



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONS<sup>i</sup>

**Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations**

MARBA did not receive any arbitration demands in the month of June.

**Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers JGC did not meet in June. The next meeting will be held on July 28, 2026, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Union has advised the Committee there is one grievance that needs to be heard. The Union will notify the Committee of any additional grievances that need to be heard at a later date.

**Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Operators JGC did not meet in June. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Operators offices in Countryside. There are five (5) grievances on the hearing schedule.

**Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in June. The next hearing date is scheduled for July 30, at 9:00 a.m. at the MARBA office should there be any grievances.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

**Labor Relations Intake Form**

MARBA has distributed QR code stickers to its Member Associations that provide direct access to the Labor Relations Intake Form (which is also on the MARBA website landing page). These stickers can be placed in the field, offices, or other convenient locations to allow for quick and easy access to the form. Completion of the form typically takes only a few minutes.

The purpose of the Labor Relations Intake Form is to gather feedback, observations, and information related to field operations and the administration of MARBA collective bargaining agreements. Information submitted through the form is transmitted directly to MARBA and will assist in identifying trends, addressing potential issues, improving contract administration, and supporting ongoing labor relations initiatives.

The form can also be accessed [here](#). As always, if a matter would benefit from further discussion, please feel free to contact Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**CISCO Welcomes New Director and Bids Fond Farewell to Dan Allen**

On Friday, June 26, the CISCO Board of Directors gathered at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge to recognize and celebrate the final day of Dan Allen's tenure as CISCO Executive Director. Allen, who is retiring, served in the role for thirteen years. He was presented with a commemorative watch as a token of appreciation from the Board in recognition of his years of dedicated service to the union construction industry.

The Board officially welcomed Stephanie Kifowit as Allen's successor, introducing her to those in attendance. A former State Representative and United States Marine Corps veteran, Kifowit brings a diverse and accomplished background to the position. Her experience in state government, combined with her knowledge of finance and public policy, will be valuable assets as she advocates on behalf of the union construction industry and CISCO's member organizations.

We extend our sincere appreciation and best wishes to Dan in his retirement and offer a warm welcome to Stephanie as she begins her new role as CISCO Executive Director.

**AGC to Host Collective Bargaining Seminar in Rosemont**

The AGC of America will host a Collective Bargaining Seminar in Rosemont later this year. The program is open to both AGC members and non-members and will cover the full spectrum of the collective bargaining process. Attendees will gain insight into topics such as bargaining communications, conflict management, mediation, impasse procedures, and other key aspects of labor negotiations. Contractors who participate in collective bargaining, as well as members of bargaining committees, should strongly consider attending this program.

Although the program is being hosted by the AGC of America, any questions regarding the seminar or registration should be directed to Mike Hampson, Executive Secretary of the Chicagoland Associated General Contractors (CAGC). To contact Mike via email, click [here](#).

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY**

**Economic Indicators**

Unemployment Rate	May 4.3% (April 4.3%) Illinois 5.1% (43 <sup>rd</sup> )
Labor Participation Rate	May 61.8%, April 61.8%, March 61.9%
CPI All Urban Consumers	May 2026 over May 2025 = 4.24%
CPI Chicago All Items	May 2026 over May 2025 = 3.13%, 2025 Annual = 3.72%
CPI Midwest All Items	May 2026 over May 2025 = 5.04%, 2025 Annual = 2.78%
Union Membership	2025 = 10.0% (Private Sector 5.9%) 2024 = 9.9%, 2023 = 10.0%

Unionized Construction Workers	12.0% (2025), 11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 6-25-26 6.49%, down 0.28% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.52% (25), 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 6-25-26 5.84%, down 0.05% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.72% (25), 5.93% (2023), 4.58% (2022)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$72.92 per barrel (as of June 30, 2026) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	0.7% below revised April rate 0.2% below May 2025 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	15.4% below revised April rate (+/-9.8%) 8.7% below May 2025 rate (+/-13.9%)
GDP	Q1 2026 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) +2.1% Q1 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) +1.6% Q4 2025 +0.5%
DJIA	52,317.01 as of June 30, 2026 (2:30 p.m.) 51,005.91 as of May 29, 2026 (4.00 p.m.) 49,652.14 as of April 30, 2026 (4:40 p.m.)

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

**Presidential Powers Expanded Under Recent Supreme Court Ruling; New Labor Secretary Nominated**

The Supreme Court issued one of its last decisions of its term on Monday, June 29, 2026, in the case of *Trump v. Slaughter*. The case dealt with President Trump’s removal of one of the Federal Trade Commission Commissioners, Rebecca Slaughter. Slaughter was removed from her position by President Trump and sued claiming she was removed without cause. In his letter removing Slaughter, President Trump stated that keeping her as a Commissioner would be “inconsistent with [the] administration’s priorities”.

A lower court ordered Slaughter’s reinstatement and the government appealed. A divided panel of judges for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denied the government’s request to pause the ruling while an appeal worked its way through the system. The DC Appeals Court indicated only the Supreme Court could overturn its decision in *Humphrey’s Executor* that dealt with the removal of members of multi-member agencies. The Trump administration took the case to the Supreme Court which removed the lower courts pause on Slaughter’s removal while the case was decided, effectively removing her from her position. The case was set for oral arguments, which occurred in December.

Chief Justice Roberts writing for the majority held, “the President must have the assistance of officers he

can trust. Although it is up to the Senate to decide whether to confirm those with whom the President would *prefer* to work, neither Congress nor the courts may saddle him with those with whom he *cannot* work. Subordinates who exercise the President’s power are subject to removal by him. Then, and only then, can they remain accountable to the President, and the President to the people.” As such, the Court overturned the *Humphrey’s* decision, issued 91 years ago, and allowed President Trump to remove Slaughter. This case lays the groundwork for President Trump, and future Presidents, to remove members of agencies in the future. There are approximately two dozen agencies that have a similar structure to the FTC, including the NRLB.

Also occurring in late June, President Trump nominated Acting Secretary of Labor, Keith Sonderling to serve in the role full time. Sonderling has been serving as Acting Secretary upon former Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer leaving the role in April. Sonderling has served in both of President Trump’s administrations. He previously served at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as Deputy Labor Secretary, and as Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Sonderling’s nomination is subject to confirmation by the Senate.

**UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

**MWCC GOLF OUTING**

JOIN THE MWCC AND THEIR GUESTS AS THEY HIT THE LINKS!

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 23  
 TIME: 7:30 A.M. REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST, 8:30 A.M. SHOTGUN START, 1:30 LUNCH  
 LOCATION: WHITE PINES GOLF COURSE  
 500 W. JEFFERSON ST.  
 BENSENVILLE, IL 60106  
 COST: FOURSOMES, INDIVIDUALS, SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE  
 CONTACT: [ANDREA HARNEY](#) OR CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER.

**CALENDAR**

<b>JULY 8</b>	<b>8:30 A.M.</b>	<b>OPERATING ENGINEERS JGC (COUNTYSIDE)</b>
<b>JULY 14</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>	<b>MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)</b>
<b>JULY 28</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)</b>
<b>JULY 30</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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?*

Calvin Coolidge is the only American President to be born on the Fourth of July. Also born on the Fourth of July, Bill Janik. Happy Birthday, Dad.

# HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY