



MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



AUGUST 17, 2020

NECA 2020 LIVE – 10/5 – 10/7

NEW NECA CONTRACTORS MEMBERS!!

The Chapter would like to welcome four new Contractor Members for August!!

CLINTON & SONS ELECTRIC, INC.

Clinton & Sons has been in business for over 50 years! The firm performs all types of Commercial and Residential work. Travis Clinton is the NECA Accredited Representative. Clinton & Sons Electric is located at: 13515 SE 26th St., Bellevue, WA 98005. Phone: 425-746-7553, Fax: 425-746-9016. NECA welcomes Travis and his team to the Puget Sound Chapter!

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS, INC.

NECA also welcomes Electrical Systems Solutions, Inc. to the Puget Sound Chapter! The firm has been in business for 10 years, and also performs Commercial and Residential construction work. Rich Barrientos is the owner and NECA Accredited Representative. Address: 5216 45th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136 (Mailing: P.O. Box 16452, Seattle, WA 98116). Phone: 206-963-2999. Website: www.elessinc.com. Welcome to the Chapter Rich!

THE JUICE COMPANY, INC.

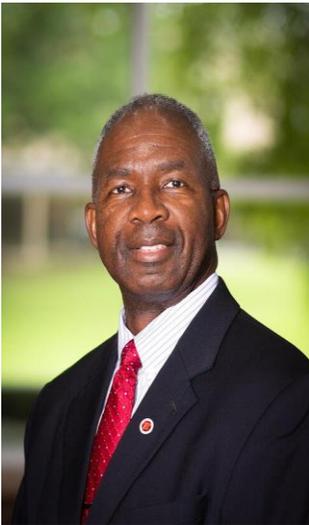
The Chapter also welcomes The Juice Company, Inc to the NECA Family! The Juice Company has been in business for 15 years. The firm performs all types of electrical construction, including Underground and Substation work. David Montenegro is the owner and NECA Accredited Representative for the Juice Company. Address: 30515 164th Ave SE, Auburn, WA 98092. Phone: 253-569-0813. Website: www.thejuicecompanyinc.com.

SHJ ELECTRIC CO. INC.

Rounding out the new Contractor Memberships for August is SHJ Electric Co. Inc. SHJ Electric has been in business for over 25 years and performs all types of Commercial and Residential electrical construction and Service Work. Stephen Bowser is the NECA Accredited Representative for SHJ Electric. Address: 18920 13th Pl. S., SeaTac, WA 98148. Phone: 206-789-0580. Website: www.shjelectric.com. A big NECA welcome to Stephen and the SHJ team!

NECA NAMES LT. GEN. RONALD L. BAILEY, USMC (Ret.), AS VICE PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Retired Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, USMC, as Vice President of Industry Development.



Bailey will be working on creating executive training programs, expanding the scope of workforce development, implementing diversity strategies, creating partnerships with institutions of higher learning, and leading the charge on recruitment programs that bring new, skilled workers into the industry. This will include a focus on recruiting ex-military personnel to NECA member companies and various Chapter positions.

NECA Chief Executive Officer David Long said, “I have known Gen. Bailey for nearly 10 years and have had the honor of working with him on a wide variety of business and community initiatives. I am thrilled he is bringing his invaluable experience as a three-star general from the battlefield to the boardroom to help take NECA’s Industry Development efforts to the next level. He has a proven record in developing performance-driven teams, and I know he will help us meet and exceed the needs of NECA.”

THE PUGET SOUND ELECTRICAL JATC MAKES CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC

To meet the Governor’s Proclamation for Phase 1 & 2 COVID-19 location safety, the JATC was required to make significant changes in class size. To meet this requirement, the school moved to a hybrid class model, where Apprentices attend school in-person about 50% of the time and online the remainder. The in-person classes include labs and testing, while lecture and worksheets are completed online. The online portion of the school is completed using an online learning management system called Canvas. Canvas is a platform for quizzes, discussion boards, and posting of online curriculum. This new format has also changed the Apprentice schedule.

For the next two quarters, Apprentices will attend class in-person, every other week, instead of once a week. During the weeks in-between, they will be completing class work online. The Apprentice has the

option to work or stay home and study on the days they would have been attending class. The apprentice needs to communicate with their contractor in advance of the quarter starting, as to their plans for these days. Apprentices who fail to perform in their online classes may be required to stay home and study the days they would have normally been in class. This would be at the direction of the JATC and based on performance.

