

# O'CONNELL ELECTRIC

*News and information for our employees, retirees, and friends*



**PROJECT EAGLE**  
**AMAZON DISTRIBUTION CENTER**



**2020**  
**SAFETY**  
**AWARDS**



# O'CONNELL ELECTRIC COMPANY

**Our strength as a full service  
electrical contractor is rooted  
in the diversity of our services**

## Corporate Headquarters

830 Phillips Road  
Victor, NY 14564  
585.924.2176

## Albany

2360 Maxon Road Ext.  
Schenectady, NY 12308  
518.346.0077

## Buffalo

20 Lancaster Parkway  
Lancaster, NY 14086  
716.675.9010

## Rochester

Power Group  
390 Systems Road  
Rochester, NY 14623  
585.424.3472

Construction Services  
400 Systems Road  
Rochester, NY 14623  
585.869.4630

## Syracuse

Hancock Airport  
7001 Performance Drive  
N. Syracuse, NY 13212  
315.437.1453



## Construction Services

- Building Information Modeling
- Prefabrication
- Design Build

Victor/Rochester  
brian.rittenhouse@oconnellelectric.com

Buffalo  
brad.keatley@oconnellelectric.com

Syracuse  
donald.coon@oconnellelectric.com

Albany  
tom.sauer@oconnellelectric.com

## Service and Maintenance

Victor/Rochester  
andrew.dohse@oconnellelectric.com

Syracuse  
david.coon@oconnellelectric.com

## Security Integration

Victor/Albany/Buffalo/Rochester  
rob.unger@oconnellelectric.com

Syracuse  
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## Power Group

michael.parkes@oconnellelectric.com

## Renewable Energy

- Solar
- Wind

Commercial Solar  
lane.young@oconnellelectric.com

Large Wind Projects  
tim.ehmann@oconnellelectric.com

## Communications

- Tele Data
- Fiber Optic
- Data Centers

Albany  
tom.sauer@oconnellelectric.com

Victor/Buffalo  
rob.unger@oconnellelectric.com

Syracuse  
joseph.duh@oconnellelectric.com

## Technical Services

- Preventative Maintenance
- Testing and Commissioning

Victor/Albany/Buffalo/Syracuse  
joe.leggo@oconnellelectric.com

## Temperature Control

Victor/Rochester  
craig.ramsdell@oconnellelectric.com

Syracuse  
donald.coon@oconnellelectric.com

## Natural Gas

robert.acquilano@oconnellelectric.com

## Transportation

- Airport
- Bridge
- Highway

richard.maher@oconnellelectric.com

[www.oconnellelectric.com](http://www.oconnellelectric.com)



## ON THE COVER

Our crew working hard at the start of the Amazon Distribution Center Construction in July 2020.

Check out the full story on page 12!

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This newsletter is a publication of O'Connell Electric Company, Inc. For comments, inquiries, or to be added to our mailing list, email [john.miller@oconnellelectric.com](mailto:john.miller@oconnellelectric.com)

A MESSAGE FROM



**Vic Salerno**  
CEO & Co-Chairman

Well it is a pleasure to report that in spite of the evil COVID 19 and the problems it has created, O'Connell is having an outstanding year. I would like to thank all of you for adhering to all of our safety protocols and to note that they are obviously working. GREAT JOB.

As we are now at the midpoint of our fiscal year I am predicting that with our outstanding workforce at all levels and our loyal customer base that our sales will be in the \$350 to \$400 million dollar range. Who would have dreamed that when Walt and I joined forces in 1971 that we would be at these levels. It has been a "TEAM" effort from all levels of leadership. What an outstanding company we have and what a great journey over the decades.

I would like to mention that with our continued growth we have several open positions that we are trying to fill in all our offices. One of the best ways to accomplish this is referrals from the existing workforce. If any of you know of anyone you think would be a good fit please mention it to them. It would be very much appreciated. I can't think of a better place to work.

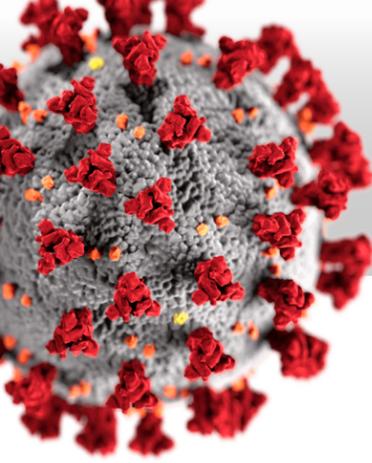
Much of this newsletter is devoted to safety practices and safety recognitions. We know our customers consider safety very critical to their operations and we are totally committed to doing everything in our power to run the safest projects in the construction industry. I do not know any contractors that invest anywhere near the resources we do and you have our assurances that this strategy will continue into the future. To all our employees, please do everything you can to keep safety as a "NUMBER ONE" priority.

Finally as you can see from this publication, we have many complex high profile projects we are working on. Please do not hesitate to share this newsletter with your friends, families, customers and potential customers.

Thank you,

Follow us online. | Submit your photos & news to be shared on our social media sites.





