to R: Chris Watkins, Kameron Sorensen, Nicole Martinez, Jenae Frisch, Keith Marschel, Jacob Hancock, Nick Page, Richard Otteson

Commonwealth name. Continuing to develop our employees instills the confidence needed to maintain our continued efforts in taking on the challenging and complex projects we produce.

“Nick brings a level of expertise that cannot be undervalued,” said Corporate Estimator Chris Watkins. “Seeing the investment in the employees has been a great introduction to what Commonwealth stands for and their values.”

“The value of seeing these large-scale jobs come to fruition from start to finish while learning the estimating process is critical to the learning process and culture of the company,” said Corporate Estimating Manager Brian Millard. “Working on a practice exercise allows you to learn the ropes, but seeing the excitement of a team come together to produce quality work—and then be awarded the job—really instills the pride we have in being employee-owned, especially for someone new to the company.”

Des Moines Team Participates in Central Iowa Heart Walk

Michelle Kaldenberg – Accounting Specialist | Des Moines, IA

On Saturday, May 18, employees from our Des Moines, IA, location participated in the second annual Central Iowa Heart Walk, led by team captain Beth McQuiston. The walk was held at the Iowa State Capitol.

In addition to the 5k walk itself, the Heart Walk hosted several fun activities for kids, as well as great informational booths about other groups and events in the Des Moines area.

Our team walked alongside multiple other contractors, fostering connections within



Commonwealth employees, families, and friends attend the 2024 Central Iowa Heart Walk.

our industry and building morale and camaraderie within our own team, all while raising money and awareness for a great cause. Together, the Des Moines team of 24 employees—along with family and friends—raised nearly

\$1,000 for heart health research and initiatives.

We are looking forward to creating a team and walking for the cause again next year!

SAFETY UPDATES

Tucson Wins the 2024 Q1 Commonwealth Cup Award

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director | Omaha, NE

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Q1 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.

The numbers this quarter were especially close, with Tucson just beating out our locations in Lincoln, NE, and Omaha, NE.

In addition to winning the award, Robert “Bobby” Ervin and Rene Vallejo also won gift cards—congratulations to them both!

Bobby, a general foreman, has been a member of our team here at Commonwealth for 29 years. Renee



Robert Ervin (L) and Rene Vallejo (R)

is a foreman at our Tucson location, where she’s been with Commonwealth for 13 years.

Congratulations to the entire Tucson team—and to all our employees who made this quarter especially competitive. Keep up the great work!

Greater Nebraska Wins the 2024 Q2 Commonwealth Cup



L to R: Jake Gable, Cole Lewis, Landon Braithwait, Luke Simpson

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Q2 Commonwealth Cup: our team in Greater Nebraska!

A special congratulations to the two winners of our gift cards: Cole Lewis and Chris Graves!

Cole has been with Commonwealth just under a year and is preparing



L to R: Jake Gable, Landon Braithwait, Chris Graves, Luke Simpson, Eve Jacobson

to begin the first year of his electrical apprenticeship. Chris is a general foreman and has been at Commonwealth Electric for over 12 years.

Congratulations again to Cole, Chris, and the rest of our Greater Nebraska team. Thank you for your commitment to safety—and keep up the great work!

Rydalch Earns Top Safety Award from AGC Utah

Todd Longenecker – Safety Director | Omaha, NE



L to R: Jay Hoobler, Joe Hancock, Mark Rydalch, Tyler Wahlberg

We’re excited to announce that our team at Rydalch Electric, Inc. in Salt Lake City, UT, has been awarded the 2023 Diamond Award of Safety Excellence by the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Utah.

This accolade is the highest level of safety achievement a contractor can receive in the state of Utah. It is based on key safety metrics such as a company’s Experience Modification Rate, total man hours worked, and history of recordable injuries and workers’ compensation. To achieve the Diamond level, a company’s safety performance must have exceeded national safety standards by at least 50%.

Congratulations to the entire Rydalch Electric, Inc. team on this accomplishment. Thank you for your continued commitment to safety!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Tucson Adds Casa Grande Location

Jay Hoobler – Senior Vice President | Tucson, AZ

After working at Lucid Motors in Casa Grande, AZ, for about a year, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest’s (CECM) team in Tucson, AZ, became aware of the busy market in Pinal County. Casa Grande has become a hub for manufacturers and large distribution warehouses.

The area’s growth is evident, with Casa Grande and Maricopa ranking among the top 10 fastest-growing cities in the country in 2023. Along with this growing population comes the need for more schools, stores, services, hospitals, and more, which, in turn, translates into growth in the construction market.

The Casa Grande office is located a few minutes away from the Lucid Motors manufacturing plant where we currently have a team of 25. We have welcomed Business Development Manager Jon Holcombe, Project Manager Danny Spano, and General Foreman Joe Encinas to the CECM team—all three of whom live in the area and are well-connected to the Casa Grande/Maricopa market.

