

MARBA MATTERS

GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration demands in the month of June.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers did not meet in July. The next JGC is set for August 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Laborers offices. There are three (3) grievances set to go forward.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operating Engineers JGC met on July 10, 2024, at the Operating Engineers office in Countryside. There were initially five (5) grievances to be heard. However, prior to the JGC meeting one was withdrawn, one was continued pending further settlement discussions, and one was paid, leaving two (2) grievances to be heard. The first case involved a contractor that was alleged to have had a non-bargaining unit member run an excavator. The Union presented evidence that the member running the machine was not a union member. The contractor failed to appear. As such the JGC, relying on the evidence and testimony presented by the Union, issued a decision in favor of the Union. The second grievance was continued prior to being heard as the Union received an audit report the morning of the JGC hearing which the Employer did not have the opportunity to review prior to the case being heard. The next JGC hearing will be held on September 11, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Operating Engineers office in Countryside. The number of grievances set to go forward has yet to be determined.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in July. The next regularly scheduled JGC is set for August 29, 2024, at the MARBA office, provided there are any grievances set to go forward.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

Illinois Department of Labor Post Prevailing Wage Rates

The Illinois Department of Labor has posted the most recent prevailing wage rates on its website as of July 15, 2024. Per the Prevailing Wage Act, the wage rates contained in a CBA will prevail provided 30% of those employed in a locality are covered under said CBA. The rates posted on the IDOL website are continually updated. As such contractors are reminded to check the Department's website for the most current prevailing wage rate in addition to ensuring compliance with the wage rates contained in CBAs. The prevailing wage rates can be found by clicking [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

MARBA to Sponsor Artificial Intelligence Seminar in October

MARBA is pleased to announce it will be sponsoring an Artificial Intelligence seminar on Wednesday October 9, 2024, at Rivers Casino in Des Plaines. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 11:30 a.m. The program, entitled "The Effects of AI on the Construction Industry" will give attendees insight into the acceleration of AI and how it affects leadership and business strategy. The goal of the program will be to help people understand the reality of artificial intelligence and gain an understanding of how AI is shaping the future of the construction industry. For more information about the program, please contact Aaron Janik at ajanik@marba.org.

Bid Credit Works Program to Offer Webinars

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the Illinois Bid Credit Works Program. To inform contractors of the program and the manner in which it is administered, DCEO has posted a series of webinars on its website. The webinars have a plethora of information on how contractors can earn credits for use on future bids for state or agencies of the state projects. To view the webinars, click [here](#). To go directly to the DCEO website to find out more information about the Bid Credit Works Program click [here](#).

Construction Industry Posts Strong Month for Job Growth

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the construction industry showed strong growth in the month of June, adding 37,000 jobs. The 37,000 jobs outpace the 20,000 per month average monthly gains the industry saw over the previous 12 months. The unemployment rate fell to 3.3% in the construction industry as well. The 3.3% unemployment rate was one of the lowest ever recorded by the BLS further showing just how many more jobs could have been added.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	June 2024 U.S. 4.1% (May 4.0%), Illinois 5.0% (48 th tied)
Labor Participation Rate	June 62.6%, May 62.5%, April 62.7%
CPI All Urban Consumers	June 2024 over June 2023 = 2.97% Half Year = 3.22%
CPI Chicago All Items	June 2024 over June 2023 = 2.99% Half Year = 3.14%
CPI Midwest All Items	June 2024 over 2024 = 2.50%
Union Membership	2023 = 10.0% (Private Sector 6.0%) 2022 = 10.1% (Private Sector 6.0%)

	2021 = 10.3% (Private Sector 6.1%)
Unionized Construction Workers	11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021), 12.7% (2020)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 7-25-24 6.78%, down 0.03% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.34% (2022), 2.96% (2021), 3.11% (2020)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 7-25-24 6.07%, down 0.04% over the prior year. Annual Average 4.58% (2022), 2.27% (2021), 2.61% (2020)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$81.43 per barrel (as July 31, 2024, 4:00 p.m.) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	3.4% above revised May rate 3.1% below June 2023 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	3.0% above revised May rate (+/-10.5.4%) 4.4% below June 2023 rate (+/-12.7%)
GDP	Q2 2024 (Adv) +2.8% Q1 2024 (3rd) +1.4%
DJIA	40,842.79 as of July 31, 2024 (close) 39,401.98 as of June 28, 2024 (9:55 a.m.) 38,715.15 as of May 28, 2024 (1:30 p.m.)

JANIK’S J.D. – AN UPDATE ON LABOR/CONSTRUCTION LEGAL ISSUES
AARON JANIK- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARBA

Illinois Joins Handful of Other States Banning Captive Audience Meetings

On Wednesday, July 31, Governor Pritzker signed into law the Illinois Worker Freedom of Speech Act. Illinois becomes one of 18 states to pass or considering passing such legislation. In essence, the Illinois law bans employers from holding mandatory meetings with employees in which company views on religion, unions, and/or unions are shared. These meetings are often referred to as captive audience meetings. Pro-labor organizations hail the signing of the legislation while several groups contend the legislation violates the First Amendment and is in conflict with the National Labor Relations Act.

Under the Act, if an employee is disciplined for refusing to attend one of these meetings they may file a lawsuit against their employer. The new law also allows an “interested party” to file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Labor for alleged violations. Employers may still conduct meetings in which they discuss their views on Unions, but they may not make attendance at such meetings mandatory. The law takes effect on January 1, 2025. It may be found by clicking [here](#) .

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

AI EFFECT ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

MARBA IS PLEASED TO HOST THIS TMELY AND INFORMATIVE EVENT

DATE: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2024
TIME: 8:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.
LOCATION: RIVERS CASINO
3000 S. RIVER ROAD
DES PLAINES, IL 60018
COST: \$100.00 (SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE)
CONTACT: AARON JANIK AT AJANIK@MARBA.ORG

CALENDAR

AUGUST 8	8:00 A.M.	BAC FUNDS MEETING (ELMHURST)
AUGUST 14	12:00 P.M.	CONTRACTORS QUARTERLY MEETING (ONLINE)
AUGUST 15	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
AUGUST 19	8:00 A.M.	SWEENEY CLASSIC (ORLAND PARK)
AUGUST 29	8:00 A.M.	LABORERS CHARITABLE OUTING (ORLAND PARK)
AUGUST 29	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)

¹ Information for MARBA Matters was obtained from the following sources: BNA Construction Labor Reports, Crain's Chicago Business, Northwest Times of Indiana, Chicago Tribune, and Sun-Times, CDQ, and the BLS, as well as various websites and other publications.

Did You Know?

The sandwich was invented in August 1762 when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat served between two pieces of bread

The Caleb Williams era kicks off August 1 with the Bears taking on the Houston Texans in the Hall of Fame game in Canton, OH.

