



# MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



**JANUARY 6, 2020  
MEETINGS**

**1/10/2020 NECA SAFETY MEETING  
2/14/2020 NECA Ski Trip**

*"Nope, no New Year's resolutions for me this year—  
I'm still working on a backlog dating from '87."*

## **NEW NECA BOARD MEMBERS – OLIVER WHITEHEAD AND LAURA RICHARDSON**

NECA would like to welcome two new NECA Accredited Representatives to the Puget Sound Chapter, NECA Board of Directors for 2020. Oliver Whitehead, Principal and new NECA Accredited Representative for Prime Electric, will replace Eric Reichanadter – who has served on the Board of Directors for over 10 years. NECA would like to thank Eric for his years of service to the Board and extends a hearty welcome to Oliver Whitehead. Our second new Board Member is the owner of KolKay Electric, Laura Richardson. KolKay has been in business since 2007 and Laura and Steve Richardson have been strong contributors and supporters of the Puget Sound Chapter ever since. Laura is filling the vacancy created by Donny Foy (Foy Group), who is stepping down after 8 years of service and contributions to the Board. Donny will be missed, and we look forward to energetic contributions from Laura and KolKay going forward. Officers for 2020 for the Puget Sound Chapter will be: Marv Nelson, Governor; Rick Rothermel, President; Dominic Burke, Vice-President; and LeeAnn Cochran, Treasurer. The remaining Contractors that fill out the Board of Directors are: Gloria Ashford (Ashford Electric), Scott Boyer (Boyer Electric), Matt Fairbanks (VECA Electric), Mike Holmes (Holmes Electric), Drew Mackey (Evergreen Power Systems), and Mahmood Ghassemi (Sequoyah Electric). The entire Board of Directors give a great amount of time and energy, continually working together to improve the electrical contracting industry.

## **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS – TRY THE WEEK GAME**

Almost everyone seems to look to the New Year to make those very traditional resolutions. We predicate so much on them. If we slip on January 12<sup>th</sup>, we give them up. Better luck next year. Random Saturdays are opportunities, though we don't look at them that way. Any change in life requires momentum and the determination to build on it. But fresh starts – especially the expectations we apply to New Year's – are endowed with a kind of officiality that makes them intimidating. We feel as if we must have everything in order in our lives – desk cleared of stray papers, pencils all sharpened and in a row – before we start writing the story. But that's not how stories are composed or anything gets done. They're wrought amid the bracken of life, with space cleared and clutter elbowed aside, not vanquished. They're created in the small starts that link segment to segment until you have a road and you are roaring down it, momentum doing its thing. There are all kinds of ways to get off to a ministart that can lead to a big end. I like to use a fresh week. Because I'm competitive and it helps motivate me, I play what I call the Week Game.

On Saturday, as the week ends and another is about to begin, I look back on what I did over seven days. I wrote this many stories, published this many pieces, talked on the radio this many times, ran this many miles, went to this many concerts, ballets, films. Those are my stats. I'm awfully good at the Week Game now, and I get some swagger. For the people who wish to hold me back, I can say, "my week is your career", and my numbers – because I start it over and over – bear it out. It gives me more energy and purpose when life is very hard. Stops me from being snowed under. Stops me from giving up.

You might use the start of a new day, getting up earlier than ever. You might use a weekend. "This weekend I will focus exclusively on X." If you stumble, change format – fast. You always get the chance to build, not only with new Year's Day, which can loom so large that you feel paralyzed. We feel colossally let down if we falter with New Year's resolutions. Then you're supposed to wait a year! That's not going to help you, whether you want to drink less or listen to more John Coltrane.

A series of constant fresh starts adds up to a life well-lived. I won't drink to that, but if you want to play a rousing round of the Week Game, consider me the rep working on behalf of the ministart, the old acquaintance you should never forget.