# TAKING ON THE CORONAVIRUS

**It's been a long year! When we ushered 2020 in with celebrations and the excitement of future ambitions, it's safe to assume folks weren't making resolutions to stave off a new virus, avoid human contact and wear a mask for the next 12 months – yet here we are.**

COVID-19 rocked the world and our great Country. At O'Connell, we're fortunate enough to be serving an industry critical to the safety and well-being of our citizens and communities – power. Our training, skills and abilities have never been more recognized as essential than throughout 2020. When New York State got the orders to shut down, and NY City was being quarantined, our operations teams were fielding calls by the minute making sure we would still be working and could handle this pandemic. And we did. Our workforce stepped up and answered the call.

It wasn't easy though. O'Connell's response to COVID-19 required quick action, critical thinking, and an enormous team effort. Our pandemic response actions started in early February before any of us had a clear understanding of the virus and how it would change our Country. At the time in February, we dug out and dusted off our Uniform Pandemic Response Plan, and began to update it with current names, locations, and actions we would take in the event that there became a need. Fast forward seven months, and that eight-page document grew to 69 pages and has become all-inclusive and dynamic.

Each of our Operating Divisions were tasked to develop business continuity plans, in the event that we were impacted by what was seemingly on the horizon. These plans would help us internally as well as make commitments and bring clarity to customers about how we would respond and what they could expect. They became critical to our day-to-day workings when April, May and June came to pass.

Over several months beginning in mid-March we developed and tweaked our COVID-19 Hazard Assessment Matrix that follows nearly every task we perform on various types of jobs and applies COVID-19 protection practices into each of those tasks. This matrix has remained extremely dynamic. As states and customers changed expectations, requirements and best practices, we too made changes to our matrix. What started as a 14-page document is now a 23-page document. Along the way, we continued to review and receive corresponding approval from our government, utility and private customers with many accolades as well.

It was also our goal from the onset to keep all of our Employees informed as to what we were doing to respond to the COVID-19 situation. This is not an easy task with over 800 employees to efficiently and effectively communicate with. In the very beginning, we were hosting calls every-other day with our Operations Leadership Team, Executive Team and Safety Team all on one call. Simultaneously, we would release memorandums

that covered updates, protocols and processes that were designed to protect all of us from COVID-19. Our state and Nation were changing plans daily and adding and removing guidance and expectations. Keeping up was a real chore.

Soon we realized that memorandums posted on our website and emailed to our employees was not enough. In late March we began hosting divisional and office conference calls with all employees to provide important updates and live Q&A sessions. These calls were very beneficial.

As memorandums were released, we added each one into the appendix of our original COVID-19 Uniform Response Plan. We included in that appendix various critical documents that New York State released for guidance as well.

Behind the scenes, our Payroll Team was busy developing custom time sheets to track employees we were forced to furlough due to job shutdowns. Our Procurement Team worked tirelessly getting their hands on every bit of PPE, disinfecting wipes and spray as possible. Our Fleet Team worked to ensure that any vehicles or equipment that needed to be parked was also accounted for and secured. Our Accounts Receivable Team worked diligently ensuring we were current in all billings and were getting invoices out the door. Our Marketing Team burned the midnight oil putting together proposal requests for COVID-related healthcare projects across the state. We had to qualify our capabilities, provide manpower support and operation plans to customers with less than a 24-hour turnaround in many cases. Our IT Team went from a typical work week to supporting a couple hundred employees working from home in less than a few days due to nearly full office closures. This was truly an enterprise-wide, full on O'Connell Team effort.

Our work is not done yet. Much of what we began in early February remains in place today. We are settling into the new COVID-19 normal. We have developed strong processes and protocols that have kept our entire O'Connell Team healthy and safe. We are proud to say we have not been impacted to the degree that so many others have been.

We will continue with our daily health assessment protocols to all employees every workday and continue to educate as we learn more. Most of all, thanks and recognition go to our valued employees, each and every one of you, for working through all of the challenges and demands that we have had to face. You have been wonderful and the reward for your perseverance is our individual health and wellbeing.

It's not over by a long shot, but we'll make it through this. Stay safe.

## What do you do when a pandemic nearly shuts down global sourcing of PPE and construction materials?



*Paul*  
Paul Iorio  
General Manager  
Procurement Services

**Iorio and the Procurement Team were faced with an exhausting challenge to keep our employees safe and our job sites supplied with needed materials.**

**When the pandemic first started to gain momentum in the US, I don't think anyone understood the real magnitude of what it was going to become or how long it was going to last.** At first, we were buying some initial supplies as they were being requested. Once we understood the danger and reach that the pandemic was going to have, we quickly realized that we were going to be scrambling for supplies that, some of which, we had not purchased before and in large quantities from some suppliers that we had not purchased from before. This, all the while trying to obtain these supplies from sources whose inventory quantities were ever changing.

**One of the key challenges was that no one had ever experienced anything like this and because of this, everyone was urgently trying to buy whatever supplies they could get.** We were unable to stick with traditional purchasing methods and practices, in addition to the suppliers and inventory that we historically utilized or expected. It was sort of like the movie *Groundhog Day* in that every day we were starting from scratch. The supplier that had stock one day, did not have it the next day or in the quantities required.

Additionally, we could not simply purchase from our normal group of suppliers because they were having inventory issues as well. Now we had to buy from any suppliers that we could secure product from, some of which we had no history with.

**Very quickly, we realized that we needed to buy in larger quantities when we were able to in order to relieve the need to continually purchase more product and stay further ahead of the demand.** We also determined that we would keep a centralized master stock in addition to the stock being held at each one of the offices.

