

# MARBA MATTERS

April 30, 2020

Serving the Construction Industry Since 1971

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

### Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration requests this month.

### Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in April due to the extended Stay at Home order issued by Governor Pritzker. The next meeting is currently set for May 26, 2020, at the Laborers Burr Ridge office beginning at 9:00 a.m. Due to Governor Pritzker's Stay at Home Order being extended through May 31, 2020, this meeting may need to be rescheduled.

### Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The next regularly scheduled Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee meeting set for May 13, 2020, at the office of Local 150 in Countryside, IL has been cancelled. The parties plan to work on setting another date once it becomes clearer when large in person meetings can resume. There are currently eleven (11) grievances on the docket.

### Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in April. The next regularly scheduled grievance committee hearing is scheduled for May 28, at a location to be determined. Due to Governor Pritzker's Stay at Home Order recently being extended through May 31, 2020, it is unclear if this meeting will proceed as planned.

## Collective Bargaining/Labor Issues

### Negotiation Updates Have Started

The first Negotiation Updates email was sent last week. They will continue through the month of May and until all agreements expiring have been settled. The updates can be found on the MARBA website by clicking the following link, <https://www.marba.org/resources>, and scrolling down to the bottom of the page.

## Industry News

### Illinois Department of Labor Launches New Portal

The Illinois Department of Labor has launched their new Prevailing Wage Portal for contractors that perform work on public works projects in the state. The following information was taken directly from the IDOL website.

*"Pursuant to PA 100-1177 and 820 ILCS 130/5.1, the Illinois Department of Labor is charged*

*with developing and maintaining an online portal for prevailing wage construction contractors to file their certified payrolls with the department. Currently, our portal will only accept manual submissions.*

*If a contractor uses a software program to track, run, and file their certified payroll – we would encourage you to continue your normal practice and file with the public body in charge of the project until further notice from the Department of Labor. If a prevailing wage contractor does not use a software program to file their certified payroll - they must file in our portal. We are working on the ability to upload large amounts of data for payrolls, but it is not ready yet.*

*Contractors can access the portal by clicking on the following link: [Certified Transcript of Payroll Portal](#)"*

## State of the Economy

### Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	March 2020 U.S. 4.4%, Illinois 3.4% (24th)
Labor Participation Rate	March 2020 = 62.7%, February 2020 = 63.4%
CPI (All Urban Consumers)	March 2020 versus March 2019 = 1.53%
CPI Chicago All Items	March 2020 versus March 2019 = 1.10%
CPI Midwest All Items	March 2020 versus March 2019 = 1.00%
Union Membership	2019 = 10.3% (Private Sector 6.2%), 2018 = 10.5%
Rate of Unionized Construction Workers	3.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018), 14.0% (2017)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	March 3.45%, down 0.02% from February 3.47% Annual Average 2019 = 3.94%, 2018 = 4.54%
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	March 2.89%, down 0.08% from February 2.97% Annual Average 2019 = 3.39%, 2018= 4.00%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$ 17.64 per barrel (as of April 30, 2020) \$ 110.62 per barrel all time high Year Close 2013 \$ -40.32 per barrel (May 2020) all time low March 2020
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	6.8% below revised February rate (+/-1.1%) 5.0% above March 2019 rate (+/- 2.4%)
Annual Housing Starts Privately Owned New Housing Starts	1,289,8000 in 2019 3.2% above 2018 1,249,900 22.3% below revised February rate (+/- 12.2%) 1.4% above March 2019 estimate (+/- 12.7%)*

DJIA

22,327.48 as of March 31, 2020 (close)  
25,003.92 as of February 28, 2020 (2:03 p.m.)

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

**Illinois Stay at Home Order Challenged By State Rep. In Court**

On April 23, 2020, Governor J.B. Pritzker, announced he would extend his Stay at Home Order, initially issued on March 17, 2020, beginning on May 1, 2020 through the end of the month. His order, which exempted certain industries deemed essential, including construction, relaxes some of the restrictions previously imposed with his March 17, 2020 order.

Shortly after it was announced that his order would be extended beginning May 1, 2020, a State Representative from downstate Xenia, Darren Bailey (R), filed suit against the Pritzker administration challenging the order. His suit alleged the Pritzker administration violated Bailey's constitutional rights and violated State law which only allows the Governor to use his emergency powers with respect to a declared disaster for a thirty-day period.

The suit was heard last week and on Monday, April 27, 2020, the judge presiding over the hearing issued a ruling in favor of Bailey, holding Governor Pritzker violated Representative Bailey's rights. His ruling exempted Bailey, but only Bailey, from complying with the Stay at Home order. Since that ruling exempting Bailey was issued, another State Representative, John Cabello (R), from Rockford filed a suit on his behalf as well as all other persons similarly situated (i.e. all other Illinois citizens). That case has yet to be heard.

Late yesterday, April 29, 2020, Governor Pritzker filed an appeal of the ruling issued in the Bailey case. After he filed his appeal, a church in the northwest suburbs filed suit claiming their religious freedoms were being infringed upon. That suit has also yet to be heard.

A copy of the May 1, 2020 Stay at Home order can be found by clicking here:

[https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus\\_asset/file/19923247/Stay\\_and\\_Home\\_Executive\\_Order\\_4.23.20.pdf](https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_asset/file/19923247/Stay_and_Home_Executive_Order_4.23.20.pdf)

**Upcoming Seminars/Events**

Due to COVID-19, many upcoming in person events are postponed. Several online seminars are being conducted daily. I have included a link to several of the upcoming seminars below.

<https://lera.memberclicks.net/lera-webinar-series--ler-during-covid-19>

<https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mtg/web/399482610/>

## Calendar

May 12	11:00 a.m.	MIAF Meeting (MARBA)
May 12	12:00 p.m.	MARBA Board (MARBA)

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Did You Know: May is designated as Revise Your Work Schedule Month (I found that to be appropriate given the current circumstances).

<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.