



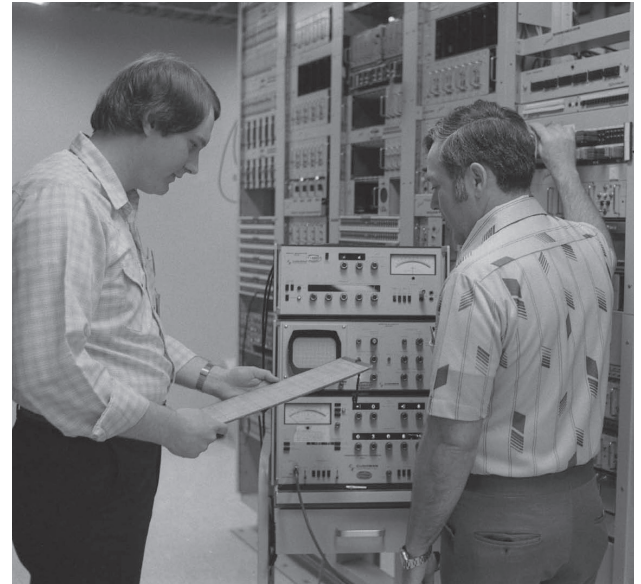
1980's Crisis in the Economy

The first month of 1980 started with a recession that would continue to spike and decline for the next ten years. By the end of January, unemployment in Oregon jumped from 6.9 percent to 9.2 percent. The Portland area economy faltered. NECA/IBEW Local 48 lost smaller residential projects to non-union electricians and contractors.

As the electrical industry, like all the building trades, descended into the largest construction depression to hit the Pacific Northwest, more than 500 IBEW electrical workers lost their jobs for an average of nine months to a year. Bankruptcy threatened many NECA electrical contractors. Some went out of business. The list of unemployed members of IBEW Local 48 lengthened. "Travelers" left to find work out of state.

In keeping with their trailblazing history, IBEW Local 48 Business Manager Ed Barnes and NECA Chapter Manager Tim Gauthier sought outside advice to resolve the crisis. Each paid \$500 out of their own pockets to hire Orville Iverson, a labor-management professor at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, for his advice. Iverson moderated a series of labor-management cooperation meetings with hundreds of union electricians and electrical contractors.

Working cooperatively with NECA, Ed Barnes initiated a series of sweeping changes in labor-management relations, including implementation of a wage rollback of the "Big Six" dollar increase called for in the NECA/IBEW Local 48 labor agreement for the years 1982-1984. Barnes implemented adjustments in the labor agreement as of January 1, 1984, that resulted in labor cost reductions that resulted in the creation of additional work opportunities for the union.



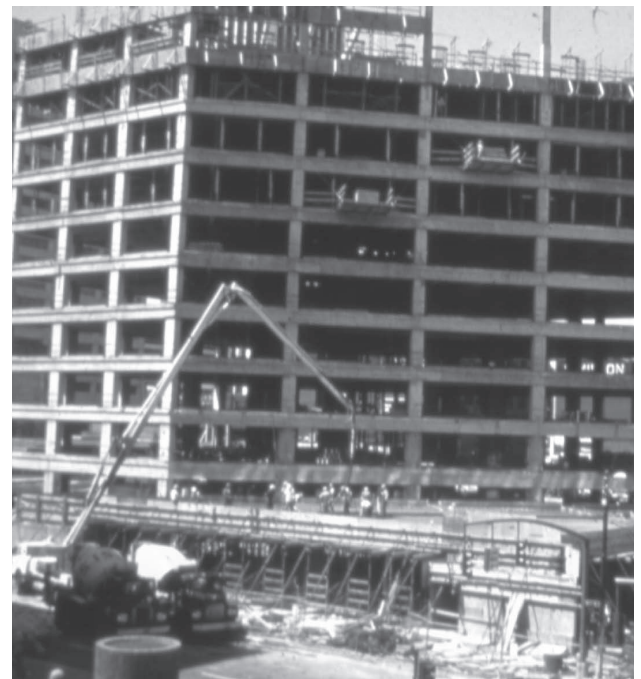
Built in the 1970s, BPA's Dittmer Control Center required continual updating and maintenance to keep pace with technological advances throughout the 1980s.

