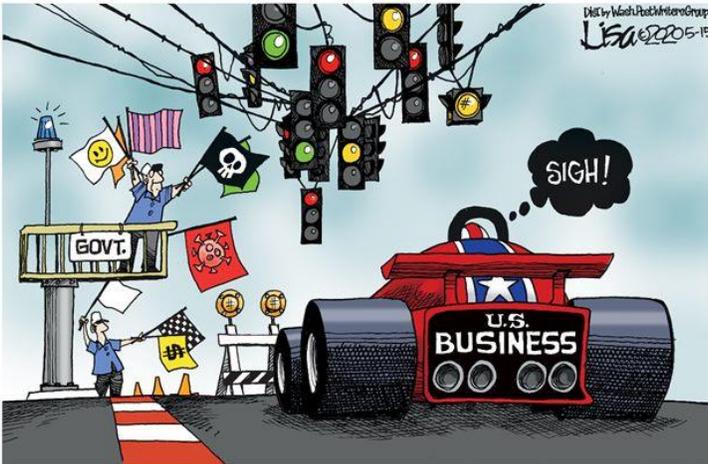




MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



MAY 18, 2020
MEETINGS

5/21/20 – TECHNOLOGY WEBINAR

WHY IT'S TIME TO EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY IN CONSTRUCTION - WEBINAR

SIGN UP TODAY to register for our upcoming webinar titled, “Why It’s Time to Embrace Technology in Construction!” The webinar will be held this Thursday, May 21st, at 3:00 PM, with NECA National’s Executive Director of Industry and Innovation, Josh Bone. Josh’s remarks will focus on how new technology can be perceived as a threat to some construction professionals, while the same technology is viewed as a new opportunity to others in our industry. He will also cover how new technologies are changing the way projects are designed and constructed, presenting new challenges and opportunities throughout the entire building life cycle. To register click [here](#).

More information on Josh is below.

For more than two decades, Josh Bone has been implementing, training and presenting construction technology solutions to AEC&O (Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Owners) professionals. Having worked with some of the top technology leaders in the industry, Josh specializes in identifying best practices and methodologies for integrating construction technology into everyday workflows. Josh has had the opportunity to share his knowledge with audiences and publications across North America as a frequent professional speaker and guest editorial contributor. Josh is also a frequent host on The ConTech Crew podcast.

PREMIER PARTNER PPE PROGRAM FOR NECA CONTRACTORS

Premier Partners Graybar and 3M are working hard to help provide access to an assortment of masks, gloves, glasses, and disinfectant for NECA Contractors and their employees. The initial list will expand based on requests from NECA Contractors and will include a “demand forecast tool” that will aim to help meet contractors’ needs during this time. To retain the integrity of this supply chain and access to genuine 3M parts, an order site will be available to current NECA Member Contractors. NECA has created a dedicated page within the national website with all the information. We encourage our contractors to take advantage of this generous offer. Please keep in mind there is limited availability and PPE priority will be given to high risk projects. For more information on the program click [here](#) or contact Wanessa Alves, Director of Member Relations at 301-215-4532 or wa@necanet.org with any questions about the program.

ELECTRI INTERNATIONAL RELEASES COVID-19 CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTIVITY REPORT

ELECTRI International released *Pandemics and Construction Productivity: Quantifying the Impact*, a critical report on the impact of COVID-19 on cost and schedule in the construction industry. The report evaluates activity from January 6, 2020, to May 8, 2020, tracking pandemic mitigation activity, benchmarking productivity and assessing the impact on businesses and projects.

View the initial findings of the report, overview videos and useful resources, [here](#).

APPLICATIONS FOR PPP PROGRAM SLOW TO A TRICKLE

The \$310 billion second round of the much-coveted Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program was expected to run out in just a matter of days, similar to the first \$349 billion round, which was exhausted within two weeks. But in the last week, the initial tsunami of loan approvals has slowed to a trickle. “There are several factors we believe are responsible, including the fact we have met the initial demand from both small businesses and eligible nonprofits, and we are now approving at a much slower rate,” said SBA spokesman Christopher Hatch. The SBA also pointed to other factors that it says is causing the slowdown. “It seems to be that firms are thinking more carefully about whether or not the loans are truly necessary, since we have made it clear that borrowers must attest that the loans are necessary and that legal action may follow for those that don’t need them.”, Hatch said.

The hesitation to dive into the program follows backlash after some large or public companies including Ruth's Chris Steak House, Shake Shack, and the Los Angeles Lakers received hundreds of millions of dollars in PPP loans. Those three entities were among more than 40 public companies that opted to give the money back so far. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had suggested companies that unfairly benefit or don't follow the PPP's lending terms “may be subject to criminal liability, which is a big deal.”

SEATTLE’S MEGA CONVENTION CENTER PROJECT IN “CRISIS” SEEKS FEDERAL HELP

Construction of the Summit Addition to the Washington State Convention Center will have to stop in about a year if it doesn't receive additional funds, the project team said Friday. “As uncomfortable as this is, I have to admit we're in a crisis. We have a big problem,” Project Manager Matt Griffin of Pine Street Group said during an online press conference. The project is \$300 million short, he said, and for help the team is turning to Washington, D.C. The \$1.8 billion addition, now 30% complete, issued some bonds backed by a lodging tax and expected to issue more this summer.

“As recently as this February, all the pieces were in place as we hoped,” Griffin said. “Then the virus hit.” This has decimated the hospitality industry nationwide. In the Seattle metro area in March, only 29 percent of the hotel rooms were occupied and revenue per available room was down 69 percent, according to travel research firm STR. The convention center since March has had 26 national conventions cancel through November, said Tom Norwalk, President and CEO of Visit Seattle.

Griffin said the convention center hopes the state's congressional delegation can help. The project team would like Congress to provide “a bridge through this gulf to a point where we can issue new bonds, which is somewhere in the neighborhood of four to eight years out.” He said the help could come from federal infrastructure grants or by providing security for the bonds. “Either of those would be helpful to allow us to continue to work and finish the project,” he said.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1980– At 8:32 AM, Mount St. Helens erupted, killing 57 people and devastating some 210 square miles of wilderness.



“Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life.”

Steve Jobs

As of Friday, May 15th, there are 231 JW on Book 1 and 117 JW on Book 2. There are currently 48 Commercial Apprentices, 0 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.