

## **Grievances and Arbitrations<sup>1</sup>**

### **Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations**

MARBA received one arbitration request this month regarding the placement of a steward.

### **Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021, at the Laborers Burr Ridge office.

### **Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee met on March 10, 2021 to hear fourteen (14) grievances. The first grievance involved an allegation that the contractor had non-bargaining unit members performing bargaining unit work. It was continued during the hearing pending a resolution. The second grievance was withdrawn prior to a hearing being conducted. The third grievance involved an allegation the employer was paying the incorrect wage rate. That grievance was continued during the hearing pending settlement discussions. The next eleven (11) grievances were filed against the same contractor alleging non-bargaining unit members were performing bargaining unit work. All eleven (11) grievances were deadlocked. The union retains the right to pursue the matter through the arbitration provision of the agreement. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021, at the offices of Local 150 beginning at 8:30 a.m. There are currently zero (0) on the docket.

### **Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2021, at Teamsters office in Burr Ridge. There is currently one (1) grievance pending.

## **Collective Bargaining/Labor Issues**

### **2021 Bargaining Right Assignments Due**

If you have not yet done so, please make sure you have submitted your 2021 delegation of bargaining rights to your Association. As a reminder, collective bargaining agreements with the Auto Mechanics Local 701, Cement Masons Local 11 (Areas 162, 362, and 638) and Local 502, the Laborers District Council, and the Operating Engineers Local 150 (HHU and Bldg) expire May 31, 2021. If you have any questions about this process, please contact your association or the MARBA office.

### **2021 Negotiation Updates**

Negotiations for the agreements that will be expiring in the Chicago area and surrounding markets (i.e. Rockford, Bloomington, etc.) will be commencing in the near future. The current list of agreements that are due to expire this year is posted on the MARBA website and can be found by clicking [here](#). The negotiation update emails that are sent out on a weekly basis on Fridays will be going out this week, April 2, 2021. If you would like to be added to the list for negotiation update emails please contact Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

## Industry News

### **Obama Presidential Center to Break Ground in Fall**

The long-awaited Obama Presidential Center is set to break ground later this year with a target date of mid-September. The Center previously announced it would begin construction in early August. The Center has been the subject of a four-year federal review process that has included a lawsuit filed by advocates for preserving park space. The project has raised over \$800 million dollars and it is expected to create over 5,000 jobs either, either directly or indirectly, during and after construction. Out of those 5,000 jobs that are to be created, the center has a goal of 35% of the construction workforce to come from the south and west side of the city. The center will attract roughly 700,000 visitors annually and it is estimated to generate \$3 billion dollars in economic activity.

### **President Biden to Unveil Infrastructure Plan**

President Biden was set to unveil his long-awaited infrastructure plan on Wednesday, March 31. The plan is expected to be broken into two components with the first component covering four (4) areas including transportation (roads, bridges, and railways), modern infrastructure (broadband internet), care economy (healthcare), and research and development infrastructure. The second component would focus on the human component (childcare, sick leave, etc.). Each component would look to include clean energy, sustainable programs.

The price tag for the first component is estimated to cost anywhere from \$1.9 trillion to \$2.25 trillion over the next 8 years. The financing would come from raising the corporate tax rate from its current rate of 21% to 28%. The entire project could be paid off if those rates held over the next 15 years. Due to the tie in the Senate (50-50) President Biden would need every Democrat to vote in favor of the ultimate legislative package. The House majority (8 seats) is almost as tight. Republicans have already sounded alarm bells about the price tag and financing.

## State of the Economy

### **Economic Indicators**

Unemployment Rate	February 2021 U.S. 6.2%, Illinois 7.4% (42 <sup>nd</sup> )
Labor Participation Rate	February 2021 = 61.4%, January 2021 = 61.4%
CPI All Urban Consumers	January 2021 versus January 2020 = 1.67%
CPI Chicago All Items	January 2021 versus January 2020 = 1.21%
CPI Midwest All Items	January 2021 versus January 2020 = 1.69%
Union Membership	2020 10.8% (Private Sector 6.3%), 2019 = 10.3%
Rate of Unionized Construction Workers	12.7% (2020), 13.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018), 14.0% (2017)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	February 2.81%, up 0.07% (January 2.74%)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	February 2.24%, up 0.04% (January 2.20%)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$ 59.32 per barrel (as of March 31, 2021)

	\$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008
	\$ 2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	10.8% below revised January rate (+/-1.0%) 17.0% above January 2020 rate (+/-1.4%)
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	10.3% below revised January rate (+/10.5%) 9.3% below January 2020 rate (+/-9.4%)
GDP	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 = 4.3% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 = 33.4%
DJIA	32,981.55 as of March 31, 2021 (close) 31,402.01 as of February 26, 2021 (open)

**Janik's J.D. – An Update on Labor/Construction Legal Issues**  
**Aaron Janik – Executive Director MARBA**

**Governor Pritzker Signs Series of Economic Equity Laws**

On March 23, 2021, Governor Pritzker signed a series of bills into law that aim to address issues of equity. Of note, was the Employee Background Fairness Act (Senate Bill 1480). This law amends the Illinois Human Rights Act by adding a new section. This new section provides protections to job applicants or employees that previously have been convicted of a crime. Employers are no longer able to disqualify an applicant or an employee if they have been convicted of a crime unless that conviction has a substantial relationship to the job or granting the job would have an unreasonable risk to property, safety of individuals, or the public.

SB 1480 also amends several other laws including the Illinois Business Corporation Act. The amendment to the IBCA imposes new reporting requirements for racial/ethnic/gender workforce composition. SB 1480 also amends the Illinois Equal Pay Act by requiring businesses in Illinois with over 100 employees to obtain a certificate entitled an "equal pay registration certificate". The certificate will cost \$150.00. The reporting requirements under this amendment IEPA will be under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Labor.

Several industry groups were opposed to the bill based on the new requirements it imposed as the legislation took effect upon signing by the Governor. Employers will want to make sure they review their policies and procedures with respect to hiring as well as conducting a review of pay structure to ensure they are able to obtain the equal pay registration certificate.

The Act can be found by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Seminars/Events	Calendar	
<p><b><u>CAGC Diversity Dialogue with HIRE 360</u></b></p> <p>Join the CAGC and HIRE360 as they present a dialogue about race in the commercial construction industry.</p> <p>Date: Thursday April 15, 2021  Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  Location: Online  Cost: Complimentary  Contact: Emily Steinmetz or click <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>April 2</p> <p>April 7</p> <p>April 27</p> <p>April 29</p>	<p>10:30 a.m. MARBA Executives Meeting (online)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Cement Masons LMCC (Bellwood)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Laborers JGC (Burr Ridge)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Teamsters JGC (Burr Ridge)</p>
<p><b>Did You Know:</b> The first Mustang was unveiled by Ford on April 17, 1964. The cost, \$2,368!</p>		

<sup>i</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.

## OPENING DAY TOMORROW!