“They lived up to their pledge that the job would be completed without interruptions caused by strikes or jurisdictional disputes.”

**William T. Creson, Chairman of the Board
Crown Zellerbach, 1984**

Together, small and large NECA employers and members at every level of IBEW Local 48, continued to engage in “no-holds-barred” meetings. Finally, the Labor-Management Cooperation Committee agreed to changes to make the union electrical contractor, and members of Local 48 more competitive and to ensure customer satisfaction, including more flexible work week and shift work conditions, new residential training and reducing overtime from double-time to time-and-a-half.

Labor and management agreed that being competitive was a “prime objective” realizable only by their continued cooperation.



Built in the midst of the recession, One Main Place, a 20 story concrete and glass tower, completed construction in 1982.

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In 1986, NECA/IBEW Local 48 executed a Market Recovery Program (MRP) amendment to their collective bargaining agreement. The MRP was unique, controversial, and the first of its type of job targeting programs in the United States. It was a direct result of labor-management meetings initiated by Ed Barnes with Tim Gauthier.

NECA/IBEW Local 48 used job-targeting funds from its Market Recovery Program, launched amidst controversy two years earlier in 1986, to win 544 projects valued at \$27 million, creating 450,000 hours of work for journeymen electricians between March 1, 1986, and December 31, 1987. To date, the Market Recovery Program has won NECA/IBEW Local 48 nearly 20,000 projects valued at more than \$1.8 billion, resulting in the creation of 17 million man-hours, the equivalent of 325 full time jobs for journeymen electricians for the past 30 years.

The Portland area has recently experienced both economic downturn and the highest man-hours in history during 2014 of 7.6 million man hours. But unlike the 80's NECA/IBEW Local 48 has diversified our work on multi-year projects in the hi-tech and data center, mixed use, hospitals, private business campuses, hospitality and many other new aspects of construction. Marketing and advocacy programs are also in place to help rebuild NECA/IBEW Local 48's market share and to keep members in the spotlight.

With over a hundred years of experience and a history of groundbreaking ideas that will help NECA/IBEW Local 48 and its members weather the current and future economic slumps.

1981 – Tim Gauthier comes to Portland!

In 1981, Tim Gauthier left the Kansas City NECA chapter and joined the Oregon-Columbia chapter as assistant manager. A year later, he became the executive manager.

During his time in Portland, Gauthier negotiated and achieved labor relations support for six separate labor agreements with the IBEW Local 48, and two agreements with then IBEW Local 970 before the merger with LU 48. He has been instrumental in government affairs, and in 1990, he was appointed by Gov. Goldschmidt to serve on the Premium Equity Task Force for Workers' Compensation. In 2005, he was appointed by the Oregon Labor Commission to serve on the Prevailing Wage Taskforce on Private Public Development.

In addition to his Chapter administrative responsibilities, Gauthier has been active and effective in the areas of education, government affairs, charitable fundraising and industry marketing. He has provided leadership and crafted innovative solutions that have been adopted as national models for success.

Recently Gauthier was recognized for his leadership skills. On March 3rd the Daily Journal of Commerce recognized its 2016 Newsmakers—the most interesting and influential people, companies and organizations in the architecture, engineering and construction industry during the previous year. Gauthier was recognized for his 40 years of leadership with NECA and the industry. Congratulations again Tim!



Morrison Bridge illuminated, December 1987. NECA/IBEW Local 48 donated materials and labor to the project. (From left to right): Bob Agee, owner Sutherland Electric; Tim Gauthier, NECA Executive Manager; Jim Hanson, electrician; Dwayne Johnson, electrician; Ed Barnes, IBEW Local 48 business manager.



The MAX light rail system opened on September 5, 1986. Pictured above is the NECA/IBEW Local 48 wrapped MAX cars.