



MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



SORRY, SON...THERE'S NO APP FOR THAT

**JANUARY 13, 2020
MEETINGS**

2/14/2020 NECA SKI TRIP

5/21/2020 NECA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AGORA SYSTEMS – NEW NECA ASSOCIATE MEMBER

NECA would like to welcome Agora Systems as our first new Associate Member of 2020! Agora specializes in material management software for Contractors. They focus on quick requisitions, live order updates and simplified check-ins to reduce delivery errors and get ahead of back orders before they drive up labor costs. To learn more about Agora, visit www.helloagora.com. Maria Rioumine is the CEO of Agora and will also serve as the NECA Accredited Representative. She can be reached by phone at (415)-635-4259 or by email at maria@helloagora.com. Agora is located at 637 Natoma St. Unit #7, San Francisco CA 94107. We welcome Agora to the NECA Family and look forward to many future successes!

NECA 2020 RECOGNITION OF SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NOW OPEN

NECA invites member companies to participate in the 2020 Recognition of Safety Achievement Program, an annual program that provides elite safety recognition for our members by recognizing electrical contractors that adopt safety and health-related work practices as a core value within their organization. The program includes two entry categories, Safety Excellence and Zero Injury. Recognition is given to electrical contractors that demonstrate their commitment to safety by consistently showing lower than industry average OSHA recordable injury and fatality rates and to those that have implemented internal safety practices that go above and beyond that of basic compliance. Applications are due March 1, 2020. Click on the link provided below to register. <https://www.necanet.org/about-us/news/news-release-archive/news/2020/01/03/now-accepting-applications-for-neca-2020-recognition-of-safety-achievement-program>

NOTE: All 2020 users must register for the application website; any previous year's user accounts have been removed and will need to be re-added.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING CLASS – ADVANCED POWER SOLUTIONS



We have seen a lot of interest in our upcoming one-day NFPA 70E Electrical Safety Training Class, taught by Gary Larkins of Advanced Power Solutions. This course is designed for Supervisors, Electricians, and Safety Professionals responsible for Electrical Safety. This 1-day course will cover the following: Key Federal OSHA/WAC Legal Electrical Safety Requirements, National Electrical Code & Safety Grounding, NFPA -70E 2018 Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace. The following is included in the registration: Course Workbook, Course Exercises & Handouts. CEUs will also be available for Electricians Certificate (License) Renewal. The course will be conducted on Tuesday, February 25th, 2020 from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the PSC NECA Office, located at 16001 Aurora Ave N., Suite 200 – Shoreline, WA 98133. The Chapter will be paying the majority of the training cost. However, there will be a fee of \$125 for PSC, NECA members. No-shows and cancellations will be billed the \$250 cost of the class. The course is limited to the first 24 people that RSVP. Please RSVP to PSC NECA Director of Safety, Justin Thayer at justin@necaseattle.org.

LAWSUITS FOLLOW LAST YEAR'S GOOGLE SEATTLE SITE CRANE COLLAPSE

Dive Brief:

- The families of two people killed when a crane collapsed at a Google construction site in Seattle last April have filed wrongful death lawsuits in Washington's King County Superior Court for unspecified damages, The Seattle Times reported. Alan Justad, 71, and Sarah Wong, 19, were killed in the incident along with the two ironworkers who were working on the crane at the time that it fell.
- The crane toppled over onto the street below as crews were dismantling it using the ill-advised method of removing all of the crane's pins at once instead of section by section. Justad's and Wong's families are suing crane owner Morrow Equipment, general contractor GLY Construction, Northwest Tower Crane Service, Omega Morgan and Seaburg Construction, all of which allegedly had some responsibility for safe crane operations.
- Two individuals injured in the collapse have also filed suit against the same companies, and the families of the two crane workers killed on that day are expected to do the same.

Dive Insight:

In October, the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) cited and fined three of the contractors named in the Justad and Wong lawsuits — Morrow, GLY and Northwest — for their roles in the collapse. The agency found that the crews tasked with dismantling the crane paid no heed to manufacturer's instructions and that removing all the pins and sleeves at once weakened the crane and allowed it to fall when hit by a 45-mph gust of wind on April 27.

For approving the pins' removal, L&I fined Morrow \$70,000. The agency also fined GLY \$25,200 for failure to have qualified workers on the jobsite while the crane was being torn down; for not ensuring that the personnel on site that day followed manufacturers' instructions; and for not taking into account the effect that windy weather could have on crane removal.

