O'CONNELL ELECTRIC

News and information for our employees, retirees, and friends





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

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Rochester

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- Airport - Bridge - Highway





ON THE COVER

Chris Baker, LU 41, working at Buffalo's Sahlen Field's Light Installation upgrades project.

Go to page 11 to read more!

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Victor Salerno

It is wonderful to report that our sales for fiscal year ending February 28, 2021 exceeded \$364 Million dollars, which is the most ever. Since Walt Parkes purchased the company from Jack O'Connell in 1968 our cumulative sales now exceed \$3.3 Billion dollars. What a great accomplishment for all of us to be very proud of. I anticipate that our ranking in the top electrical contractors listing in the USA will be in the top 20 for this year.

Our backlog continues to stay strong and because of our strong workforce and reputation, I believe that our sales for our current fiscal year will exceed \$400 Million dollars. This will be a great way to complete my 50+ year career at O'Connell on my anticipated retirement at the end of April 2022. It has been a great journey with a few bumps in the road along the way. Bumps in the road that we definitely learned from.

I recently spoke to the three first-year apprentice classes for IBEW Local 86 (Rochester, NY) on how to be successful in the electrical construction industry from the contractor's viewpoint. It is always a pleasure to get involved with these presentations over the years knowing that our future will be in good hands for years to come. We covered many topics including the importance of safety on the job and also at home, to always be your brothers or sisters keeper and to protect everyone as well as the continuous problems with opioids. I strongly encourage everyone to consider carrying NARCAN in case you are confronted by a dire opioid emergency. We also discussed customer service and image, and for these apprentices to be constantly upgrading their skills over their careers and do their best to stay out of credit card debt. Good advice for all of us. Plus much more.

The British rock band Queen has a great song that I believe sums up where we are today called "We are the Champions." So long as we continue to do our best, taking nothing for granted, our future should be assured. Hard work does pay off!

Thank you









MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD SAFETY COMMITTEE

When I was requested to provide a message on behalf of the Field Safety Committee for our newsletter it took me back a few years to when I was first asked to present at O'Connell's legendary annual Safety Picnic. I was mortified! Although I am not standing up in front of over a thousand co-workers, managers, executives and industry leaders, the audience is still unimaginably enormous and it is also much more difficult to cover up a mistake when you can just glance back and verify that you did in fact just read that correctly!

I can't begin to describe to you how easy it is to express my passion for safety and that is due in part to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Field Safety Committee. This group exudes passion for safety and our members take personally their commitment to making sure that each and every one of their fellow workers go home to their families and loved ones safely at the end of each day. I am humbled to be a part of this group and it is amazing to see the respect that these caring individuals garner.

Even the best safety systems are not fully effective unless they exist as part of a broader culture of safety. The truth is we are all part of the Field Safety Committee. We are all leaders in our safety culture. By instilling the value of safety in employees from the first day of hire, through on-the-job training as well as formal instruction, our safety culture starts with leadership.

Leadership drives behavior through communication, instruction and leading by example. Behavior then establishes culture, buy-in and ownership.

Our goal is not simply to comply with safety procedures. A culture of compliance does not drive ownership or improvement. We aim to go beyond compliance, to create a culture in which all of our workforce owns safety. Not only comply with safety procedures, but to challenge every person to improve them.

Our Field Safety Committee embodies all of these values and our mission is to promote them through good communication. One of my favorite quotes that was shared with me during my apprenticeship was that "Nothing is ever too simple to not be misunderstood" but equally important is our promise to listen.

So to wrap up my short blurb, on behalf of the O'Connell Electric Field Safety Committee, I sincerely hope that all of you and your loved ones are well and please feel free to reach out to any one of us at any time to express any ideas, concerns, or just to chat.

We would like to thank you all for doing your part to allow our culture to grow and flourish. I look forward to sharing our accomplishments with you all here in the future!