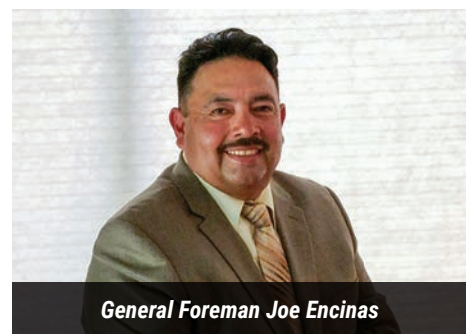
Jon, originally from Portland, OR, has lived in the Maricopa, AZ, area for 10 years. An IBEW graduate from Local 48, he transitioned from field work to Project Management, and eventually Account Management and Business Development. With 34 years of experience, including eight years at Graybar, Jon joined Commonwealth after working alongside our team at Lucid Motors in Casa Grande and falling in love with our company’s culture. In his role here, he wears many hats—from Operations to Business Development—to help the team and contribute to the location’s success. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, Mexico getaways, off-roading, bowling, and fires at his fire pit. “It is an honor to be here, and I sure appreciate the



L to R: Business Development Manager Jon Holcombe, Project Manager Danny Spano, Senior Vice President Jay Hoobler



CECM’s new office in Casa Grande, AZ



General Foreman Joe Encinas

opportunity Commonwealth has given me,” he said. “Looking forward to growing this branch with the help from the team.”

Danny, who was recruited to our team by Jon, is no stranger to the electrical field. He graduated from the IBEW Local Union 177 in Jacksonville, FL, in 2008, becoming a Journeyman Electrician and, later, a Senior VDC Technician, moving to Maricopa in 2011. Prior to joining our team, he spent 19 years at Miller Electric Company, being promoted to Project Manager in 2017. As a project manager, Danny works with customers to plan and execute projects. He also deals in team management and financials for various projects. Outside of work, he enjoys camping, boating, and fishing, as well as spending time with his family and dog, Charlie. “I’m

happy to be here and excited to help grow the Casa Grande office,” he said.

Joe, an Arizona native, has lived in Casa Grande for the last 16 years. He began working in the electrical field in 1992, with previous experience in machine maintenance, troubleshooting, and upholstery. His role here at Commonwealth involves managing projects and building a strong team, helping to establish our strong reputation in the area. He is active in community outreach and enjoys golfing, camping, traveling, and spending time with his grandkids. Joe has raised five kids, one of whom—his daughter—is now a Journeyman Electrician.

Welcome, Jon, Danny, and Joe! We look forward to having you on our team.

Greater Nebraska Gains Low Voltage Manager and Warehouse Coordinator

Eve Jacobson – Administrative Assistant | Columbus, NE



Kent Carstens (center) and his family

Kent Carstens joined the Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest (CECM) Greater Nebraska team in April 2024 as Low Voltage Manager. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Since then, he's worked at several manufacturing companies in the engineering field: mining coal and making washers and dryers, architectural-grade doors, countertops, vending equipment, mist sprayers, and medical devices.

Kent and his wife, Beth, live in Columbus, NE, with their three dogs. They have three children: Isaac (20), Molly (22), and Emily (24). Kent enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, and cheering on the Huskers.



Gene Darling (far left) and his family

Gene Darling joined the CECM Greater Nebraska team in June 2024 as a Warehouse Coordinator in Grand Island, NE, and Kearney, NE. His background is working in the automotive and diesel mechanic field as both a Parts Coordinator and a Shop Manager.

Gene and his wife, Keely, live in Ravenna, NE, with their dogs, Evo and Copper. They have six grown children and two grandsons: Kayden and Karsyn. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, as well as many outdoor activities including fishing, camping, hiking, kayaking, and traveling.

Welcome to the CECM team, Kent and Gene!

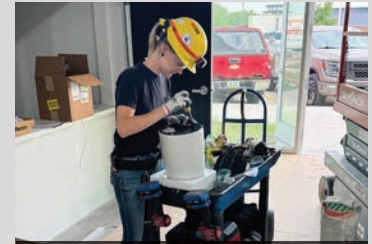
“ Commonwealth is people – not trucks, not locations, not buildings, but people working as a team, doing the best and most ethical work they can achieve.

– Thomas M. Price, Original Owner

”

Des Moines Employee Spotlight: Sadie Hopkey

Michelle Kaldenberg – Accounting Specialist | Des Moines, IA



Electrical Apprentice Sadie Hopkey

Congratulations to Sadie Hopkey, a second-year electrical apprentice at our location in Des Moines, IA, for winning this year's Apprentice Community Service Program!

The program, organized by the Des Moines Electrical Apprenticeship organization, recognizes apprentices who contribute at least 15 hours of community service to nonprofit organizations over the course of the year.

Over the past year, Sadie volunteered at numerous organizations, including the Young Women's Resource Center, the Central Iowa Apprenticeship Expo, and Norwalk High School's Career Night. She also played a key role in organizing the Union Hall's Christmas events, Easter egg hunt, St. Patrick's Day parade, Labor Day parade, annual picnic, and golf outing. She is also an active member of the Des Moines Electrical Apprenticeship Women's Committee and RENEW Committee.

Congratulations, Sadie, on this well-deserved award!

Committed to Excellence

CUSTOMERS | EMPLOYEES | CHARACTER | MASTERY



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