Colin Fleming, WSJ

## **NECA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS 2019 YEAR-END REVIEW**

### **Top Three Wins**

- Full Repeal of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) 40 percent "Cadillac Tax."
- Allowing 529 savings accounts to be used for costs associated with Department of Labor (DOL) registered apprenticeship programs.
- A seven-year reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

### **Other Legislation Signed into Law**

- Extension of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Full repeal of health insurance tax (HIT) and medical device excise tax.
- Estate tax exclusion increased from \$5 million to \$11.4 million per taxpayer, adjusted for inflation.
- A seven-year authorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.
- \$1 billion for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants.
- An extension of 179D energy efficiency tax deduction retrospectively from 2017 and prospectively through 2020.

- Reauthorization of the Department of Defense Mentor-Protege Program.
- A revision of the Small Business Act to lower the payment period for prime contractors that are a small business concern from 30 days to 15 days. This revision also includes language urging prime contractors to continue these accelerated payments to subcontractors to the maximum extent possible.

### **Pending Legislation**

- Introduction of the Payment for Performance Act H.R. 2344 – Requiring 50% partial payment for change orders completed on federal work. NECA also secured a Senate companion to this legislation, something not previously done in the past Congress.
- The United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) passed the House of Representatives.

### **SUPREME COURST WEIGHS IN ON TURN SIGNAL USAGE**

Drivers who have wondered whether they really have to use their turn signals every time — even in a turn-only lane — may want to take note of a state Supreme Court ruling issued late last year. In a case considering whether state law “compels drivers to use their signal every time they turn or change lanes on a roadway,” the court ruled unanimously, “We hold that it does.” The ruling stemmed from a 2015 case in which a driver, David Joseph Brown, used his signal to enter a left-turn-only lane in Kennewick, but then didn’t keep the signal on once in the turn lane or while turning. State troopers pulled Brown over and subsequently arrested him for driving under the influence after a breath test measured his blood alcohol content at 0.26, more than triple the legal limit. But that case was dismissed after a Benton County District Court judge found Brown was not required to reactivate his signal in the turn-only lane, and the troopers therefore had no reason to stop him. After conflicting decisions in Superior Court and the Court of Appeals, the state appealed to the Supreme Court. State law says drivers must use signals to turn or move right or left “when required” continuously at



least 100 feet before turning. Brown’s lawyer argued that the inclusion of the phrase “when required” indicated “there must be an occasion such as a turn-only-lane when a driver is not required to reactivate the signal when there is no other possible direction to travel.” The Supreme Court justices emphasized that turn signals offer safety for drivers and other people on the road. “Blind corners and unprotected left turns with oncoming traffic abound; pedestrians may or may not cross streets depending on the presence of a car’s turn signal; and, failing to signal may lead other drivers to think it safe to change lanes or turn themselves,” wrote Justice Barbara Madsen in the decision. A turn-only lane may be clear to the drivers heading in that direction, but not obvious to oncoming traffic, the justices noted. That interpretation is bolstered by cases in other states like Kansas and North Dakota, the justices found. “Leaving the decision to use a signal to the perception of individual drivers,” Madsen wrote, “undermines the ultimate purpose of traffic laws: preventing accidents and encouraging highway safety.” Terry Bloor, chief criminal deputy prosecutor in Benton County, applauded the decision, saying it was “consistent with the legislative intent” of the law about turn signals. Brown’s attorney, Randall Jameson Jr., said the ruling “allows for what most people would think are chippy or bogus stops” by police. Brown signaled to enter the turn lane, “but with modern vehicle technology it cycled off,” Jameson said. “Now for every turn where the signal goes off, this allows law enforcement to make a stop for that,” Jameson said. Drivers often use their signals but not

for the entire length of a lane change, said Washington State Patrol spokesman Sgt. Darren Wright. (Wright declined to comment on the court's ruling.) "It's a safety issue," Wright said. "You may have looked in your mirrors, you may have done a head check, but there are blind spots. You may think it's clear but the person you don't see in the blind spot may see the turn signal and react to prevent a collision."

