



MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



MARCH 23, 2020
MEETINGS

5/21/2020 – NECA MEMBERSHIP MTG

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, NECA & CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

The Chapter fully appreciates the amount of information that everyone is receiving regarding COVID-19 and the current Coronavirus pandemic. In the interest of time and expediency, the Puget Sound Chapter will attempt to sort through the myriad of information that comes our way – and only pass on items that may directly affect your firm, and in many cases, acknowledge that you have likely received this information in some format from NECA National, Attorneys, County and City Government entities, etc. Shelter in Place (not yet enacted), Paid Leave, Unemployment Comp Eligibility, and GC medical screenings seem to be the hottest topics of concern. We will try to keep contractors advised immediately if there are changes or updates to these and any other important issues.

To start off the newsletter with a short respite from Coronavirus, please enjoy the “Perspective” Facebook Post I received last Wednesday. As always, feel free to call the Chapter with any specific issues your firm is dealing with, and NECA will do everything we can to help answer your questions and assist in resolution of issues. Everyone is learning to work together while we keep our “social distance”. Stay strong! This Too Shall Pass!!

PERSPECTIVE OF A TEACHER

Shared by a teacher, with school closed, volunteering back at school for the PTA:

Confession time. I have not been ok. I mean, yes, I have been a functioning adult who has remembered to put on deodorant. I have not been sick. And I am not out of toilet paper yet. The changes of the last week have done a number on me. But today, I got a chance to do what makes me whole. I got to connect. I got to serve. I got to see that the world outside my home is still turning. Sounds dramatic I'm sure. But here's the thing - connecting and serving is actually what teachers (and all of the people connected to a school) do. The "teaching" part - the part with the curriculum and grading and all of that - doesn't come close to what we really do. So, while we are willingly retreating to our homes to flatten the curve, we have suddenly lost what makes us tick day in and day out. Even when we are at our wit's ends with our students, it's usually because we aren't connecting or feeling like we are serving them well. Today I found myself remembering who I am, and that overall, we are capable of many great things. While the worst is likely yet to come, today I am ok.

Genevieve Wheaton

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

There are two main provisions of the act, **which goes into effect on April 2, 2020.**

Emergency Paid Family Medical Leave and **Emergency Paid Sick Leave** both have certain requirements and eligibility criteria. NECA will sort out all of the nuances of this new law and advise contractors prior to its implementation. For now, just be aware that firms may be required to provide benefits for workers that are unable to work due to some disruption caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic. Currently, firms in excess of 500 employees are exempt from this Act. Firms with less than 50 employees and others with less than 25 employees may not be subject to all of the provisions of the Act.

NECA will provide updates as they become confirmed and prior to going into effect.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Most employees who are temporarily not working due to jobsite disruptions caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic are likely eligible for Unemployment Compensation. Firms are not obligated to layoff workers that are not working due to worksite shutdowns or manpower restrictions imposed by the owner or General Contractor. Many individuals are eligible for Standby status during this period, which will allow them to receive benefits. Contractors are encouraged to contact NECA to discuss your specific situation, to determine the least disruptive steps in obtaining Unemployment Compensation benefits for employees.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING THROUGH NECA

With temporary adjustments to our work schedule and working conditions, this is the perfect time for everyone to undergo personal development with online training. NECA offers a wide range of on-demand, online training classes on topics ranging from business writing, Microsoft Office, and Project Management. NECA is offering more than 100 online training courses to all employees of NECA members for **FREE**. Click [here](#) to access the full list of courses provided. Be sure to use the coupon code, **NECA2020** when checking out. You will also need your NECA user ID and password to login and register.

NEW NECA WEBINAR - SAFETY UPDATE ON COVID-19

NECA National will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:00 AM (Pacific) to provide updated information about COVID-19. The webinar will include the latest from OSHA, CDC, World Health Organization (WHO) information and provide you with new NECA developed resources. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar on the NECA National Website. You will need your NECA National user ID and password to login.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1806– LEWIS AND CLARK DEPART FORT CLATSOP

After passing a wet and tedious winter near the Pacific Coast, Lewis and Clark happily leave behind Fort Clatsop and head east for home. The Corps of Discovery arrived at the Pacific the previous November, having made a difficult crossing over the rugged Rocky Mountains. Their winter stay on the south side of the Columbia River – dubbed Fort Clatsop in honor of the local Indians – had been plagued by rainy weather, thieving Indians, and a scarcity of fresh meat. No one in the Corps of Discovery regretted leaving Fort Clatsop behind. In the days before their departure, Captains Lewis and Clark prepared for the final stage of their journey. Lewis recognized the possibility that some disaster might still prevent them from making it back east and he prudently left a list of the names of all the expedition's men with Chief Coboway of the Clatsops. Lewis asked the chief to give the list to the crew of the next trading vessel that arrived so the world would learn that the expedition did reach the Pacific. The previous few days had been stormy, but on March 22nd, the rain began to ease. The captains agreed to depart the next day, and they made a parting gift of Fort Clatsop and its furniture to Chief Coboway. At 1 p.m. on this day in 1806, the Corps of Discovery expedition set off up the Columbia River in canoes. After nearly a year in the wilderness, they had severely depleted the sizeable cache of supplies with which the expedition had begun – they set off on their return trip with only canisters of gunpowder, some tools, a small cache of dried fish and roots, and their rifles. The expedition had expended almost all of its supplies. Ahead loomed the high, rugged slopes of the Rocky Mountains that had proved so difficult to cross in the other direction the previous year. This time, however, Lewis and Clark had the advantage of knowing the route they would take. Still, they knew the passage would be difficult, and they were anxious to find the Nez Perce Indians, whose help they would need to cross the mountains. The months to come would witness some of the most dangerous moments of the journey, including Lewis' violent confrontation with Blackfeet Indians near the Marias River of Montana in July. Nonetheless, seven months later to the day, on September 23, 1806, the Corps of Discovery arrived at the docks of St. Louis, where their long journey had begun nearly two and a half years before.



“Beautiful souls are shaped by ugly experiences.”

— **Matshona Dhliwayo**

As of Friday, March 20th, there are 152 JW on Book 1 and 123 JW on Book 2. There are currently 10 Commercial Apprentices, 4 S&C Apprentices, and 0 Residential Apprentices available for dispatch. There are 0 unfilled Commercial, 0 unfilled S&C and 0 unfilled Residential Apprentice requests. 11 Commercial Apprentices will be available for dispatch on March 24th.