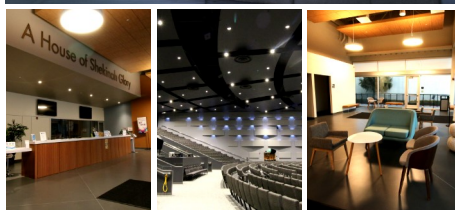


Times



Photos: Trevor DeHaas ©

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

River of Life, 1177 Laurelwood Rd., Santa Clara, CA

In 2017, River of Life Christian Church, a "unique Chinese church also open to English-speaking people and offering a wide variety of community and spiritual activities," began a substantial renovation and expansion project. New Age Electric was a key member of the construction team for the high-end modernization, which was completed this past January. The 22-month, \$1.74M electrical contract involved upgrade of an existing facility, and ground-up construction of new structures. The new facility includes an auditorium, stadium seating, meeting rooms, pastors' office, administration offices and a beautifully customized sanctuary and lobby expansion. In addition to high-end interior upgrades, construction also included extensive landscape/site work and lighting to all exterior assembly areas.

Working with Build SJC, the GC, and LVH, a low-voltage and lighting programming firm, NAE's team provided construction/installation of all electrical and power systems, intricate conduit raceways, elaborate lighting and controls and state-of-the-art multimedia/AV equipment. Unique features included innovative DMX controlled sanctuary lighting in clouds, walls and aisle walkways, and specialized power requirements for the stage equipment and lighting. Due to the very specific customization of these complex systems and controls, much of this type of installation was new to our team, but we took up the challenge and learned and excelled along the way.

Project Manager Tyler Cole and Foreman Dean Skerlep, along with leads Jonathan Galvan and Logan Mandy, led a select team of electricians and apprentices in completing this exciting project. Together with Eric Arevalos, Adrian Arevalos, Erick Baires, Ray Brahmzadeh, Dylan Brubaker, Jerry Garcia, Tony Mejia, Alvin Maynard, Enrique Luis Morales, Isaias Ornelas, Armando Rabago, Isaac Ramirez, Josh Rocklage, Chris Shackleton and others, the NAE team tracked over 18,000 manhours and turned an amazing, beautifully detailed finished product over to a satisfied client. Congratulations Team....well done and thanks for your great work!!! 🙌

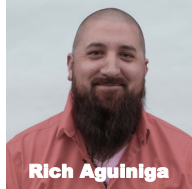
MEET YOUR NAE TEAM—THE AGUINIGA TWINS



Ron Aguiniga

Q: What brought you to NAE?

Ron: At 18, I had a few friends in the trade who explained to me what they did as electricians and I was intrigued. A year later my brother reached out and asked if I was still interested in becoming an electrician. During my early training, I was working days as a loan officer while learning residential electrical in the evening. In 2008 when the market crashed I enrolled at Wyotech in automotive and business, while still working as an electrician doing custom homes in the Bay Area for contractors and clients. In 2012 I joined the New Age team, where I've been able to take my knowledge of electrical to the highest level.



Rich Aguiniga

Rich: I was living in Sacramento and working for a car dealership, still trying to figure out how I wanted to support myself. A close friend introduced me to electrical construction; his company was hiring apprentices

and I received my training building custom residential, cell phone towers and other commercial work. In the early 2000's I moved to the Bay Area and started applying at local electrical shops. Just my luck that New Age was hiring. They asked me when I could start and now I've been here going on 14 years!

Q: Which project is your personal favorite and why?

Ron: I've been fortunate, as most in the company, to work on some special projects. In particular though I would have to say my first project with PayPal/EBay, which helped NAE develop a building service line and forge a great client partnership. It was also during this time that I was learning how to work closely with the client and other subcontractors, while leading my own projects and teams.

Rich: My favorite NAE projects are the ones that I learn from; I've had quite a few of those so it's hard to pick just one. In this trade, as long as the world continues to evolve and technologies change, there is always something new to learn, no matter how good you are or how much you already know. I look forward to each new project as an opportunity to learn something valuable and expand my knowledge.

Q: What advice do you have for those with less experience and wanting to grow?

Ron: Don't stop asking questions, that's how you begin to understand why you're doing what you're doing. Anyone can put black to black and red to red; only a great electrician will know the why. The best classroom is your jobsite; there's always something to learn. Keep your head up and your eyes open, be aware of your surroundings. This is a specialized, skilled trade and you will only get better with experience. Also, if you want to be in a leadership role, practice visualizing the big picture – think like a leader, act like a leader and you will become a leader.

Rich: You'll never know everything; there's always something to learn. Be hungry for it; experience is your best teacher. Don't be afraid to ask questions. In this business, there are no stupid ones. Ask even if you think you may already know the answer – your question might help someone else who doesn't know the right question to ask. Also, recognize that this isn't just a J-O-B. It's an OPPORTUNITY to learn a valuable skill that can take you as far as you want to go, as long as you are willing to invest the time and the effort.

Q: Tell us a little about your personal life.

Ron: Golf has been my passion for the past year and a half, the challenge has me hooked! I've played in Palm Springs, Pebble Beach and Hawaii and in April I'm competing in a tournament in ...**Cont'd back**

The Back Page

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOSS

In our business, SAFETY is the most important thing we do. I can't stress it enough. The very nature of our business puts each one of us at peril every single day. With a world that seems to move at lightning speed, it's critical we focus on present moments, especially where safety is concerned.