We sought out alternate products when some were more scarce such as buying disinfectant sprays when wipes were unavailable or reusable face masks when disposable masks were less available. We also formed a committee of those managing the stock at each of the offices along with Procurement to further ensure we had what we needed when we needed it.

What we learned from our experience during the pandemic was how to quickly get organized, to have multiple plans in place in case some do not work and that solid communication and collaboration is essential.

**Most important, we learned that our team was ready for the challenge.** We are in an essential industry and everyone realized how dire the situation was going to be. We stepped up and full-on accepted the challenge. I could not be more proud of our team.

# WE ARE OCE STRONG



## 2020 SAFETY AWARDS

2020 has brought about many new challenges on its own, life is different, day to day activities have changed, our patience has been tried, and tensions are high. We're facing fear, distrust, lack of understanding, and countless distractions, yet amid all of this turmoil our steadfast safety culture and leadership have remained strong and helped us navigate these difficult days, weeks, and months.

We remain devoted to performing our jobs as essential workers as safely and productively as possible. COVID-19 forced us to change our annual safety picnic plans, but we refused to let it affect our Annual Safety Awards. It is just as important, now more than ever, that we recognize individuals who continue to rise above in creating and promoting safety awareness.

We are proud to acknowledge these coworkers that have been recognized by their peers as leaders of our safety culture at O'Connell Electric and share with you their stories.



### Jeff Matthews, Foreman - LU 86

Although Jeff has not had a heroic action or been on the front line in any great emergency, his unwavering dedication to safety while running a long-standing project at the HP Hood facility should be recognized.

Jeff is an advocate for safety and planning on his job site every day. He leads a great tailboard in the morning and always plans out high-risk work to limit the chance of injury. Jeff and his team have performed some of the most intricate cable pulls through cable tray at heights exceeding 35-40 feet at times without incident. His focus on detail for medium voltage safety and work practices is up there with some of our best Testing Technicians. Additionally, Jeff is not afraid to call and ask for help when needed.

*A person who recognizes their strengths and weakness and knows when to ask for help sets the tone for good safety leadership.*

Jeff has had countless apprentices work for him during his tenure at the HP Hood facility. All of the apprentices have complimented Jeff for taking time to teach them about the trade and how to work safely while learning their skilled craft.

Jeff is never afraid to admit when he has made a mistake or could have performed a task better. He is always willing to discuss an experience that he learned on a project. He is an active supporter of Good Catches and Near Misses reporting. He compliments his workers for pulling out bad equipment when found. He reports near misses when at times he may be putting himself under added scrutiny for reporting.

Jeff's leadership and consistency being an exemplary steward of our safety culture certainly qualifies him to be recognized with an award for Safety Excellence.



### Larry Cardinale, Foreman - LU 41

It is rare that an employee is able to make an impact across several divisions of the Company. Although, this year we've seen it happen on the Cashless Tolls Project with Foreman, Larry Cardinale. The project is very high risk and includes working on and over the New York State Thruway lanes of traffic. It spans the entire Thruway, with 23 locations from just north of New York City to the east all the way to the border of Pennsylvania in the west. With several locations to be built, and all with common equipment and construction procedures, it made sense to use one Foreman to travel to as many of the locations as possible as construction progressed. This would allow the Foreman to take what he had learned and pass it along to other divisions, keeping all of the 23 sites productive and safe.

*Larry displayed a genuine concern for his teams and continued to find ways to make the sites safe as conditions changed.*

Larry was selected early in the project to begin working at the first site in Buffalo. He recognized the risks of working near and over traffic, and the potential of a devastating event that could occur if every step of the project was not properly planned and implemented. In an effort to ensure the safety of his team, Larry immediately began working with his regional Safety Coordinator. A thorough walk down of the site and some collaboration between Foreman and Safety led to new and better equipment being placed on the sites to assist the crew in avoiding a catastrophic event. Construction at the first site went as planned, and much was learned without any incidents.

As the first site was nearing completion, it was determined to have Larry travel to other sites that were beginning construction to share what he had learned, offer advice on work methods, and to assist in implementing the safety procedures that made the first site successful. Larry traveled to the Albany region and began working with the crews on site. From there, he traveled to Syracuse and completed multiple sites. It was through these travels that the extraordinary traits that make Larry successful were displayed in other regions.

Larry's strong communication skills and planning have been an asset at every location he supported. He engaged his team to identify hazards and led the group in finding ways to manage them. His tailboards were excellent, and he took the needed time to teach his apprentices the value of safety along with excellent craftsmanship. His attitude is always positive making him a joy to be around, despite him being away from home. He was admired by his crews, as well as the Safety Coordinators he worked with across the state for his leadership and communication skills.

We have no doubt Larry's leadership and safety attitude has rubbed off on many of our apprentices and journeymen he's worked with while supporting the Cashless Tolls Project. He is well deserving of our annual award for Safety Excellence.



*Handing out these safety awards is one of my favorite things to do. These individuals are the epitome of our safety culture and well deserving of this accolade. They're not just meeting our standards, they are exceeding them consistently which is why they were chosen to be recognized by their peers. We have many great crafts men and women working for us building and enforcing our culture every day on the job. I encourage everyone to keep up the great work. Stay safe out there.*

~ Tom Parkes, President & COO

Pictured above: Tom Parkes speaks to employees at the awards presentation in September. With Tom are (middle) Jeff Harter, Testing Technician, LU 86 and (right) Jason Stanley, GF for the Power Group, LU 1249. Both co-chair the Field Safety Committee.