REMINDER – CHECK OUT NECAWA.ORG FOR LABOR AGREEMENTS AND WAGE CHARTS

Local NECA Chapters have developed a useful tool for contractors and their staffs, who are looking for current wage or CBA Information in L.U. 46, 76, 191, 112, 73, and 48. NECAWA.ORG allows contractors to instantly have the most up to date information in all 6 jurisdictions in Washington State. Please visit the site and let us know what you think. www.necawa.org.

POLICE CHIEF'S DECISION TO QUIT MAY HAVE JUST SAVED SEATTLE FROM ITSELF

Every so often this newsletter will highlight an article that we believe provides an important perspective on a controversial issue impacting our community. This week, an article in the Seattle Times by Danny Westneat, gives an opinionated view on the current state of the City of Seattle.

Police Chief Carmen Best, by resigning this past week, just did Seattle two huge favors. Having the city's first Black police chief get driven out, supposedly in the name of furthering Black equality, was an embarrassment for our city. But that's what city leaders needed at this moment — they needed to get embarrassed, to be chastened or humbled a bit by their own slipshod performances. Thanks to Best, it appears that at least some of them were. The other favor Best did us is that her departure spotlighted the real ideological split at City Hall on this issue, which is: Are we trying to fix the police, or tear them down?

I'll get back to that second one in a minute, but first, the embarrassment. It's important to retrace a bit where the provision to slash Best's salary by 40% came from — as that was the moment, Best says, when “the animus felt personal.”

Because it came from Kshama Sawant. This is crucial, as Sawant's goals are unique, and aren't always aligned with the Black Lives Matter movement or others at City Hall.

Several council members had been understandably looking at ways to cut back salaries at the city, to deal with huge revenue drops due to COVID-19. For technical and labor-bargaining reasons, though, these broader plans to reduce the pay of employees across the board weren't doable in a midyear budget update. But on the morning of the budget committee vote on Aug. 5th, Sawant put in an amendment to cut the salaries of Best and her command staff. It was so new it wasn't listed on the agenda, and it hadn't yet been vetted much by council staff (the amount of money to be saved was at the time listed as “\$XX” because staff hadn't even had time to calculate it).

After only a few minutes of questions about whether it was legal to modify employment contracts midstream (council staff wasn't sure of that either, while Sawant insisted it was), the council backed the pay cuts with a 6 to 3 vote. This was extremely haphazard policymaking. It was also setting a political bomb, which, predictably, soon went off. You cut someone's pay 40 percent, you're not just disrespecting them, you're seeking to break the relationship. As I wrote last Sunday: “Is the council trying to get rid of the city's Black police chief?”

The only ones who couldn't see it were the council members themselves, who, from their Zoom bubble, soon took to apologizing, rationalizing and ultimately backtracking on most of Best's pay cut. But the one person you didn't hear expressing any regret was Sawant. That's because she wants political bombs like this to go off.

To her credit, she is transparent about this. At rallies this summer, she has expressed support for completely abolishing police (to which she adds that the police's paymaster, the capitalist system, must be taken down, too).

"And that will only happen when we fight a revolution!" she urged at the Capitol Hill Organized Protest in June.

In addition to defunding Chief Best, it was Sawant who offered a plan of police cuts so deep that staff wrote "SPD may not be able to make this reduction without eliminating all or nearly all staff." Even knowing this — that her plan could lay off the entire department — she pushed it to a vote anyway (it didn't pass).

So the resignation of one chief? That's just the appetizer.

It sure seemed from their statements, though, that at least five council members realize this was a huge political blunder. One, Lisa Herbold, apologized, while another, Debora Juarez, termed it a "wake up call" to work more collaboratively. Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County blasted the council, saying it "does nothing" for their cause that the city's first Black police chief had been "forced out of her job." No, but it does give the council a powerful reason to step back and reflect, to pause and vet their plans more carefully in the future. It's a dose of reality to go along with the idealism. It doesn't derail the overall police project, but maybe some will at least second-guess the wisdom of rushing into the breach behind Sawant.

Best's quitting also refocused the core debate. What is the city trying to do here: reform the police, or tear it down? Change it or cripple it? Having a Black woman leading the recruiting of a more diverse force is a major asset if your goal is reform. But she's just another obstacle if you view the police as broken beyond repair.

"Best's actions ... were guided at all times by loyalty to the status quo and willingness to do the role of police under capitalism: defend deep inequality through ongoing repression of poor, marginalized, communities of color," Sawant said, after the dust cloud she caused had cleared. "The fact that Best is herself Black didn't change that underlying reality."

"Defund the police" has been gauzy as to what it really means, to how far it would go. Now, thanks to Best, we're all getting a little clearer picture.