As an employer, it's our responsibility to make safety a top priority. Those of you in leadership positions need to be role models – always leading by example. At a minimum, your standard PPE is always required: high visibility clothing, hardhats, safety glasses, and work boots. And as noted in the Safety article below, depending on your jobsite's potential hazards, additional PPE such may be required—to be worn by all.

NAE plans to continue offering training programs that strengthen safety knowledge and build safety awareness. Even the most seasoned of us can use a little brush-up now and then. We recently held a mandatory all-day Lock-out/Tag-out refresher course for Foreman and Lead Electricians, taught by our safety partner, Patty Becker at Global Safety. Thank you for your attendance. Many of you felt the class was helpful and timely, and I appreciate your positive attitudes as we all strive to be better safety stewards. NAE will be offering more refresher classes like this through the coming year; if you have any specific requests, I'm listening. I want us all to be the best we can be at what we do.

And to end on a more light-hearted note, notice the bloopster photo to the right? How about a Caption contest! Submit your captions, rated PG, to me by 3/22. We will vote on the best caption at following Tuesday staff meeting and winner will receive a \$25 Starbucks's gift card plus honorable mention in the next NAE Times! ☺



Write the winning caption to this photo! Submit your PG-rated entry to Kurt by 3/22. Winning caption will be voted on by office staff and awarded a prize!

Aguiniga Twins....Ventura. I enjoy attending Bay Area sporting events – Warriors, Sharks, Giants, Raiders, Earthquakes. My dream vacation is one that would take me from place to place, experiencing as much as I can: the people, the culture, big cities and small towns, mountain climbing and ocean swimming. And of course golf wherever I can!

Rich: My current "hobby" is my house. I've replaced flooring, upgraded electrical, lighting and cable wiring, and painted both inside and out. The front room is a Man Cave, with a big-screen TV, pool table and bar. Together with my fiancé Iva, and our kids, Aliyanna, 6 and Arius, 3, we try to keep up with our 97 lb. German shepherd puppy, fittingly named Chase! I also enjoy snowboarding, wake surfing, boating, playing softball, camping, shooting, and working on cars. Dream vacation? Any beach, anywhere, anytime!

Q: Brothers can be competitive; is that true for you?

Ron: Naturally since we are twins, we compete in everything we do. Being the younger and smaller brother, I've always prided myself on trying to be bigger and better! ☺

Rich: It doesn't matter what it is, I'm super competitive with my brother, but in a good way. Lately it's golf because that's become his passion; but if it's sports related, I'm on it and it's a fair fight to the finish! ☺

NEC TEST PREP QUESTIONS:

- Where the motor controller also serves as a disconnecting means, it shall open all ____ conductors to the motor.
A) Grounded C) Grounding
B) Neutral D) Ungrounded
- Type MI cable shall be supported at intervals NOT exceeding _____.
A) 2 feet C) 6 feet
B) 4 feet D) 10 feet
- A ground rod is required to be driven a MINIMUM depth of ____ into the earth.
A) 4 feet C) 8 feet
B) 6 feet D) 10 feet

Answers to Test Prep Questions: 1. d, 2. c, 3. c

SAFETY CORNER — Contributed by Global Safety Management

The top hazards in the construction industry responsible for the majority of fatalities and injuries, are called the Focus 4; these consist of falls, electrical, struck-by, and caught/crushed-by hazards. Following are a list of critical safety measures to prevent injury or death from these Focus 4 hazards and others:

- Fall protection is required when working at heights of 6' or greater. Guardrails and fall restraint are preferred over personal fall arrest systems.
- All floor openings should be protected by a cover or suitable guardrail system.
- Use the correct ladder for the job. Inspect your ladder prior to use, use 3 points of contact when climbing, and follow the belt buckle rule.
- Create an electrically safe work condition when risk of electrical shock or arc flash may be present. Test before you touch.
- All excavations 5' deep or greater require cave-in protection. A competent person should be onsite to do inspections of the excavation daily, before entry and whenever site conditions change.
- Prior to entering a confined space, assess potential hazards within, perform atmospheric testing, participate in pre-job safety meeting with all affected personnel, and complete/post Confined Space Entry Permit - only trained personnel may enter.
- Verify a clear drive path when using mobile equipment and get a spotter in congested areas. If walking in areas of equipment operation, make eye contact with the operator prior to movement.
- Always wear your seatbelt when operating any moving equipment.
- Never stand behind moving equipment where you can get trapped or pinned. Always allow yourself an escape lane.
- When working at elevations, secure material and equipment so they don't fall to lower levels.
- Hoisting operations require additional planning, coordination and training. Never stand under a suspended load. Loads should never exceed the capacity of the rigging or hoisting device.
- Inspect tools and equipment prior to use.
- Never remove a safety guard when a tool is being used. Hazardous moving parts of power tools and equipment need to be safeguarded.
- Lockout/tagout equipment during service and maintenance.
- Standard PPE is always required (high visibility clothing, hardhats, safety glasses, and work boots). Depending on potential hazards, the work may also require additional PPE such as face shield, goggles, gloves, metatarsal caps, and respiratory protection.
- When working with chemicals, review the Safety Data Sheet and follow safe handling, use, and storage requirements. ☺

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Foremen's Meeting: First Monday Every Month at 6AM

(unless otherwise noted)