# OCE SAFETY MOMENT

FROM DAN OBERLIES - DIRECTOR OF SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT



**Chad Anderson, Testing Technician - LU 86**

**Dale Kersch, Testing Technician - LU 41**

Chad and Dale's dedication to safety and their devotion to doing the right thing at all times was put to the test, as we all know it can from time to time in this industry. The following situation is a perfect example of how a near miss could have been much worse, thankfully Chad and Dale followed proper procedures and donned all appropriate PPE.

At the HP Hood plant in Batavia NY, our technicians experienced a breaker failure while racking a new breaker into an existing cell. The cell was previously rewired, a protective relay added, and the breaker was tested. The breaker was installed into the cell and the breaker door was closed and bolted.

Chad and Dale donned all appropriate PPE and racked the breaker into the test position to perform functional checks. When testing was completed, they attempted to rack the breaker into the connected position. When the breaker contacted the bus, it faulted. Chad and Dale immediately called their Project Manager and the Relay Technician that had just left the site.



*This is the type of incident that we study and read about. Were it not for these two gentlemen making the right decisions, wearing all of their PPE and devoting themselves to being leaders in our safety culture this scenario could have ended very differently.*

After extensive investigation a specific reason could not be determined for why this breaker faulted when being drawn into the cell. A burnt spring was discovered in the bottom of the cell which was part of the secondary contact mechanism and was presumed to be the cause of the fault although, there was no "smoking gun."

In our industry, there is no place for complacency. We applaud Chad and Dale's craftsmanship and safety mindset. They set an excellent example of following proper procedures and donning their PPE to complete tasks when needed. Both are deserving of our annual award for Safety Excellence.

## WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN SAFETY!

In the last few months, we have added additional members to our Safety Team, we have invested in our Safety Audit process and application, we will soon be launching a Safety Perception Survey and we have enhanced our Electrical Safety Awareness and High Voltage Awareness training. All of these activities, and many others, bring increased value and focus on keeping our employees safe and healthy every day.

The investment that each field employee commits cannot go unrecognized. In addition to the time invested in tailboard meetings and our Stretch & Flex program, our employees invest personal time, energy and effort all day, every day by following safe work practices to assure they return home safely.

**So what do we get for this investment?** We enjoy a work environment largely free of hazards, and those that are identified are mitigated by safe work practices and safety barriers. We enjoy a safety culture that encourages and makes it OK to speak up when something is not safe or stop work if that becomes necessary. We have the pride of being the best safety-trained professional team in our industry.

Our safety culture, safety practices and safety results turn into customer value. Our customers can rest assured that our commitment to safety means a safer worksite and better craftsmanship than other companies will deliver. They know that the results we have achieved as reflected in our OSHA Rates, EMR and DOT rating prove that we are the leader in our industry when it comes to safety. No matter the price, this puts our customers at ease.

We invest in safety because safety brings value. The greatest value is the protection of the lives of our employees, customers and the general public. The quantifiable value comes in the form of increased business, lower insurance rates and the ability to reinvest in our safety culture. Make no mistake, investing in safety has the greatest return when our employees embrace safety and live our safety culture every day.

Thank you for all you do each day to make O'Connell Electric the safety leader in our industry, keeping our employees safe!



**Dan Oberlies, CUSP, ARM**  
Director of Safety and Risk Management



## SAFETY SHOUTOUT



During the peak of COVID-19 cases in the Rochester region our crew at Rochester General Hospital was asked to perform work on the designated COVID-19 Wing. Dave Hartman and Zach Sprague diligently wore PPE that wasn't always comfortable, sanitized and worked with healthcare workers to ensure that not only they were protected but all patients being treated were not in jeopardy from the work OCE was performing. Dave and Zach went above and beyond just showing up to work during a time of such uncertainty to ensure the newly developed wing had means to operate and care for the patients being treated.

*Submitted by Brian Chamberlain, Safety Coordinator*

# SAFETY TEAM UPDATES

Our Safety Team has grown significantly over the past few years. Each addition has helped O'Connell Electric maintain the highest level of safety support seen by any contractor in Upstate New York. In addition to growing our team, O'Connell strives to be the most competent and qualified safety professionals possible. Through continued education, OCE is able to build on their already strong knowledgeable base and offer the best support to our crews in the field. Similar to many professions, various certifications achieved by safety professionals serve as a measure of knowledge, service and commitment to their trade.



**Brian Chamberlain**  
Safety Coordinator, Rochester and Buffalo

Received his Construction Health and Safety Technician Certification.



**Zach Presley**  
Safety Coordinator, Albany

Received his Associate Safety Professional Certification and Certified Safety Professional.



**Todd Forman**  
Safety Coordinator, Syracuse

Received his Graduate Safety Practitioner credentials.



**Matt Yonts**  
Senior Safety Supervisor, Syracuse

Completed his OSHA Certification for Construction Health and Safety Specialist.



