

Grievances and Arbitrations¹

Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations

MARBA received two arbitration requests this month both regarding an alleged violation of Article X (Stewards).

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in January. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2021, at the Laborers Burr Ridge office.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee met on January 13, 2021 to hear seven (7) grievances. The first three grievances were filed against the same contractor. The Union alleged the contractor failed to pay three (3) individual members the correct rate of pay pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The Company contends that based on the number of employees they employ (over 500) they are not subject to the Act. After hearing the grievances, the Committee was unable to reach a majority decision that resulted in a deadlock. The Union retains the right to pursue those grievances through arbitration. The next case settled during the hearing prior to the Committee voting. The last three (3) grievances were filed against the same contractor alleging the employer was using non-bargaining unit employees to perform bargaining unit work. The contractor did not appear in front of the Committee and as a result a decision was issued in favor of the Union based on the presentation of their case. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021, at the offices of Local 150 beginning at 8:30 a.m. There is currently one (1) grievance on the docket.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in January. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2021, at a location to be determined.

Collective Bargaining/Labor Issues

2021 Bargaining Right Assignments Due

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. Bargaining rights assignment packets have been distributed to MARBA Associations. There is a due date of Friday, January 29, 2021. If you have any questions about this process, please contact your association or the MARBA office.

2021 Expiring Contracts

In addition to those collective bargaining agreements listed in the preceding paragraph, MARBA is in the process of compiling a list of collective bargaining agreements that will be expiring in 2021. Once that list is finalized it will be posted on the MARBA website for viewing by clicking [here](#).

Industry News

Construction Industry Unemployment Increases

According to a recent article by ENR, the construction industry added over 51,000 jobs in the month of December but the overall unemployment rate in the construction industry rose to 9.6% (up 2.3% from November 2020 – 7.3%). The unemployment rate in the construction industry was at 5% in December 2019. Specialty trade contractors saw an increase of 32,100 jobs while the heavy and civil engineering sector saw an increase of 15,000 jobs.

One Central Project Back on Radar

The One Central project which was previously pitched in 2019 has reappeared after Alderwoman Pat Dowell hosted a virtual townhall with the developer for constituents of her ward. The project, which would cover the area near the Metra/Amtrak station to the west of Solider Field, calls for 22.3 million square feet of apartments and a transit center. It would span 31 acres. While the project initially had support of Governor Pritzker and Mayor Lightfoot they have yet to comment on this iteration of the project. One hurdle is the amount of public financing that would be needed. When first pitched, the project was seeking roughly \$5 billion in public funding. The estimated cost of public financing now needed is approaching \$6.5 billion.

State of the Economy

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	December 2020 U.S. 6.7%, Illinois 7.6% (41st)
Labor Participation Rate (All Urban Consumers)	December 2020 = 61.5%, November 2020= 61.5% CPI December 2020 versus December 2019 = 1.27%
CPI Chicago All Items	December 2020 versus December 2019 = 0.89% Year 2020 versus Year 2019 = 1.10%
CPI Midwest All Items	December 2020 versus December 2019 = 1.14% Year 2020 versus Year 2019 = 0.95%
Union Membership	2020 10.8% (Private Sector 6.3%), 2019 = 10.3% Rate of Unionized Construction Workers = 12.6% 13.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018), 14.0% (2017)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	December 2.68%, down 0.09% (November 2.77%) Annual Average 3.11%
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	December 2.22%, down 0.09% (November 2.31%) Annual Average 2.61%
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$ 52.80 per barrel (as of January 29 ,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	4.5% above revised November rate (+/-1.4%) 17.3% above December 2019 rate (+/-1.8%)

Annual Building Permits	1,452,000 permits in 2020 4.8% above 2019
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	5.8% above revised November rate (+/-11.0%) 5.2% above revised Dec. 2019 rate (+/-10.1%)
Annual Housing Starts	1,380,300 starts in 2020 7.0% above 2019
GDP	4 th Quarter 4.0% (Advance Estimate) 3 rd Quarter 33.4%
DJIA	30,331.02 as of January 29, 2021 (10:08 a.m.) 28,541.65 as of January 31, 2020 (9:33 a.m.)

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

President Biden Fires NLRB General Counsel Peter Robb

Upon taking office President Biden issued a series of Executive Orders aimed at rolling back some of the actions taken under the Trump Administration. One action that President Biden took that did not generate much attention but is important to those in the construction industry was his dismissal of NLRB General Counsel Peter Robb. Upon taking office, President Biden asked for Mr. Robb's resignation which Mr. Robb refused to tender. President Biden subsequently fired Mr. Robb and his Deputy General Counsel, Alice Stock. Mr. Robb is the first General Counsel to be terminated in the history of the NLRB and many are calling into question the legality of such an action. Mr. Robb's tenure was set to expire this November and it is unclear if he will seek any redress through the courts.

To replace Mr. Robb, President Biden named Peter Sung Ohr as Acting General Counsel. Mr. Ohr may be familiar to many of those in the Chicago area as he currently serves as Region 13's Regional Director. It is quite possible Mr. Ohr will seek to undo many of Mr. Robb's actions including those involving litigation and mandates he issued to the Regions. One case of note that Mr. Robb was active in was the case involving Scabby the Rat. Mr. Ohr, per the NRLA, can only serve as the Acting General Counsel for 40 days (he was named on January 25, 2021), unless he is nominated to serve as the General Counsel and then confirmed by the Senate.

Upcoming Seminars/Events	Calendar
<p><u>CAGC Tax Credit Webinar</u></p> <p>Join the CAGC as they hear from Craig LaGrappe from ABGi as he discusses Tax Credits and Deductions for contractors.</p> <p>Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location: Online Cost: Complimentary Contact: Emily Steinmetz at CAGC 773-444-0465 or register by clicking here.</p>	<p>February 10 10:30 a.m. Cement Masons LMCC (Bellwood)</p> <p>February 11 8:00 a.m. Bricklayers Pension & HW Meeting (Elmhurst)</p> <p>February 12 10:30 a.m. Executives Meeting (MARBA)</p> <p>February 17 12:00 p.m. CBC Developers Roundtable (Online)</p> <p>February 19 9:00 a.m. Construction Industry Forum (Online)</p> <p>February 23 9:00 a.m. Laborers JGC (Burr Ridge)</p> <p>February 25 9:00 a.m. Teamsters JGC (TBD)</p>
<p>Did You Know: The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will be the first team to play a Super Bowl in their home stadium. Also, on Super Bowl Sunday over 8 million pounds of guacamole will be consumed!</p>	

ⁱ 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.

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY!
WHO WILL WIN?
CHIEFS OR BUCCANEERS?