Fraternally,

Jeff HarterField Safety Committee Chairman

OCE LINE SKILLS AWARENESS TRAINING

In April 2021, a new course was introduced to OCE University for the benefit of individuals who manage and support transmission and distribution projects - *Line Skills Awareness*.

The course encompasses learning the fundamentals of power line work with both classroom and hands-on field instruction including trying on safety apparel, climbing a pole, bucket rescue and reviewing the many components used on power line structures.

With the first section currently completed, the course development team is now working on three more sections that will eventually make up the entire Line Skills Awareness program.

Interested in learning more about what the Power Group's Linemen do on a job? Contact david.emmi@oconnellelectric.com for eligibility requirements.



Chris Thomas (L) and Tom Sweeney (R), OCE 'Vets' getting some hands-on bucket experience.

OCE SAFETY MOMENT FROM DAN OBERLIES - DIRECTOR OF SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

In mid-May we were made aware O'Connell has been recognized by NECA for Safety Excellence. More specifically, the criteria that earned us that recognition is: OSHA Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) over the last three years, Experience Modification Rate (EMR) over the last three years and our number of formal interactions and citations issued by OSHA as reflected on their website.

We should all be proud! This award recognizes the commitment to safety and injury reduction that every employee has successfully achieved over the last several years. In that time period, we have grown significantly. We now have more employees, increased revenues, a larger fleet, more labor hours worked, and a larger geographic footprint. During all of this positive momentum, we stayed focused on developing and sustaining safe work habits resulting in fewer injuries.

So what's next? Keep doing what we are doing, and do it better! ZERO injuries is our goal and is very realistic to achieve. We just had a streak of 156 days without an OSHA Lost Time Case. So far this calendar year, we have only experienced two OSHA recordable injuries. It's not ZERO but, we have proven to ourselves that we can sustain ZERO for significant periods of time. This is what we must continue to do. Create longer-and-longer trends of excellent safety performance and fewer injuries to our fellow employees. Before we know it, our ZERO injury trends will be years, not days.

Based on recent incident trending, I am making two suggestions: Focus on being in-the-moment when driving, and don't forget the basics when it comes to safety while performing tasks. We are professionals, but the safety practices and attention to always doing the right thing is frankly not complicated. We must never forget or relax on the basics such as required PPE, three-way communication, proper tools for the job and being our fellow co-worker's keeper.

Let's get back to the NECA award.... CONGRATULATIONS! Keep up the great work and continue to stay focused on keeping yourself and co-workers safe every day, every week, every month.

Thank you for your commitment to staying safe and injury free!





Congratulations! **2021 ACHIEVEMENT IN** SAFETY EXCELLENCE



"Shout out to Ken Lindquist for his leadership in performing exceptional pre-job briefings and stretch and flex on the Dunkirk Asset Separation job."

~ Dan Manley, Safety Coordinator



Shoutout to Scott Philip, Gary Loveless, Chris Biuso for a quick response during a spill in the Fairport area. The facility and OCE worked swiftly to keep a nearby stream and soils from being contaminated.'

~ Brian Chamberlain, Safety Coordinator

UTILITY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

In 2020, our Power Group, with a lot of behind the scenes support from our operations teams, developed and launched a new service offering for utility vegetation management, providing full service line clearance tree trimming.

This new service allows O'Connell to support ongoing transmission and distribution line work across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern regions of the country while remaining competitive as a full-service T&D contractor.

We have committed to making significant investments to grow our fleet and equipment packages to aggressively take on new work. With this new offering, the Power Group is also on the hunt for great employees to join the team as Tree-Trimming Technicians.

Please refer anyone interested to:

jason.tornillo@oconnellelectric.com david.emmi@oconnellelectric.com



Brand new wood chippers ready for action!

HUNTLEY REFURBISHMENT







The Huntley Refurbishment Project is a recently completed seven-month long project for National Grid. The project consisted of replacing 100 – 23kV poles in various parts of a heavy commercial district in Tonawanda, NY. The project impacted six different sub-transmission lines and was a massive coordination effort between National Grid and O'Connell Electric to ensure the proper lines were being isolated for worker protection. Some of the work was completed denergized but some had to done energized using hotline tools. The crews needed to be HAZWOPER trained due to potentially contaminated areas some of the poles were located in.

