

MARBA MATTERS

GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONS¹

Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration requests this month.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in March. The next JGC is scheduled to be held on April 26, 2022, at Laborers Burr Ridge office, provided there are any cases set to go forward.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operating Engineers JGC did not meet in March. The next regularly scheduled Local 150 JGC is scheduled to be held on June 1, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at Local 150 in Countryside, IL.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in March. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2022, at the Teamsters office in Burr Ridge.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

Save the Date – MARBA To Host Collective Bargaining Seminar

MARBA will be hosting a collective bargaining seminar on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. A location is yet to be determined. The seminar will focus on the nuts and bolts of collective bargaining and will also include a segment about the role MARBA plays in the collective bargaining process. Rick Samson from Ogletree Deakins will be presenting along with Aaron Janik, MARBA Executive Director. More information will be shared in the next MARBA Matters. In the interim, you may contact Aaron Janik at ajanik@marba.org with any questions.

Negotiation Update Emails Beginning

MARBA has compiled a list of contracts expiring throughout the Midwest in 2022. The list can be accessed by clicking [here](#). The first Negotiation Update email is set to go out on April 1, 2022. If you are aware of any other construction CBAs expiring in the Midwest that are not on the list, please contact ajanik@marba.org to have them included on the list.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Illinois Loses Most Construction Jobs In January 2022

According to the AGC, Illinois lost 3.1% of its construction workforce in the month of January 2022. That percentage equated to 7,100 construction jobs which was the most in the United States (including the District of Columbia). Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Illinois has lost 5,800 jobs, a 2.5% decrease. For comparison purposes, New York state lost 32,000 jobs, or 7.8%, of its construction workforce since February 2020 to January 2022. The current number of those employed in construction in Illinois stands at 222,300 workers (as of January 2022). Despite the large loss in January the U.S. jobs report showed a gain of 431,000 jobs in the month of March providing a bit of optimism as the ramping up of the construction season begins to approach.

DOL Intends to Modify Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage Rates

On March 11th, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the manner in which Davis-Bacon rates are set. The announcement, which the Department called the most “comprehensive review of Davis-Bacon in 40 years”, comes as the federal government begins to release billions of dollars in federal projects under the IIJA. A few of the more major changes being proposed include a new mechanism for more frequent adjustments to the rates and a 30% rule. The 30% rule would call for prevailing wage rates to be set at a particular rate if 30% of the respondents report the same wage rate. The current threshold is a majority (50% + 1). The proposed rule can be found by clicking [here](#). The comment period is open until May 17, 2022.

FMCS Moves to Online Submissions

Beginning April 5, 2022, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service will no longer accept their F-7 form via mail, fax, e-mail, or via other delivery methods. The only way the FMCS will accept the F-7 forms will be via an online portal that can be found by clicking [here](#). The F-7 form is utilized to notify the FMCS of contract negotiations (renegotiations, reopeners, initial contracts).

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	February 2022 U.S. 3.8% (down 0.2%), Illinois 5.0% (41 st – Jan)
Labor Participation Rate	February 2022 = 62.3%, January 2022 = 62.2%
CPI All Urban Consumers	February 2022 over February 2021 = 7.87%

CPI Chicago All Items	February 2022 over February 2021 = 7.05%
CPI Midwest All Items	February 2022 over February 2021 = 7.8%
Union Membership	2021 10.3% (Private Sector 6.1%), 2020 = 10.8% Rate of Unionized Construction Workers = 12.6% 12.7% (2020), 13.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	February 3.76%, up .31% (January 3.45%) Annual Average 2.96% (2021), 3.11% (2020)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	February 3.00%, up .34% (January 2.66%) Annual Average 2.27% (2021), 2.61% (2020)
Brent Crude Oil	\$115.61 per barrel (as of March 21, 2022) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	1.9% below revised January rate 7.7% above February 2021 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	6.8% above revised January rate (+/-14.9%) 22.3% above February 2021 rate (+/-14.3%)
GDP	Q4 2021 (2 nd) +7.0% Q3 2021 (3 rd) +2.3% Q2 2021 (3 rd) +6.7% Q1 2021 (3 rd) +6.3%
DJIA	34,678.35 as of March 31, 2022 (close) 33,669.53 as of February 28, 2022 (12:00 p.m.)

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

President Biden Signs HR 4445 Into Law

On March 3, 2022, President Biden signed into law HR 4445, Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021 (sponsored by Cheri Bustos, D – 17th IL). Prior to the Act being signed, employment agreements that contained arbitration provisions calling for sexual assault or sexual harassment claims to be arbitrated were valid. Now, after the Act was signed, employees have the option of litigating those claims in Federal, State, or a Tribal court or they may still arbitrate them under their employment agreement (provided their employment agreement contains an arbitration provision). The Act, which amends the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA), only applies to those claims that arise or accrue after March 3, 2022 regardless of the date of the agreement. The Act was passed in the House 335-97 and passed in the Senate without amendment via a Voice Vote. The Act may be found [here](#).

UPCOMING SEMINARS/EVENTS

CAGC BOWLING SOCIAL

JOIN THE CAGC SOCIAL COMMITTEE FOR SOME FUN TIMES ON THE LANES

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022
 TIME: 5:30-8:00 P.M. (BOWLING STARTS AT 6)
 LOCATION: STARDUST LANES 37 E LORRAINE AVE, ADDISON, IL, UNITED STATES
 COST: \$35 PER BOWLER
 CONTACT: EMILY STEINMETZ OR REGISTER BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

UCA SPRING SHOWCASE

THE UCA SPRING SHOWCASE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, AS WELL AS BUILD AND MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS. JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATION SEMINAR BEFORE THE SHOWCASE, FOLLOWED BY AN INCREDIBLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY DURING DINNER.

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022
 TIME: 3:00-8:00 P.M. (EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR AT 4:00 P.M., DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.)
 LOCATION: STARDUST LANES 37 E LORRAINE AVE, ADDISON, IL, UNITED STATES
 COST: \$75 PER ATTENDEE
 CONTACT: LAUREN AT LFOSMOEN@UCA.ORG OR REGISTER BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

CALENDAR

APRIL 6	8:30 A.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (ONLINE)
APRIL 12	7:30 A.M.	CAGC LABOR MEETING (OAK BROOK)
APRIL 15	10:30 A.M.	MARBA EXECUTIVES MEETING (MARBA)
APRIL 19	5:00 P.M.	UCA SPRING SHOWCASE (ADDISON)
APRIL 26	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
APRIL 28	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
APRIL 29	12:00 P.M.	CISCO ANNUAL LUNCHEON (SCHAUMBURG)

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?

On April 13, 1970, Apollo 13 ran into mechanical issues and the phrase “Okay Houston, we’ve had a problem here” was uttered. NASA asked for clarification, and it was repeated as, “Ah, Houston we’ve had a problem.” It is often misquoted as “Houston we have a problem”.



OPENING DAY IS APRIL 7!
RED SOX V. YANKEES 1ST GAME OF THE YEAR
SOX OPEN APRIL 8TH AT DETROIT
CUBS OPEN APRIL 8TH AT HOME VS. MILWAUKEE