## IMPORTANCE OF DAILY VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT

By DeAnna Darling, Fleet Compliance Assistant

The Daily Vehicle Inspection Report, or DVIR, is exactly what it sounds like: A daily inspection of a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) before and after it is used – in more technical terms, a Pre and Post Trip Inspection. A CMV is any vehicle used on a highway for commerce that weighs 10,001 pounds or more or has a combination weight (truck and trailer) of over 10,001 pounds, transports hazardous materials, or transports more than 15 passengers.

The report itself is a form that includes an itemized list of check points related to multiple systems including but not limited to the brake and air system, steering mechanism, lights and reflectors, tires and rims, windshield and wipers, mirrors, coupling equipment, and safety and emergency equipment. If a defect is observed, it must be marked on the report. If the defect is serious enough to interfere with immediate safe operation of the vehicle, it must be tagged as "Out of Service" and repaired before use. Once repaired, the report must be signed off by the driver or repairing facility.

The completed reports must include the carrier's name and address, the vehicle/equipment number, date, mileage, and the driver's signature. They must ultimately be returned to the Fleet Compliance Department in Victor to be monitored for completion and stored onsite for three months before they can be disposed.

While O'Connell Electric recommends daily inspections on all vehicles and equipment, both commercial and non-commercial, the Daily Vehicle Inspection Reports are a legal requirement for CMVs, not simply corporate best practices. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has outlined strict guidelines for motor carriers to adhere to which aim to improve safe travel on our roadways.

One checkpoint that is not on a written DVIR but will be a hefty violation is: *Does the driver have the proper qualification to operate this vehicle or combination load?* Each state's Department of Transportation audits carrier compliance by setting up random DOT inspection stations which can involve an inspection of the driver, vehicle, or both.

These DOT inspection stations are mandatory to pull through even though the driver might not be flagged to stop for an inspection. If a driver continues on a highway without first entering the inspection station, he or she will receive a ticket on their personal driving record and the motor carrier will receive a DOT violation.

Typically, a daily vehicle inspection will catch a potential DOT violation and creates a culture of preventative maintenance – repairing before a unit fails, as opposed to reactive maintenance – repairing a unit after failure. Many, if not all, violations could be prevented with a thorough daily vehicle inspection. Small defects such as lights not working, tires not properly inflated, and poor windshield wipers can be resolved before or after a trip depending on when it is observed. What seems like a small problem one day can turn into a bigger, more expensive problem in just a few days' time. By performing daily vehicle inspections, our drivers are not only completing a legal obligation, but are minimizing exposure on the roadway, reducing avoidable repair expenses and participating in O'Connell's culture of safety.

The form is titled "DRIVER'S VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT" and includes fields for CARRIER, ADDRESS, DATE, and TIME. It features a detailed checklist under "TRACTOR/TRUCK NO." and "TRAILER(S) NO.(S)" with categories like ODOMETER READING, Front Axle, Fuel Tanks, Horn, Lights, Head/Stop, Tail/Dash, Turn Indicators, Clearance/Marker, Mirrors, Oil Pressure, Radiator, Rear End, Reflectors, and Fluid Levels. It also includes checkboxes for Safety Equipment, Fire Extinguisher, Flags/Flares/Fuses, Reflective Triangles, Spare Bulbs and Fuses, Spare Seal Beam, Starter, Steering, Suspension System, Tire Chains, Tires, Transmission, Trip Recorder, Wheels and Rims, Windows, Windshield Wipers, and Other. At the bottom, there are signature lines for the driver and mechanic, and checkboxes for "CONDITION OF THE ABOVE VEHICLE IS SATISFACTORY" and "ABOVE DEFECTS CORRECTED".

Pictured above is the form OCE and other companies use to complete their Daily Vehicle Inspection Reports.



## NEWEST SAFETY TEAM MEMBERS



**Todd Forman**

Todd started in April 2020 and serves as a Safety Coordinator for the Syracuse Office. He recently achieved his Graduate Safety Practitioner credentials which starts his path towards being a Certified Safety Professional.



**Andrew Giordonello**

Andrew started in July 2020 and serves as a Safety Coordinator in Syracuse for the Power Group. He has received certifications in Construction Health and Safety Technician, Occupational Hygiene and Safety Technician, and Safety Management Specialist. In the upcoming year, he will sit for his Certified Instructional Trainer and Safety Trained Supervisor Construction exams.

# AMAZON DISTRIBUTION CENTER

By the time you read this, the building will be just over fifty percent framed, while trades men and women continue work on every floor. That's how fast construction is moving along at this massive 4.2-million-square-foot distribution center Amazon is developing.

When it's built, the new warehouse will be one of the largest of its kind in the world.

Construction began in early March at the former site of the Liverpool Public Golf and Country Club. Little remains of the 111-acre golf course, which operated for 73 years.

It will be one of Amazon's most automated distribution centers. The online retail giant claims it will utilize the latest in robotic technology and serve the entire Upstate New York area and bordering states.

O'Connell Electric was awarded a record-setting contract for one of the largest inside electrical construction projects in the company's history.



When construction is complete in August 2021, the facility will contain the latest in merchandise-moving technology, with ten miles of conveyor belts and hundreds of robots working alongside people.

Most of the jobs will entail placing products on storage pods, pulling them from the pods to fill a customer order and packaging them. Robotic drivers will move the pods where they need to be. The human workers will stand at stations throughout the center while the robots do the running around.