## **FLYING OUT OF SEATAC? CHOOSE ALASKA OR DELTA IF YOU WANT TO BE ON TIME**

Seattle's two top airlines, Alaska Air Group and Delta, were among the top three most punctual air carriers in North America during 2019, aviation data firm Official Aviation Guide (OAG) said last week. Delta and Alaska were also among the 10 most on-time airlines in the entire world last year, OAG said in its annual Punctuality League report after analyzing 57.5 million flight records. "Delta's continued OTP (on-time performance) dominance is remarkable given the size and range of its operations. The performance is also a testament to the hub locations they serve, especially Atlanta and Seattle," OAG Senior Analyst Jon Grant said in statement accompany the data. "Airlines and airports continue to demonstrate strong on-time performance overall." Grant warned, however, that airlines won't be getting much better: "We are reaching near peak operational on-time performance across the world." In the overall North American ranking, smaller Hawaiian Airlines finished first with an on-time performance rating of 87.4 percent over the past 12 months. Delta finished second in North America with an on-time performance of 83.56 percent, but ranked first in the category of larger "mega airlines." A close third among for best on-time North American carriers was SeaTac-based Alaska Airlines, with a rating of 81.49 percent, well ahead of its rivals, OAG said. Despite the surging growth in Puget Sound travelers using Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the facility remains among the top 10 most on-time airports in the world, the data analysis found. Sea-Tac was rated fifth in the world's mega airports, with an 80.27 percent on-time flight performance during 2019. It was just behind fourth-place Atlanta, whose flights had an on-time performance rating of 83.74 percent.

**FACT OF THE DAY** - A 4-year old asks about 400 questions a day.

**ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY – 1838** Samuel Morse's telegraph system is demonstrated for the first time at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, New Jersey. The telegraph, a device which used electric impulses to transmit encoded messages over a wire, would eventually revolutionize long-distance communication, reaching the height of its popularity in the 1920s and 1930s. Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He attended Yale University, where he was interested in art, as well as electricity, still in its infancy at the time. After college, Morse became a painter. In 1832, while sailing home from Europe, he heard about the newly discovered electromagnet and came up with an idea for an electric telegraph. He had no idea that other inventors were already at work on the concept. Morse spent the next several years developing a prototype and took on two partners, Leonard Gale and Alfred Vail, to help him. In 1838, he demonstrated his invention using Morse code, in which dots and dashes represented letters and numbers. In 1843, Morse finally convinced a skeptical Congress to fund the construction of the first telegraph line in the United States, from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. In May 1844, Morse sent the first official telegram over the line, with the message: "What hath God wrought!" Over the next few years, private companies, using Morse's patent, set up telegraph lines around the Northeast. In 1851, the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company was founded; it would later change its name to Western Union. In 1861, Western Union finished the first transcontinental line across the United States. Five years later, the first successful permanent line across the Atlantic Ocean was constructed and by the end of the century telegraph systems were in place in Africa, Asia and Australia.

Because telegraph companies typically charged by the word, telegrams became known for their succinct prose—whether they contained happy or sad news. The word "stop," which was free, was

used in place of a period, for which there was a charge. In 1933, Western Union introduced singing telegrams. During World War II, Americans came to dread the sight of Western Union couriers because the military used telegrams to inform families about soldiers' deaths. Over the course of the 20th century, telegraph messages were largely replaced by cheap long-distance phone service, faxes and email. Western Union delivered its final telegram in January 2006. Samuel Morse died wealthy and famous in New York City on April 2, 1872, at age 80.

---

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.

-Benjamin Franklin

---

**As of Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, there are 227 JW on Book 1 and 86 JW on Book 2. There are currently 75 Commercial Apprentices, 3 S&C, and 2 Residential Apprentices available for dispatch. 24 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.**