Multiple agencies were involved with the project due to the high profile nature: O'Connell Electric's Power Group, National Grid Electric Operations, National Grid Environmental, Northern Clearing, Badger Daylighting, Town of Tonawanda, National Fuel, Erie County Water Authority, CSX, and Fisher Associates.

The crews did an outstanding job, working as a team throughout the course of the project to complete the work safely and deliver a high quality product to one of our valued customers.

DIVISION: Power Group **PROJECT MANAGER:** Trey Theobald **GENERAL FOREMAN:** Phil Ballesteros, LU 1249

FOREMAN: Jim O'Connor, LU 1249



Providing custom utility asset inspection services with on-demand, cost-effective solutions for public and private utility customers.

A service offering that utilizes trained equipment operators, linemen, and project managers to conduct utility asset inspections.

O'Connell now provides a turnkey solution to gather, interpret, summarize, and present the condition of customer's assets using a simple, cloud-based software solution encompassing maps, imagery, video, and a detailed database.

For more details, contact:

john.miller@oconnellelectric.com david.emmi@oconnellelectric.com

WWW.READYVIS.COM



SERVICES

- · Storm response and damage assessment
- · Lead line placement over difficult terrain
- · Pre-construction site survey and mapping
- · Standard line inspection survey
- · Vegetation management survey
- · Construction progress updates







BIG TREE SUBSTATION

To comply with more stringent reliability standards issued at the federal level, an expansion on the north side of the existing Big Tree Substation in Orchard Park is under construction. The scope includes reconfiguring the station's existing 115kV transmission lines and additional minor reroutes of medium voltage distribution lines as well.

The upgraded and expanded facilities will meet the growing demand for additional power in the Buffalo region. The additional energy brought into the area by the project will encourage and support continuous economic development. The upgrades will improve the resiliency of the entire transmission system, ensuring that the safe and reliable distribution of power is maintained.

DIVISION: Power Group **PROJECT MANAGER:** Tom Sweeney **FOREMAN:** Tim German, LU 86



LAKE PLACID

O'Connell is always up for a good challenge. We won the bid for prime electrical contractor in charge of repowering the Village of Lake Placid, Whiteface Mountain, and the Olympic Village to prepare for the 1980 Winter Olympics. We built new substations, upgraded all existing systems, and set transformers at the summit of Whiteface.

Fast forward to 2021, we're back at Lake Placid helping with the \$100 million modernization project of the Olympic Center. Preliminary work of this extensive project started in 2019 and is expected to be completed in 2022.

Improvements to the venue will benefit the World University Games, coming in 2023, the largest winter multi-sport collegiate athletic event in the world. The World University games will be bigger than the Olympic Games held back in 1980, from 1,500 athletes to now expecting some 3,200.

The Olympic Center renovations include the center's main entry as well as updating and expanding the USA Arena, which is currently a practice facility. Other additions include a new dining space and other amenities. The luge and bobsled facility, Mt. Van Hoevenberg, has started construction on a 45,000-square-foot lodge which will include a training facility.

Other upgrades being considered are a new multi-level parking garage, new hospitality suites and an open-air viewing deck overlooking both the Olympic outdoor speed skating oval and Main Street.

We are proud to continue supporting the Olympic Center's construction efforts that will last for even more decades. A lot of modernization, but still plenty of focus on maintaining the history.

O'Connell is currently supporting two projects at the Olympic Center. The Revitalization project is the complete renovation of the 1932 and 1980 ice rinks, new main switchgear, new lighting,

replacing/providing 81 branch panel boards, new fire alarm as well as a tele data project managed by Rob Unger, Communications Division Manager.