An Amazon spokesperson said the center will package small consumer items such as books, electronics, household goods and toys, and then ship them to other Amazon facilities, where they will be sorted for delivery to customers throughout Upstate New York and bordering states.



Construction is being executed on all five floors consecutively. Our scope consists of:

HV Distribution including:

- 34.5kV distribution served from the 115kV/34.5kV high lines north of the project site
- Four 34.5kV underground branch circuits will serve the facility, one circuit per main service
- The four main services are 4000A, 480V, 3-phase, 4-wire
- The electrical site consists of:
  - 14 sections; 38kV HV distribution switchgear
  - 11,000 ft. of underground primary conduit, 33,000 ft. of 34.5kV cable
  - Four 2.5 MW transformers
  - Underground grounding system
  - One 750kW generator and one 275kW generator with associated automatic transfer switches
  - Underground service for two guard houses
  - Underground service to a pump house
  - 119 pole light assemblies
  - Four monument entrance signs

Facility electrical systems including:

- Under slab distribution system made up of over 60,000-linear-feet of conduit with feeders
- Temporary power
- Four main service electric rooms
- UPS system
- Multiple power distribution centers throughout the facility
- Main distribution frame room with 27 intermediate distribution frame rooms.
- 12,000 interior light fixture assemblies
- Lighting control system
- Fire alarm system
- Electrical serving workstations for packaging systems on multiple floors
- Electrical serving robotic charging stations
- Lightning protection system
- Electrical serving mechanical systems
- Raceway systems for low voltage systems
- Electrical serving material handling system



JULY 2020

**DIVISION:** Syracuse Construction  
Don Coon, Vice President, Syracuse Operations

**SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER:** Steven Briem

**JUNIOR PROJECT MANAGER:** Andrew Spring

**FOREMEN:** Andy Schaffner, LU 43  
Jake Kelly, LU 43  
Mike Halko, LU 43

**SUPPORTING TEAMS:** Construction Services Group  
Technical Services Group

*It's from the hard work and craftsmanship our IBEW workforce brings to the job site every day that we are able to support projects of such magnitude in our communities. Keep up the great work and continue to be safe.*

~ Tom Parkes, President and COO



AUGUST 2020

# RENEWABLE ENERGY

## POINT OF INTERCONNECT & TRANSMISSION FOR LARGE WIND DEVELOPMENT

### CASSADAGA

The Cassadaga Wind Project is a 125.5 MW wind farm located in the Towns of Charlotte and Cherry Creek in Chautauqua County, NY. The project will be located primarily on agricultural and recreational land and will include 37 turbines (126-megawatts) when completed. The project's point of interconnection is National Grid's 115kV lines 161 and 162 near the existing Moon Road substation in the Town of Stockton. Once built, the project will generate sufficient clean energy to power over 51,000 homes.

**DIVISION:** Power Group - Substation / T&D, Technical Services

**PROJECT MANAGERS:** Tim Ehmann - Substation/POI; Trey Theobald - Transmission;

John Sargent - Senior Electrical Engineer; Brad Hartford - Technical Services

**FOREMEN:** Mark Brunner, LU 86; Steve Dunbar, LU 1249



### ROARING BROOK

The Roaring Brook Wind Power Project is located in the Town of Martinsburg, in Lewis County, NY. The project includes the construction and operation of twenty, 2 – 4.5MW wind turbines located on approximately 5,280 acres of private land.

Associated electrical facilities include approximately 70,000 circuit feet of underground 35kV collection, seven miles of 35kV double circuit overhead collection and a substation with interconnection to National Grid Chases Lake through the existing Maple Ridge POI. In addition there is a complete fiber optic backbone installed through the entire park for SCADA and communication.

**DIVISION:** Power Group - Substation / T&D, Communications, Technical Services

**PROJECT MANAGERS:** Michael Parkes - Substation/OH Collection; Doug Marolf - UG Collection;

Dave D'Ettorre - Fiber Optics/SCADA; Cassidy Kelley - Testing/Commissioning

**FOREMEN:** John Fox, LU 43; Tim Kehoe, LU 1249; Tom Stewart, LU 1249; Scott Precourt, LU 43;

Don Maybee, LU 910; Rich Belcastro, LU 910



# NY STATE CASHLESS TOLLS

A \$355.3 million investment will transform the Thruway system for approximately 267 million motorists that travel the superhighway each year. The Thruway Authority is modernizing its 570-mile transportation system by converting to cashless tolling. Cashless tolling reduces congestion, improves traffic flow, is better for the environment, and allows for non-stop travel on New York's toll roads, bridges and tunnels.

In total, 70 gantries will be installed on the Thruway's 570-mile ticketed system by the end of 2020. Gantries will be built with approximately 3.5 million pounds of 100 percent American-made steel and hundreds of New York workers in accordance to the "New York Buy American" Act.

A consortium of contractors have been performing work in each of the four Thruway Maintenance Divisions; New York, Albany, Syracuse, and Buffalo. During the peak activity of the project, there has been a workforce of more than 800 engaged staff spread along the I-87 and I-90 corridors, spanning 18 counties.

When cashless tolling is operational and all toll booths are removed, motorists will drive seamlessly under gantries with state-of-the-art sensors and cameras that read E-ZPass tags and take license plate images, so vehicles no longer have to stop to pay tolls.

There will be more than 2,000 state-of-the-art cameras affixed to the gantries when completed.