Finally, L&I fined Northwest Tower Crane Services \$12,000 for not following manufacturer's instructions, for not making sure their workers fully understood the task at hand and for not training its workers properly. Soon after L&I's announcement, Stever Frein, lead crane instructor at West Coast Training in Woodland, Washington, told Construction Dive that it's not unusual for crews to take such a shortcut when dismantling a crane, as they're often trying to save time. In fact, it's so common for some companies to remove all the pins at once, he said, that some workers might be under the impression that it's standard, acceptable procedure.

The crane accident, however, did not delay Google's planned opening of its new five-building campus in the South Lake Union area of Seattle. Three buildings have already opened, and the building where the crane fell is expected to open this month.

SENATE PASSES BILL TO OUTLAW REVERSE AUCTIONS

At the end of 2019, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed S. 1434, the Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act of 2019. This legislation seeks to outlaw the use of reverse auctions on any construction services procured by the Federal Government. The reverse auction has had a notoriously negative effect on the bidding process when utilized. In contrast to a normal seller-buyer relationship, this process flips the roles, with contractors forced to take a dangerous race to the bottom, cutting corners to beat out competition, ultimately degrading the final product.

NECA's Look Ahead: The legislation now moves to the House where NECA will strongly advocate for the passage of this common-sense reform. Although limited, the use of reverse auctions has negatively impacted the final product provided to the federal government and the relationships within the contracting community ecosystem.

FACT OF THE DAY - The world's quietest room is located at Microsoft's headquarters in Washington state.

Silence is golden, as they say. And while it may not be worth quite as much as jewels and gold to most people, it certainly was the primary goal for those who built the quietest room in the world. Located at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington, the lab room measures a background noise of -20.35 dBA, which is 20 decibels below the threshold of human hearing and breaks previous records for spaces that were deemed the planet's quietest places, according to CNN.

"As soon as one enters the room, one immediately feels a strange and unique sensation which is hard to describe," Hundraj Gopal, a speech and hearing scientist and principal designer of the anechoic chamber at Microsoft, told CNN. "Most people find the absence of sound deafening, feel a sense of fullness in the ears, or some ringing. Very faint sounds become clearly audible because the ambient noise is exceptionally low. When you turn your head, you can hear that motion. You can hear yourself breathing and it sounds somewhat loud."

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY – 1968 In the midst of depression and a steep decline in his musical career, legendary country singer Johnny Cash arrives to play for inmates at California's Folsom Prison on January 13, 1968. The concert and the subsequent live album launched him back into the charts and re-defined his career.

Despite his outlaw image, Cash never went to prison, save for a few nights drying out in various jails. It was not his own experience but rather the crime film *Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison* that inspired him to pen "Folsom Prison Blues," which was a modest hit for Cash in 1956. The song, characteristically mournful, is written from the point of view of an inmate "stuck in Folsom Prison" after shooting a man in Reno "just to watch him die" Cash explained that he wanted to come up with the most senseless reason imaginable for the speaker to have committed murder. A decade later, Cash's alcoholism and addiction to pills had taken a marked toll on his health. Cash was popular in prisons across America and was known to correspond with imprisoned fans, and first played at Folsom in 1966 on the suggestion of a local preacher. Two years later, needing something to jump-start his career, he convinced his record company to let him record a live album there.

Cash felt a personal responsibility to put on a good show at Folsom. He rehearsed feverishly in the days leading up to the concert and taught himself "Greystone Chapel," a song written by Folsom inmate Glen Sherley. Despite the presence of armed guards on the walkways above them, and the warden's prohibition against standing during the show, Cash's audience was raucous, invigorating the performers and lending a unique verve to the live recording. Cash tailored the setlist to prisoners, including the namesake song and ending with "Greystone Chapel." The album went to No. 1, as did a subsequent album recorded at San Quentin, and suddenly Cash was a household name again.

The iconic performance linked Cash permanently with prisoners in the American imagination. In his 1971 song “Man in Black,” Cash explains that he adopted his trademark dark clothing in solidarity with “the poor and the beaten down” as well as “the prisoner who has long paid for his crime.” Cash testified before Congress and met with President Richard Nixon to discuss prison reform in 1972, and continued to crusade on behalf of the imprisoned for the rest of his career. Live at Folsom Prison stands as a testament to the bond he felt with inmates, as well as a major entry in the canon of 20th Century American music.



“If you're going through hell keep going.”

--Winston Churchill

As of Friday, January 10th, there are 194 JW on Book 1 and 92 JW on Book 2. There are currently 65 Commercial Apprentices, 1 S&C, and 3 Residential Apprentices available for dispatch. 22 Inside Wire Apprentices (Bootcamp graduates) will be Available for Dispatch on January 20, 2020 and 18 Sound and Communication Apprentices will also be available on January 20, 2020.