



## Traditions Breed Prosperity

Back in 2012, the Barnes-Allison Labor Management Cooperation Committee (BALMCC) undertook an effort to examine the first 100 years of both IBEW Local 48 and their signatory contractor partner, the Oregon-Columbia Chapter of NECA. Based on that research, an exhibit was created for display at the Oregon History Museum that honored the legacy of this powerful partnership on its 100th anniversary in 2013. The exhibit now resides at the NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center, and duplicates of many of the items are available to view at the NECA office.

The unique relationship between IBEW electricians and their NECA contractors has faced many challenges. Yet, their alliance remains strong. It is founded on the belief that there is power and strength in cooperation. By working together we are able to position ourselves in the Electrical Construction market to capture significant contracts, for mutual profitability. Undoubtedly there will be challenges to face in the future. But through this labor-management partnership, there will be the opportunity to collectively develop lasting solutions.

This new monthly newsletter will examine some of the historic challenges faced by the partnership. We will discuss how issues were resolved and how those lessons learned are being applied today. Another element of the newsletter, will highlight activities of individual members. Finally, each month's edition will include a list of the new work secured by NECA contractors.

*Gary & Tim*



### A little history on the first 100 years

Since 1913, more than 50,000 union electricians, as members of Local 48, have worked for hundreds of contractors to electrify the homes and businesses, shipyards and bridges, and lumber mills and computer chip manufacturers in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The employers were likewise organized for social, political and economic reasons under different names in the past 100 years; most recently, since 1943, as the Oregon-Columbia Chapter of NECA.

The 20th century embraced everything electrical, creating a huge demand for skilled labor to wire lighting for businesses and homes that replaced gas lamps, and for Portland's 500+ streetcars that carried a quarter-million passengers commuting to work and play each year. This labor-management partnership has been one of relative harmony over the course of 10 decades and 18 economic recessions. Yet, this important industry contribution to the region has gone largely unrecognized by historians, news media and the public.

## Healthcare Then and Now



In 1913, the organizations that would eventually become IBEW Local 48 and the Oregon-Columbia NECA, were established. In the same year, the state of Oregon formed its first worker's compensation program. The law set up the State Industrial Accident Commission, consisting of three trustees, to oversee the Industrial Accident Fund. Employers in hazardous occupations had to decide whether to be part of the fund.

Since the beginning, taking care of member's health concerns was a priority for the partnership.

Today, through the Harrison Trust, NECA/IBEW Local 48 offers their Flex Plan and a Health & Welfare Plan that provides members and their families quality medical care by providing comprehensive medical coverage.

Originally established by NECA/IBEW Local 48 in 1954, the Health & Welfare Plan now protects the members of four Locals: 48, 659, 932 and 280. It was one of the earliest plans of its kind among the local unions.

Through cooperative efforts between our members and employers, the two organizations and the Harrison Trust have continually reviewed and updated benefits to ensure that members are fully covered. To this day, NECA/IBEW Local 48 works to meet member's individual needs and provide access to the most advanced medical and dental technology at low cost. With the assistance of Plan participants, the partnership will continue to offer programs, such as the disease

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continued from page 1...

management and Healthy Mother Healthy Baby programs, that ensure access to top quality medical care.

The various wellness programs help participants reach personal health and fitness goals and aids in reducing heart attack risk, stress and cholesterol. Participants learn to exercise, eat right, control their weight, prevent certain cancers, stop smoking and generally improve overall health and fitness. In addition, the Trust provides 100% coverage for preventive examinations. The success and importance of the wellness program is attested by the fact that several lives have been saved by early detection and treatment of critical health problems.

Through the years, Harrison Trust has added important benefits including health care coverage for retirees through a Medicare Supplement plan, dental, vision care, and prescription drug benefits, hearing aid benefits, an employee assistance plan, home health care, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health benefits (added well before required by law), smoking cessation benefits, and a flexible benefit plan, and one of the largest employer-sponsored wellness programs in Oregon. Today, NECA/IBEW Local 48 and the Harrison Trust provide a diverse and comprehensive line of health and welfare benefits.



## Member News

### Volunteers Help Local Family

Joyce and Jesse Hindsman had an electrical service for their house that was not only insufficient to handle modern loads, but was also overloaded to the point of being warm to the touch. The couple has special medical needs and are on a fixed disability income.

On March 16th, 2015, the Portland Chapter of the **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus** came out in force to help the Hindsmans. Day of service volunteers included: **John Dixon, Jerry Simon, Ronnie Jimmerson, Thomas Corrie, Jodi Tillinghast, Trillium Ward (Apprentice) and Dalton Husband (Volunteer)** with donations for funding, (**IBEW local 48**), a permit (**O'Neill Electric**), and parts and pieces (**Platt and North Coast**).

A special "Thank You" to **Aaron B. Strong, Tim Foster, Robin Rabirotff, and Gary Young** of IBEW Local 48, and **Emma** at O'Neill Electric. A very special "Shout Out"

to John Dixon for going through the steps that made this project a success. John saw a problem and navigated the steps to get this couple a new, safer service.



## Job Updates

### **The Argyle Winery Tasting Room project is almost completed.**

- This project has taken wine production facilities and re-purposed them into their new tasting facility.
- Included is a new tasting room facility and extensive event grounds.
- The project will have approximately 2500-manhours.
- Please contact Jeff Holmes, 971-205-4263 for additional information.

### **EC Company is working on the Young's Bay Bridge in Astoria**

- They're replacing some extremely old yet still operational wiring
- Upgrading to some high level stainless and American made products and technology.
- They are in hopes of receiving an old panel board of exposed controls that they will be removing soon.