Following the conversion to cashless tolling, the existing toll plazas and barriers will be removed in phases. During the deconstruction phase, drivers will continue to travel through existing toll lanes at reduced speeds without stopping until the booths are removed and road reconfigurations are complete.



***"This project was literally spread from one end of the state to the other, working both day and night shifts as directed by the NYSTA. I can't say enough about the support that we received from all offices and how, in my opinion, this project is a perfect example of how strong OCE can be when everyone works together. Thank you all for the help."***  
 ~ Chris Wall, Project Manager

**DIVISIONS:** Buffalo Construction with support from Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany

**PROJECT MANAGERS:** Chris Wall - Buffalo; Paul Galarneau - Albany; Shanise Benz - Syracuse

**FOREMEN:** Larry Cardinale, LU 41; Bob Hoffman, LU 41; Justin Johns, LU 41; Scott Guerra, LU 41; John Harrison, LU 236; Gary Richards, LU 236; Andy Gadek, LU 43

# From Prefab to the Field

Updates from our Construction Services Team



(Left) Ken Hotchkiss setting up the welding table for the next project. (Right) Apprentice Luis Cartagena threading conduit for the Willard Day Treatment Project.



(Left) Panel, transformer and panel equipment awaiting panel interiors and transformer wiring for the Amazon Project. (Right) Jeff Veers and Dave Wilkins assembling inmate radios for the Auburn Correctional Facility.



(Left) CW Adam West and Apprentice Curtis St. Rose assembling power outlet assemblies for a Data Center. (Right) Our Construction Services Team tackling a lot of work together in our collaboration room: Rob Sampson, Matt Hickman, Brian Cass and JohnL Gordon.



# FROM THE FIELD

Send us your pictures to be featured on LinkedIn, Facebook and in our newsletter!



### Tropical Storm Isaias

OCE storm response crews in Connecticut helping repair damage from the storm in August.

More than 715,000 residents were without power.



### Water Tower in the Finger Lakes Region

Nate Yacuzzo, LU 840, taking advantage of the beautiful Finger Lakes view while making upgrades and changing out old conduit on a water tower.



### Rochester, NY Billboard

OCE was featured on the newest digital billboard after doing the electrical work on I-490W, downtown Rochester.

Special thanks to Sky Lights Signs!



### Crew at General Mills, Buffalo NY

We're never too old or too cool to stop and pose with some iconic cereal characters! Kevin Weir, Dave Peters, Matt Lycett and Jason Kosiak, all LU 41, stand in front of the General Mills mural at the Buffalo facility. Keep up the great work!



## OFFICE CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

PICTURED ABOVE ARE A FEW RECENT UPDATES OF OUR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

COVID set us back a little this year with our capital improvement projects, but our employees and contractors handled it well. At headquarters, nearly all phases are complete at this time and everyone is moved into their respective offices. Our project management areas are complete and occupied for Technical Services, Communications, and our Service Team. We also now have a Marketing suite, Engineering suite and IT suite all occupied, allowing our teams greater opportunities to communicate and collaborate. We have expanded our main kitchen as well, allowing greater access and comfort for food and break amenities. Upstairs, we also have a newly remodeled training room ready for action.

It's getting exciting in our Buffalo office as well. Plans have been submitted to the town for final approval to start construction for finishing offices on our second floor of the new facility we built only a few years ago. The new space will allow more room and better access for members of our Power Group, Technical Services and Safety Teams. The Buffalo Construction Group will soon expand on the first floor when three offices become available. Walkthroughs with the General Contractors have been completed and we are expecting quotes back by middle of October with an immediate start.



**O'Connell was selected to receive the prestigious Project Excellence Award from the National Electrical Contractors Association for a third consecutive year.**

**Gardenville Substation was chosen for the substation category.**

To showcase the exceptional work performed by member contractors across the country, NECA created the Project Excellence Awards to recognize companies for their outstanding commitment, professionalism and ingenuity in delivering electrical projects across twelve different market sectors.

Gardenville is one of O'Connell's largest substation projects to date. We served as the prime contractor for a 115 kV station rebuild in Western New York. The station handles about one third of the Buffalo metro area's power, including major customers such as Ford and Tesla.

The project consisted of full site development; including environmental controls, site work, approximately 500 foundations, 38 large diameter caissons for T-line structures and a new control building.

Due to the size and scope of this project in the Western New York region, it was considered very high profile. Executives and senior managers from National Grid visited the site several times. Our General Foreman and the project team received numerous commendations for our quality of work and safety program.

The project took 18 months to complete and was still finished six months ahead of schedule. Not including subcontractors, O'Connell's labor force accumulated over 80,000-man hours of work.



**O'CONNELL  
ELECTRIC COMPANY**



**Mary Parkes Center  
for Asthma, Allergy, and  
Pulmonary Care**

A multi-disciplinary center serving adults and children

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT THE MARY PARKES CENTER FOR ASTHMA, ALLERGY AND PULMONARY CARE

Dear O'Connell "Family" & Friends,

Our world has dramatically changed since March of this year for all of us. First and foremost, I hope this message finds you and your families doing well, staying safe, and healthy during these continuing unprecedented times. This year has profoundly disrupted and touched each of our lives in ways that we could never have anticipated or imagined.

