



# MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



**MARCH 30, 2020  
MEETINGS**

**5/21/20 – NECA MEMBERSHIP MTG**

## **PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, NECA & CORONAVIRUS UPDATES**

Last week was quite a challenge! This week may prove to be the same, but for very different reasons.

The Chapter has fielded hundreds of calls and emails on a daily basis. Since there is so much information bouncing around from a myriad of sources, the Chapter has been hesitant to barrage you with new information that many times comes without context or explanation of the information cited.

With the Governor's Stay at Home Order, and his Construction clarification on Wednesday, we now have a clearer path to focus on, albeit with a much more significant impact to contractors' businesses and their employees' ability to continue working and providing for their families.

The NECA Office and all levels of the NECA National organization have been working day and night to sort through all the information coming at us, to provide you with the most concise recommendations going forward. We realize how frustrating it can be to have countless questions and concerns, and the Chapter's response many times has been, "Please be patient. We are working on it." However, that continues to be our position on many issues, including all facets of how the new Federal Programs that go into effect on April 1st will dovetail with Washington State Unemployment Comp, Sick and Safe Leave, and the State Paid Family Medical Leave programs.

There are some procedures and applications that are still being developed (mostly by the Feds), and it is likely that some of the benefits that go into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> may not have all of the answers regarding eligibility in place by that date. NECA Chapters in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska will be participating in a conference call on Monday afternoon with NECA National Staff, in an effort to provide consistent information to contractors throughout the Northwest.

For the time being, most of the workers sitting at home due to job shutdowns are eligible for Washington State Standby Unemployment Comp. Many of your employees have already applied for these benefits and may already be receiving them. One point that I feel needs to be provided at this point: It is very unlikely that any of your employees unemployed because of being sent home due to the Governor's Stay at Home Order will be eligible for the temporary Federal Funds that become available on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We have received credible information that clearly states that these types of state edicts do not rise to the level of "forced isolation" that certain criteria in the Federal Programs require.

With that said, NECA will provide contractors with detailed information this week as soon as we can confirm all aspects of each program. If there are still some unanswered questions upon rollout of these programs, we will try to let you know what those scenarios are.

For now, let's hit this head on – with renewed strength and resolve to get through this difficult challenge together.

### **NEW US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR POSTING REQUIREMENT – FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT.**

Employers must give their employees notice of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The FFCRA requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. If all or part of your workplace is telecommuting, this notice must be given through other means than a physical posting. Email and direct mail, along with internal/external website notice is a sufficient way to inform employees. You can access the new posting by clicking [here](#).

### **A MESSAGE FROM NECA ASSOCIATE MEMBER AGORA SYSTEMS - 6 MONTHS FREE SERVICE**

As an industry, we're dealing with a lot of uncertainty in the face of COVID-19. Agora Systems wants to help. We're offering 6 months of free service with no obligation or commitment. This means that we'll help your business during this time at no cost and with no strings attached. At Agora, our mission is to empower electrical contractors with world-class technology, that saves time for field and office teams. We're already saving some of the top electrical contractors in California over 40% of the time they spend dealing with materials. Here's an example of how we can help: <https://www.helloagora.com/case-studies/wbe>. What this means is you'll have a partner to help maximize efficiencies across your supply chain for free. It's now more important than ever to improve internal processes and do all the things you've been meaning to but didn't have the time - when we get through this, this is what's going to matter for being positioned to succeed.

Click [here](#) to schedule a free demo of how we can help you, for free, with no obligation.

## **AVAIL OFFERS FREE SERVICE FOR NECA MEMBERS**

Many readers of this newsletter have met Amanda Nichols at either our Christmas Party or the NECA Ski Trip. Amanda's company, Avail, is offering free consultations to any NECA Contractors who are currently looking to implement IT solutions that will help their employees remain productive while working from home. Amanda specializes in tailoring which IT solution will work best for your company, to solve your needs. As technology continues to evolve, Avail will be able to not just develop a solution for the short term but also focus on how to maximize current technology to increase efficiency in your firm. If you are interested in a consultation contact Amanda Nichols at [Amanda.nichols@availpartners.net](mailto:Amanda.nichols@availpartners.net)

## **NECA OFFERS FREE ONLINE COURSES FOR A LIMITED TIME- TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY**

The Chapter highly encourages you to take advantage of the free online Training NECA is currently offering. The topics range from business writing, Microsoft Office, Project Management, Management Training and Leadership. This suite of more than 100 online training courses is FREE to all NECA Members. 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.

**ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1981**– President Ronald Reagan is shot in the chest outside a Washington, D.C. hotel by a deranged drifter named John Hinckley Jr. The president had just finished addressing a labor meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel and was walking with his entourage to his limousine when Hinckley, standing among a group of reporters, fired six shots at the president, hitting Reagan and three of his attendants. White House Press Secretary James Brady was shot in the head and critically wounded, Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy was shot in the side, and District of Columbia policeman Thomas Delahanty was shot in the neck. After firing the shots, Hinckley was overpowered and pinned against a wall, and President Reagan, apparently unaware that he'd been shot, was shoved into his limousine by a Secret Service agent and rushed to the hospital. The president was shot in the left lung, and the .22 caliber bullet just missed his heart. In an impressive feat for a 70-year-old man with a collapsed lung, he walked into George Washington University Hospital under his own power. As he was treated and prepared for surgery, he was in good spirits and quipped to his wife, Nancy, "Honey, I forgot to duck," and to his surgeons, "Please tell me you're Republicans." Reagan's surgery lasted two hours, and he was listed in stable and good condition afterward.

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### **WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY MEANT???**

Storage Facility on Aurora in Lynnwood:

**SCHOOLS CLOSED. FIRST MONTH'S RENT FREE!!**

Parents, you make the call!!

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If life gives you limes, make margaritas.

-Jimmy Buffett

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As of Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, there are 192 JW on Book 1 and 126 JW on Book 2. There are currently 27 Commercial Apprentices, 6 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.