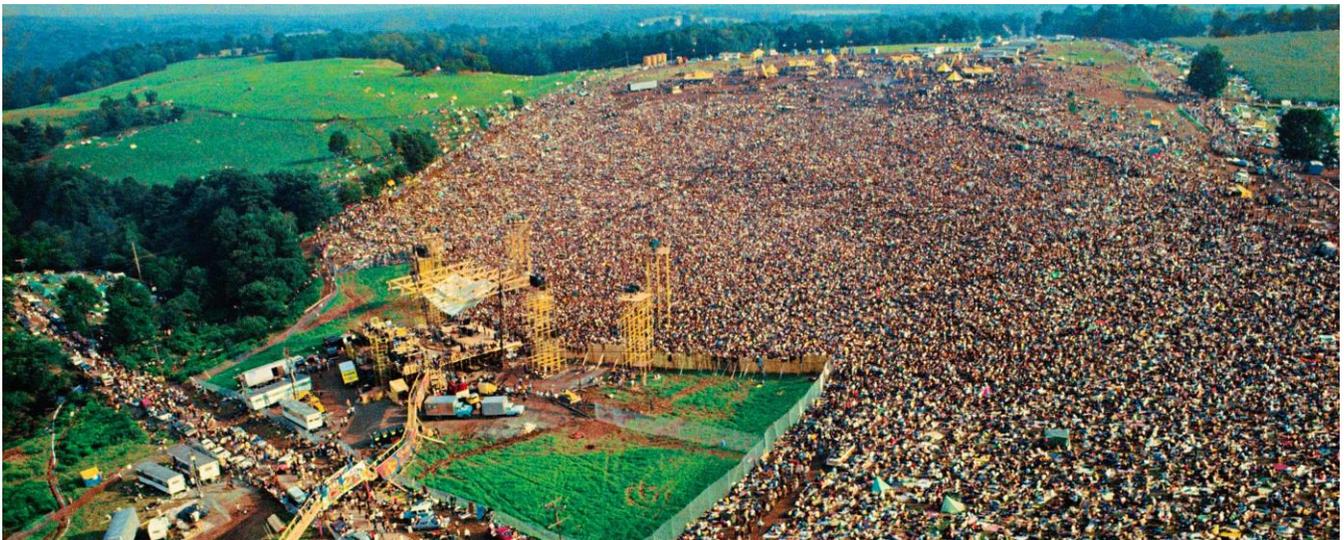
Danny Westneat: dwestneat@seattletimes.com; Danny Westneat takes an opinionated look at the Puget Sound region's news, people and politics.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1969 – The grooviest event in music history—the Woodstock Music & Art Fair—draws to a close after three days of peace, love and rock ‘n’ roll in upstate New York.

Conceived as “Three Days of Peace and Music,” Woodstock was a product of a partnership between John Roberts, Joel Rosenman, Artie Kornfield and Michael Lang. Their idea was to make enough money from the event to build a recording studio near the New York town of Woodstock. When they couldn’t find an appropriate venue in the town itself, the promoters decided to hold the festival on a 600-acre dairy farm in Bethel, New York—some 50 miles from Woodstock—owned by Max Yasgur.

By the time the weekend of the festival arrived, the group had sold a total of 186,000 tickets and expected no more than 200,000 people to show up. By Friday night, however, thousands of eager early arrivals were pushing against the entrance gates. Fearing they could not control the crowds, the promoters made the decision to open the concert to everyone, free of charge. Close to half a million people attended Woodstock, jamming the roads around Bethel with eight miles of traffic.

Soaked by rain and wallowing in the muddy mess of Yasgur’s fields, young fans best described as “hippies” euphorically took in the performances of acts like Janis Joplin, Arlo Guthrie, Joe Cocker, Joan Baez, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Sly and the Family Stone and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. The Who performed in the early morning hours of August 17th, with Roger Daltrey belting out “See Me, Feel Me,” from the now-classic album *Tommy* just as the sun began to rise. The most memorable moment of the concert for many fans was the closing performance by Jimi Hendrix, who gave a rambling, rocking solo guitar performance of “The Star Spangled Banner.”



“Either you run the day, or the day runs you.”

– Jim Rohn

As of Friday, August 14th, there are 255 JW on Book 1 and 125 JW on Book 2. There are 3 unfilled Commercial, 5 unfilled S&C and 0 unfilled Residential Apprentice requests. 16 Commercial bootcamp graduates will be available on August 18th and 9 Sound and Communication bootcamp graduates will also be available on August 18th.