



GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration demands in the month of July.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in July. There was one grievance set to be heard but it was postponed a few days before the hearing was to be convened. The next meeting will be on August 26, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. The July hearing that was postponed will likely be heard in August. The Union will advise the JGC if there are any other grievances about two weeks prior to the August date.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operators JGC did not meet in July, and it will not meet in August. There is currently one (1) grievance that was previously pending that will be on the docket at the next hearing date which is scheduled for September 10, 2025. The Union will advise the JGC if there are any other grievances to be heard at a later date.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in July. The next regularly scheduled JGC meeting is currently set for Thursday August 21, 2025, at MARBA. There is one grievance currently on the docket.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

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

Please join MARBA and many of its Board of Directors as they host 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 Show Sharp Growth in June

Sarah Martin, Associate Director of Forecasting for the Dodge Construction Network recently released June data which showed total construction starts were up 16% in the month of June. Non-residential building starts led the way with a 39% increase. However, on a year-to-date basis, total construction starts were up 1%. On an annualized basis, June 2024 to June 2025, construction starts were up 4%. Across the United States, construction starts rose in every region except the South-Central region. The largest non-residential building project reported by Dodge, was the Taiwan Semiconductor Factory (Fab 3, Phase 3) in Phoenix, AZ, with a cost of \$10 billion dollars.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	June 4.1%, (May 4.2%), Illinois 4.6% (39 th)
Labor Participation Rate	June 62.3%, May 62.4%, April 62.6%
CPI All Urban Consumers	June 2025 over June 2024 = 2.67% Half 2025 = 2.59
CPI Chicago All Items	June 2025 over June 2024 = 3.54% Half 2025 = 3.62%
CPI Midwest All Items	June 2025 over June 2024 = 3.01% Half 2025 = 2.84%
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 7-24-25 6.74% up 0.06% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 7-24-25 5.87% up 0.02% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)

Brent Crude Oil Price	\$72.61 per barrel (as July 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	0.2% above revised May rate 4.4% below June 2024 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	4.6% above revised May rate (+/-10.6%) 0.5% below June rate (+/-9.9%)
GDP	Q2 2025 (Adv) +3.0% Q1 2025 (3 rd) -0.5% Q1 2025 (2 nd) -0.2% Q1 2025 (Adv) -0.3%
DJIA	44,324.19 as of July 30, 2025(2:45 p.m.) 43,999.75 as of June 30, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) 42,051.83 as of May 29, 2025 (11:35 a.m.)

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

President Trump Nominates Two to NLRB

On July 17, 2025, President Trump nominated two individuals to serve as National Labor Relations Board members. While this type of news usually carries little fanfare (except to maybe those in the labor law community) these two nominations have extra added significance as should both nominees be confirmed the Board would have enough members to constitute a quorum allowing business to be conducted once again.

There are typically five Board members. To constitute a quorum, and therefore conduct Board business, three members must be present. If you recall from reading previous MARBA Matters, President Trump removed Board member Gwyne Wilcox several months ago leaving the Board with only two members. Member Wilcox filed suit challenging the Presidents authority to remove her for anything other than malfeasance or neglect of duty. The courts have been going back and forth restoring Member Wilcox to her seat and upholding her removal by the President. Currently, the case regarding President Trump’s removal of her is pending but the last court ruling sided with the President upholding his authority in removing her.

The two nominees are Scott Mayer and James Murphy. Mr. Mayer is currently Chief Labor Counsel at Boeing. Mr. Murphy has spent most of his career at the NLRB as one of its attorneys representing Republican Board Members. The nominations of Mr. Mayer and Mr. Murphy must still be confirmed by the Senate. Should they be confirmed this would bring the total number of

Board members up to four, at least for a few weeks. Board Chairman Marvin Kaplan (a Republican appointee) will have his term expire on August 27, 2025. The other current member is David Prouty (a Democrat appointee). Time will tell if both nominees are confirmed. Early reports indicate Republican Senator Josh Hawley (MO) may be a no vote on these two nominations due to their alleged union animus. It remains to be seen if any other Republicans would be a no vote (or if any Democrats would be a yes vote). Also still pending is the nomination of Crystal Carey as NLRB General Counsel. The Senate HELP Committee recently held a committee hearing on Ms. Carey’s nomination (along with other federal agency nominations).

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

CISCO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

JOIN CISCO AS THEY BRING LABOR AND MANAGEMENT TOGETHER FOR THE TRADITIONAL “END OF SEASON” GOLF OUTING

DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
 TIME: 7 A.M. REGISTRATION, 8 A.M. SHOTGUN START, 1:30 P.M. LUNCH
 LOCATION: BLOOMINGDALE GOLF CLUB
 181 GLEN ELLYN ROAD
 BLOOMINGDALE, IL
 COST: \$200.00 PER GOLFER/\$800.00 PER FOURSOME/\$40.00 LUNCH ONLY
 CONTACT: JULIA@CISCO.ORG

CALENDAR

AUGUST 14	8:00 A.M.	BAC FUNDS MEETING (ELMHURST)
AUGUST 15	9:00 A.M.	AUTO MECHANICS TRAINING FUND MEETING (AURORA)
AUGUST 18	8:00 A.M.	LOCAL 150 GOLF OUTING (ORLAND PARK)
AUGUST 28	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)
AUGUST 21	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
AUGUST 28	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS GOLF OUTING (ORLAND PARK)

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?

According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac the Dog Days of Summer run from July 3 to August 11. However, the origin of the “dog days” of summer traces its roots back to Ancient Egypt and Greece where men and dogs were thought to go mad from the heat.

WEEK ZERO FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL IS BACK ON AUGUST 23, 2025 IN DUBLIN, IRELAND