The 25th Annual JBX Golf Tournament which had been scheduled for September 10, 2020, did not take place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision was not made easily, but was made with utmost care and concern for our participants, volunteers, staff, businesses and our community as a whole.

The incredible generosity and support of our sponsors and participants throughout the years has enabled the tournament to benefit The Mary Parkes Center for Asthma, Allergy and Pulmonary Care at the University of Rochester Medical Center tremendously. The continued need to support the important priority of protecting and advancing the health and well-being of our patients, providers, employees, and community members is more important than ever. Please take a moment and visit the Center's website <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/mary-parkes.aspx> to learn more about the Mary Parkes Center and consider offering support as you are able.

We sincerely missed each and every one of you this year and we definitely look forward to seeing you at next year's tournament to benefit The Mary Parkes Center for Asthma, Allergy and Pulmonary Care. Despite the unimaginable losses during these times; let us remember there has also been remarkable moments of hope, people being there for one another, and amazing innovation and collaboration like we have never experienced before within our healthcare system. Together as One, we are looking forward to being together next year with you to celebrate the tournament's 25<sup>th</sup> year!

As we continue to navigate through these challenging times, please take care, stay safe and follow the guidelines that have been asked of us so we can all look forward to being together once again. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to make a donation in lieu of the golf tournament this year by contacting me at [susan.parkes-mcnally@oconnellelectric.com](mailto:susan.parkes-mcnally@oconnellelectric.com) or 585-869-4524.

Wishing you health and peace,

Susan Parkes-McNally  
Executive Vice President, Treasurer, HR Director

*On behalf of the Parkes Family, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their continued support this year despite there not being a golf tournament and over the years to The Mary Parkes Center. The Mary Parkes Center will be there for patients and their families dealing with the long-term effects from COVID-19.*



# Employee News

New Employees and Position Changes

- Gary Aman** TEGG Electrical Engineer, Victor
- Timothy Beasock** QA/QC Coordinator, 390 Systems Rd
- Jeffrey Becker** Trans Line Project Coordinator, 390 Systems Rd
- Tyler Bulluck** Project Manager, Syracuse
- Gerald Clark** TEGG Engineer, Victor
- John Clark** Project Manager, Victor
- Todd Forman** Safety Coordinator, Syracuse
- Andrew Giordonello** Safety Coordinator, 390 Systems Rd
- Charles Holvey** Estimator, Victor
- Kenneth Hotchkiss** Design/Fabrication, 400 Systems Rd
- Michael Jankowski** Project Manager, Buffalo
- Peter Mietus** Project Safety Coordinator, 390 Systems Rd
- Dale Peters** TEGG Project Consultant, Buffalo
- Joshua Ringen** Project Coordinator, Syracuse
- Kyle Staie** Warehouse Assistant/Truck Driver, 390 Systems Rd
- Darrell Strong** Fleet Manager, Victor
- Michael Troutman** Director of Regional Operations, 390 Systems Rd
- Michael Waidell** Safety Coordinator, 390 Systems Rd

# Congratulations

## Recent Awards and Achievements



### ACADEMY OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

The Academy of Electrical Contracting honors outstanding leaders in the electrical contracting industry, and it preserves and utilizes their wealth of experience and knowledge for the benefit of the industry. Fellows of the Academy have rendered exceptional service to the industry and the National Electrical Contractors Association and that service is continued and enhanced through their fellowship in the Academy.

Congratulations to Vic Salerno, CEO and Co-Chairman, for being inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contracting for 2020. Tom Parkes, President and COO, was inducted in 2017 and his father, Board Chairman, Walter Parkes was inducted in 1997.



O'Connell Electric and our very own Tim Ehmann, Manager of Substations, received the 2020 Excellence in Construction & Real Estate Award. The company received recognition in the Subcontractor category while Ehmann was recognized in an individual category for Project Manager.

The Excellence in Construction & Real Estate Awards celebrate the individuals and companies who are changing the landscape of the Rochester region through design, construction, project management, lending, innovation and more. These individuals and organizations are creating jobs, building healthy spaces, helping families and companies achieve their dreams, and leading the way toward growth and prosperity for the community.

## holiday party canceled

In order to keep our OCE "Family" safe and healthy, our 2020 Holiday Party will be canceled. We will miss enjoying this evening with everyone!

## postponed events, see you next year!

JBX Mary Parkes Golf Tournament | September 2021 Safety Picnic | July 2021



**O'CONNELL**  
ELECTRIC COMPANY

830 Phillips Road | Victor, NY 14564

# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS IS ALMOST OVER, IS YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR THE CHANGE?



## FLUIDS

- ✓ Engine Oil
- ✓ Washer Fluid
- ✓ Coolant
- ✓ Transmission Fluid\*
- ✓ Power Steering Fluid\*
- ✓ Differential Fluid\*
- ✓ Brake Fluid
- ✓ Transfer Case Fluid\*

Differential and transfer case fluids are checked from underneath, which means the vehicle must be safely raised and supported beforehand.

### FIX EXISTING ISSUES



Resolve all known problems before Old Man Winter comes.

### PACK THE RIGHT GEAR



- ✓ Ice Scraper
- ✓ Emergency Blankets
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Other Winter Items

### ACCESSORIZE FOR COLD WEATHER



- ✓ All-Weather Floor Mats
- ✓ Aftermarket Seat Heaters
- ✓ Windshield Frost Protector
- ✓ Remote Starter