The Refrigeration Project is the complete reconstruction of the refrigeration plant that provides cooling for all four ice rinks (1932 Jack Shea Arena, 1980 Herb Brooks Arena, USA Rink and the Outside Speed Skating Oval). The Herb Brooks Arena is the rink where the famous *Miracle on Ice* took place, one of the most dramatic upsets in Olympic history in which the underdog U.S. hockey team, made up of college players, defeated the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team. Walt Parkes, Co-Chairman of the Board and Victor Salerno, CEO and Co-Chairman of the Board, attended the game with their wives along with Tom Parkes, current President and COO and Jon McNally, Director of Quality Assurance.

Currently the men's and women's national teams play at the Olympic Center and it is expected that any future Olympic games hosted by the United States will take place here.

DIVISION: Victor Construction, Communications

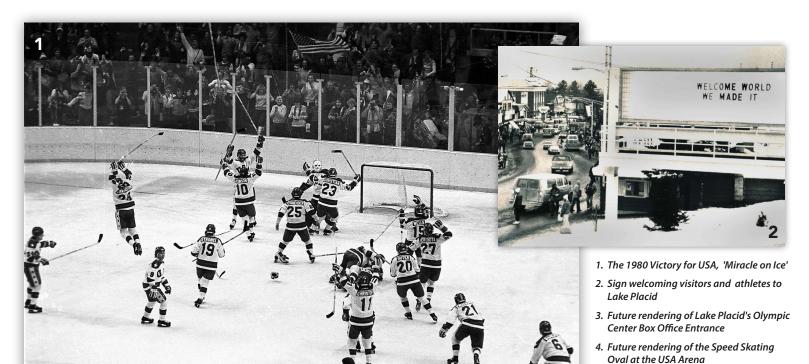
PROJECT MANAGERS: Phil Yandow, Construction;

Rob Unger, Communications

FOREMAN: Laramie McCaffrey, LU 910



OLYMPIC CENTER



5. Future rendering of the Biathalon Building's

West Facade Entry

6. Past meets present: 1978 versus present day construction of the Speed Skating Oval







EMPIRE STATE PLAZA UPGRADES

O'Connell worked with Postler & Jaeckle Corporation for NYPA/OGS to complete phase one upgrades at the Empire State Plaza.

Scope included:

- Replacement of existing steam powered chiller with new Carrier 6000-ton 5kV electric chiller.
- 5000kVA 15kV to 5kV transformer with switches and new feeders.
- Wiring a 5kV variable frequency drive for new chiller.
- Cooling/heating water blend stations and temperature sensors are being upgraded throughout the entire south mall complex.
- Fiber optic backbones to connect Honeywell temperature control panels between buildings.
- Updated feeds to two new 500-ton chillers dedicated to cooling of the many data centers throughout the campus.

DIVISION: Albany Construction **PROJECT MANAGER:** Chris Adams **FOREMAN:** Chad Zusy, LU 236

UPDATE: THE WYNN HOSPITAL IN UTICA







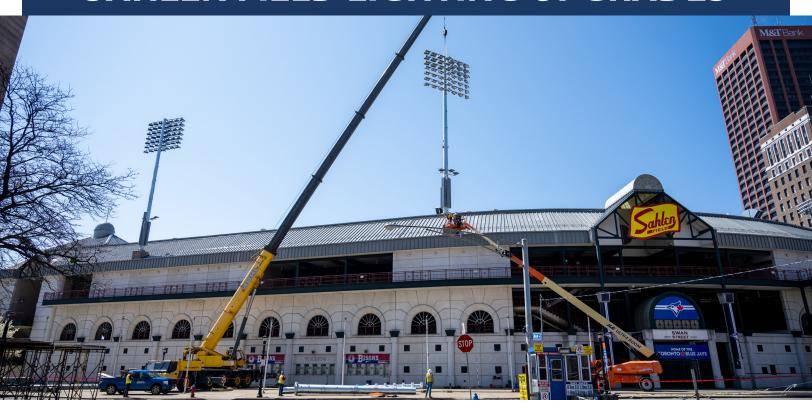
Earlier this year we featured the Mohawk Valley Health System's new hospital construction in Utica, NY, and a lot has been going on since! The hospital has been named Wynn Hospital in recognition of a \$50 million donation from the Wynn Family Foundation. The new medical center is expected to be 702,000-square-feet and ten stories high.

