

# MARBA MATTERS

## GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONS<sup>i</sup>

### **Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations**

MARBA received one (1) arbitration demand in the month of June. It concerned an alleged violation of Article IV (Wages).

### **Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers JGC did not meet in June. The next meeting will be on July 29th, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Union will advise the JGC if there are any grievances to be heard at a later date.

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

The Operators JGC did not meet in June. The next regularly scheduled JGC meeting was set for July 2, 2025, but due to the holiday occurring later in the week the meeting was postponed. The Union has advised the JGC there is currently one (1) grievance pending that needs to be heard at the next JGC meeting which is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

### **Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in June. The next regularly scheduled JGC meeting is currently set for July 31, 2025, should any hearings be scheduled.

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

### **Auto Mechanics/Tech Engineers Agreements Posted to MARBA Website**

The Auto Mechanics Local 701 CBA and the Tech Engineers Local 130 CBA are posted to the MARBA website. The Auto Mechanics agreement runs through May 31, 2028. The negotiating team was comprised of Will Gallagher from Gallagher Asphalt and Ryan Dunteman from R.W. Dunteman. The Tech Engineers agreement runs through May 31, 2030. The negotiating team was made up of Mike Falk from Falk PLI, Craig Nagdeman from DLZ, and Scott Kennedy from Pepper Construction. MARBA appreciates those members of the negotiating team that volunteered their time to assist in negotiating these agreements. A list of agreements expiring in 2026 through 2028 is posted to the MARBA website as well and can be accessed by clicking [here](#) and then clicking on the Contract Expirations tab.

**Save the Date – Meet the Leadership Night – Registration Link Active**

MARBA will be hosting a Meet the Leadership night with the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council (MACRC) on September 9, 2025. The event will take place at Gibson's in Oakbrook beginning at 4 p.m. and concluding at 6 p.m. Heavy appetizers and cocktails will be served. This is a free event, but advance registration is kindly requested. A link for registration can be found by clicking [here](#).

MACRC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Kevin McLaughlin, along with other members of his Executive Committee and staff, as well as many Carpenters Business Representatives, will be in attendance. This will give contractors the opportunity 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.

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Construction Starts Rebound in May but Still Lag Year to Date**

According to Dodge Construction Network, total construction starts were up 13% in the month of May. However, on a year-to-date basis, total construction starts were down 4%. On an annualized basis, May 2024 to May 2025, construction starts were up 1%. Non-residential construction and non-residential building led the way for the month of May at 20.5% and 18.3% respectively while residential building came in at 2.3%. Across the United States, construction starts rose in every region except the Midwest. The largest non-residential construction project reported by Dodge, was the Sierra Solar Farm and Storage in Fallon, Nevada with a cost of \$1.5 billion dollars.

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY**

**Economic Indicators**

Unemployment Rate	May 4.2% (April 4.2%), Illinois 4.8% (tied 40 <sup>th</sup> )
Labor Participation Rate	May 62.4%, April 62.6%, March 62.5%
CPI All Urban Consumers	May 2025 over May 2024 =2.35%
CPI Chicago All Items	May 2025 over May 2024 = 3.26 Annual 2024 over 2023 = 3.46%
CPI Midwest All Items	May 2025 over May 2024 = 2.40% Annual 2024 over 2023 = 2.69%

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 6-26-25 6.77% down 0.09% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 6-26-25 5.89% down 0.27% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$66.44 per barrel (as June 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	2.0% below revised April rate 1.0% below May 2024 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	9.8% below revised April rate (+/-9.3%) 4.6% below May 2024 rate (+/-8.3%)
GDP	Q1 2025 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) -0.5% Q1 2025 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) -0.2% Q1 2025 (Adv) -0.3% Q4 2024 +2.4%
DJIA	43,999.75 as of June 30, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) 42,051.83 as of May 29, 2025 (11:35 a.m.) 40,387.99 as of April 30, 2025 (2:00 p.m.)

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

### **Supreme Court to Hear Employer Based Challenge to Withdrawal Liability Computation**

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Supreme Court granted certiorari to an employer-based challenge and will hear the case in its next term. The case, *M&K Employee Solutions, LLC v. Trustees of IAM National Pension Fund*, centers around the method used by the fund to calculate the employer's withdrawal liability after it withdrew from the plan. The issue presented by the case; whether 29 U.S.C. 1391's (ERISA) instruction to compute withdrawal liability "as of the end of the plan year" requires the plan to base the computation on the actuarial assumptions to which its actuary subscribed at the end of the year, or allows the plan to use different actuarial assumptions that

were adopted after the end of the year is the result of a decision issued by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of the Funds' actuary's calculations. The Fund's actuary changed the way it calculated the employer's withdrawal liability by retroactively changing the interest rate assumption after the measurement date. The D.C. Circuit disregarded a Second Circuit ruling on this same question thus creating a split amongst the circuits. This case is important as a fund-friendly calculation of an employer's withdrawal liability can subject an employer to a significantly higher amount of money owed.

#### UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

##### AGC TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO

THE AGC OF AMERICA WILL BE HOSTING ITS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO. ENGAGE WITH FELLOW IT PROFESSIONALS WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

DATE: AUGUST 5 TO AUGUST 7, 2025

TIME: 8:00 A.M TO 4:00 P.M. DAILY

LOCATION: FAIRMONT CHICAGO MILLENIUM PARK  
200 N. COLUMBUS DR  
CHICAGO, IL 60601

COST: \$1,005 MEMBER/\$1,115 NON-MEMBER

CONTACT: [HTTPS://AGC-COMMUNITY.AGC.ORG/S/LT-EVENT?ID=A1MRG000004RTW1IAE](https://AGC-COMMUNITY.AGC.ORG/S/LT-EVENT?ID=A1MRG000004RTW1IAE)

#### CALENDAR

JULY 8	12:00 P.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
JULY 17	8:00 A.M.	GLCA GOLF OUTING (GRAND GENEVA)
JULY 24	8:00 A.M.	MWCC GOLF OUTING (BENSENVILLE)
JULY 29	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
JULY 31	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)

<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?

Famous July birthdays include Tom Cruise (July 3), Bill Janik (July 4), P.T. Barnum (July 5). Happy Birthday Dad!



THE MARBA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE HOLIDAY