



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA received an arbitration demand in the month of August regarding an employer's alleged refusal to appoint a steward.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in September. The next meeting will be on October 28, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. At this point there are no grievances set to be heard. The Union will advise the JGC if there are any other grievances set to be heard about two weeks prior to the 28th.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operators JGC met on September 17, 2025, at the Union offices in Countryside. There were initially ten (10) grievances to be heard, however, by the time the JGC convened there were six (6) grievances that went forward. Of those six (6), three (3) were filed against the same company for the same issue (e.g. bounced payroll checks), two (2) were filed against the same company for the same issue (e.g. non-bargaining unit members running equipment). The single grievance alleged that a non-bargaining unit member was operating equipment.

As it relates to the bounced checks, the contractor in question did not appear at the hearing(s) and per the JGC rules the Committee was able to issue a decision based on the testimony and evidence presented by the Union. The JGC upheld the grievance and awarded the three members the initial amounts due under the check as well as penalties for the delay in getting them their checks. The other three remaining grievances that involved non-bargaining unit members operating equipment were also all upheld and the JGC awarded the Union the amounts being sought under the initial grievances. The next JGC meeting is scheduled to be held Wednesday, November 25, 2025, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Union offices in Countryside. The Union will advise how many cases are set to go forward. There are currently zero grievances on the docket.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in September. The next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2025, to be held at the MARBA offices beginning at 9 a.m., provided there are any grievances set to go forward. There are currently no grievances on the docket.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

Meet the Leadership Night with MACRC a Smashing Success

MARBA was honored to host a Meet the Leadership night with the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council (MACRC) on September 9, 2025, at Gibson's in Oakbrook. MACRC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Kevin McLaughlin, Joel Pogese, Wade Beasley, along with other members of the MACRC Executive Committee were in attendance. They joined over 40 contractors for a night of informal discussions in a relaxed setting. Contractors were able to put a "face with a name" and meet EST McLaughlin and others as they settle into their position. EST McLaughlin formally took over the EST role a little over a year ago. Pictures from the event can be found at the end of this edition of MARBA Matters.

INDUSTRY NEWS

MARBA Sad to Announce Passing of Former Board Member Brad Grove

Brad Grove, owner of Grove Masonry, passed away recently. Brad was a member of the Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago (MCAGC) and served as one of the MCAGCs MARBA Board of Directors. Brad was active in the construction industry and served on many other Boards in addition to his service on the MARBA Board. In addition to his volunteer service at MARBA, Brad served in many other volunteer capacities within his community. Information concerning his services can be found by clicking [here](#). The MARBA Board of Directors sends its condolences to the Grove family.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	August 4.3%, (July 4.2%), Illinois 4.4% (38 th)
Labor Participation Rate	August 62.3%, July 62.2%, June 62.3%
CPI All Urban Consumers	August 2025 over August 2024 = 2.92% Half 2025 = 2.59
CPI Chicago All Items	August 2025 over August 2024 = 3.06% Half 2025 = 3.62%
CPI Midwest All Items	August 2025 over August 2024 = 2.80% Half 2025 = 2.84%
Union Membership	2024 = 9.9% (Private Sector 5.9%), 2023 = 10.0% (Private Sector 6.0%), 2022 = 10.1% (Private Sector 6.0%)

Union Construction Workers	11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 9-25-25 6.3% up 0.22% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 9-25-25 5.49% up 0.33% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$66.19 per barrel (as September 30, 2025) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	3.7% below revised July rate 11.1% below August 2024 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	8.5% above revised July rate (+/-10.7%) 0.5% below June rate (+/-9.9%)
GDP	Q2 2025 (3 rd) +3.8% Q2 2025 (2 nd) +3.3% Q2 2025 (Adv) +3.0% Q1 2025 -0.6%
DJIA	46,409.45 as of September 30, 2025 (4:00 p.m.) 45,516.86 as of August 29, 2025 (2:45 p.m.) 44,324.19 as of July 30, 2025(2:45 p.m.)

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

NLRB and Amazon Both Sue State of New York Over State Legislature's Passage of Labor Law

The National Labor Relations Board and Amazon have both filed suits regarding the New York legislature passing a law aimed at settling private industry labor issues/disputes. The law would allow the New York Public Employment Relations Board to recognize private industry bargaining representative petitions when the NRLB does not assert its jurisdiction over such matters. The NLRB suit alleges the legislation creates a parallel regulatory structure that undermines the federal labor policy Congress designed to be national in scope. Acting General Counsel of the NLRB, William Cowen, stated that "legislation like this cannot be reconciled with the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution." Amazon's suit is against the New York PERB, and it attempts to avoid having the state law applied to Amazon in a case currently pending at the federal level.

The New York legislature passed the law in response to the lack of quorum at the NLRB. As has been previously reported, the uncertainty in terms of Board Member Wilcox's seat and the recent expiration of Board Member Kaplan's seat has left the Board with just one remaining member, short of the three necessary for the Board to have a quorum. Additionally, the 5th Circuit's recent decision in a Space X case calls into question the NLRB's ability to process ULPs in the 5th Circuit (likely setting up an argument in front of the Supreme Court). The New York law as currently constituted would supposedly allow the PERB to handle those cases as well in the event the NLRB decided not to assert jurisdiction over ULPs in New York.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

CAGC MEAT RAFFLE COMING SOON

JOIN THE CAGC, ITS MEMBERS, AND GUESTS AT ITS ANNUAL MEAT RAFFLE. WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES AND WATCH THE BEARS TAKE ON THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025
 TIME: 11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
 LOCATION: SADDLE UP SALOON
 4440 OGDEN AVE.
 AURORA, IL 60504
 COST: \$45.00 ENTRANCE FEE, \$1.00 PER RAFFLE TICKET
 CONTACT: SKELLY@CHICAGOLANDAGC.ORG

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 6	8:00 A.M.	BAC FUNDS MEETING (ELMHURST)
OCTOBER 16	7:00 A.M.	CAGC LABOR COMMITTEE MEETING (OAKBROOK)
OCTOBER 21	9:00 A.M.	LINCOLN WAY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FAIR (NEW LENOX)
OCTOBER 28	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
OCTOBER 30	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 Great Chicago Fire occurred on October 8, 1871, killing 300 people. However, that same night in northern Wisconsin another fire occurred which happens to be the deadliest fire in U.S. history. The wildfire in Peshtigo, WI killed between 5,00 and 8,00 people in the town and up to 2,500 in the area.

All four major sports will be active in late October/early November!





Pictured: Mike Hampson (CAGC Executive Secretary), Aaron Janik (MARBA Executive Director), Bill Vignocchi (MARBA Chairman), Tom Cuculich (CAGC Executive Director)



Pictured: Kevin McLaughlin (MACRC EST), Bill Vignocchi (MARBA Chairman), Joel Pogese (MACRC Vice President), Ed Sexton (MACRC Business Representative)