In the past few months, the majority of "in-slab" rough-ins are completed on the second through the ninth floor and one-third of the first floor. O'Connell is starting overhead conduit work on the second floor and getting ready to start prototype wall rough-in assemblies from Construction Services shortly.

DIVISION: Syracuse Construction **PROJECT MANAGERS:** Jeff Pratt, Sam Obermayer **GENERAL FOREMAN:** Pat Arnold, LU 246/43

FOREMEN: Randy West, LU 43; Dan Snyder, LU 43; Jason Jones, LU 43

SAHLEN FIELD LIGHTING UPGRADES



Far exceeding the new required MLB Player Development League facility standards, Sahlen Field will once again become one of the premier locations for player training and performance amenities in Minor League Baseball, ensuring high-quality baseball in Western New York for many seasons to come.

This project included removal and disposal of eight existing upper pole sections, all fixture heads and properly recycling the lamps.

LED fixtures were assembled for the new poles, and each fixture was pre-aimed and wired. New control boxes and necessary wiring was completed before the installation of each section.

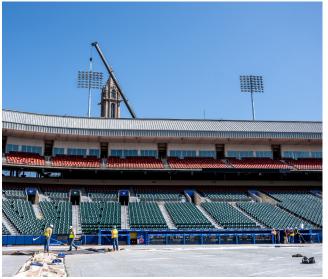
O'Connell installed and wired a new Musco Master Communication Cabinet in the broadcast booth and a new Elo touch screen; which controls the Master Communication Cabinet and the remote antenna. The new remote antenna on each new pole allows wireless communication from the controller.

Standing as high as 126-feet tall, the outfield poles weigh approximately 2,500 pounds; while the infield poles, mounted to the building, weigh approximately 8,000 pounds with new equipment.

O'Connell was responsible for all crane work and coordination of the lane closures with the City of Buffalo. Our very own Field Superintendent, Jim May, was an integral person for this project, as he has overseen the previous two projects OCE has done at Sahlen's Field with Musco. Hohl Industrial has been our partner for all three projects for rigging and crane work.

DIVISION: Buffalo Construction **PROJECT MANAGER:** Mike Jankowski **FOREMAN:** Dave Gottler, LU 41









ROCHESTER EMERGENCY MAKE-READY







O'Connell was contracted to support RG&E in performing makeready upgrades on existing poles to remedy minimum approach distance violations throughout the utility's distribution system. The scope consists of tree trimming work, make-ready moves and pole sets with primary, secondary, and communication line transfers.

A majority of work locations are backyard poles throughout residential neighborhoods scattered across Rochester, with some additional roadside work where identified. The volume of work

received to date has been roughly 7,000 pole locations, with approximately 4,000 make-ready moves, 900 pole replacements and transfers, and 2,500 tree trimming locations.

Throughout a majority of the project's duration, the linemen and tree crew count was over 80 employees in the field.

DIVISION: Power Group **PROJECT MANAGER:** Jeff Merrell **ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER:** John Dake

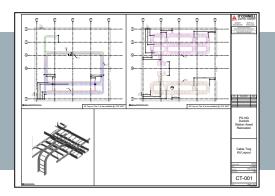
SUPERINTENDENT: Steve Parkes, LU 1249 **FOREMEN:** James Holt, LU 1249; Jason Stanley, LU 1249

From Prefab to the Field

Updates from our Construction Services Team



The Construction Services team has been busy with many projects utilizing O'Connell's services. On the left and center shows multiple pre-fabricated cable trays and lighting control boxes for the Dunkirk Substation. Far right is the fabrication of low-voltage switch stanchions for Amazon, Project Eagle, in Liverpool, NY.





Our Construction Services team created the initial drawings for the cable trays which were turned over to our prefabrication team to produce, which were then sent to the field for final installation at the Dunkirk Substation.



FROM THE FIELD

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





Want the best seats in the house? Photos submitted by David Gottler, Foreman. Taken from the lift while replacing the stadium lights at Sahlen's Field in Buffalo, NY!



Check out this group getting their *stretch and flex* in before starting a busy day at the NG Dunkirk Station! Submitted by Dan Manley, Safety Coordinator.

Employee News

New Employees and Position Changes

Jacob Brunette Estimator, Victor

Jill Cerchia Admin Assistant, Syracuse

Brock Corwin Warehouse Assistant, Victor

Andrew Crossway Project Coordinator Intern, Power Group

Loreen DePerna Buyer, Victor

Nicole Eller Fleet Compliance Assistant, Victor

Melissa Ellis Buyer, Victor

Paulette Forte Purchasing Coordinator, Victor

Jared Henry Summer Intern

Carol Laws Billing Specialist, Victor

Daniel Manley Safety Coordinator, Power Group

Thomas Meyer TEGG Engineer Co-Op, Victor

Jennifer Myers Fleet & Rental Equipment Coordinator, Victor

Joseph Pasquini Vegetation Mgmt. Supervisor, 390 Systems Rd.

Zacharias Peters TEGG Engineer

Matthew Vankuren Power Group Intern, Power Group

Christopher Vaquero Warehouse, Victor



Sal BalbiProject Manager,
Technical Services



As many have said, Sal will be remembered as "The candle that burns twice as bright, burns half as long."

Sal will certainly be remembered for his constant smile, sense of humor, kindness, and always being there to lend a hand, support, and help others. Sal was a tremendous inspiration to all who knew him.

Sal worked for O'Connell for 18 years, his last eight for the Technical Services Group.

Say Recent Additions to our O'Connell Family



Kinsley Elise Near Kelly and Kris Near, Foreman, LU 236, welcome their second child!



Cory Moll

Son of Rachel and Brian Moll,
Henrietta Warehouse!
(Valerie Clark's, Project Coordinator, grandson!)



Noah Kate Miller
Kara and John Miller, Marketing
Manager, welcome their fourth
child (two girls, two boys)!



Congratulations Recent Awards and Achievements



POWER 100

Victor Salerno, CEO and Co-Chairman of the Board, was selected as part of Rochester's Power 100. This list is comprised of individuals who have helped our community through their companies, especially in the past year. Congratulations, Vic!





Q1 - TEGG'S 2021 DELIVERING ESSENTIAL SOLUTIONS TOGETHER SALES PROGRAM

Congratulations to Brad Hartford, Sr. Project Manager, for being selected in the First Quarter.

O'CONNELL ELECTRIC RANKED #2 CONTRACTOR IN THE CNY'S BOOK OF LISTS!



O'CONNELL ELECTRIC RANKED #1 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR IN THE RBJ'S BOOK OF LISTS!

SYRACUSE FOOD CUPBOARD VOLUNTEERING



Pictured Left to Right: Sam Obermeyer, Todd Forman, Jim Penoyer, Dave Curtis, Tyler Bullock, Scott Fredenburg, James VanCamp, Andrew Spring, Matt Yonts, Josh Ringen, and Dave Maher.

"I speak for our entire team at Food Bank of CNY when I express our gratitude for O'Connell Electric's volunteerism. Your helpful hands in packing food with care, sifting through fresh produce and various donated products is a crucial part of our operation in direct support of our mission."

~ Mallory Michaels, Volunteer Coordinator, Food Bank CNY



NEW EMPLOYEE SHOUTOUT

"I would like to give a shout out to **Jennifer Myers**, my personal trainer, for her diligence and patience in showing me the ropes when I started my new position!"

~ Paulette Forte, Purchasing Coordinator

Interested in making an employee shoutout? Contact Marketing - John Miller or Lexie Poudrier



830 Phillips Road | Victor, NY 14564

National Safety Month 2021

