

MARBA MATTERS

GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration demands in the month of April.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in April. The next meeting will be on May 27, 2025, 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 April. The next regularly scheduled JGC meeting is set for May 7, 2025, at the Operators offices in Countryside beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Union has advised the JGC there are two (2) grievances to be heard.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in April. The next meeting date is scheduled for May 29, 2025. There is currently one (1) grievance set to be heard.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

Negotiation Update Emails In Full Force

Negotiation Update emails have been sent out beginning in early April. Those updates are also posted to the MARBA website and can be found by clicking [here](#). Many agreements that are due to expire this year (in April and/or May) have already been settled while a few negotiations remain ongoing. Please contact Aaron Janik at ajanik@marba.org if you have any questions about any of the agreements listed on the negotiation update list. Additionally, a list of contracts due to expire in 2026 and 2027 is available on the MARBA website. That list may be accessed by clicking [here](#) and then clicking on the Contract Expirations tab.

Save the Date – Meet the Leadership Night

MARBA will be hosting a Meet the Leadership night with the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council (MACRC) on September 9, 2025. The location and start time are still being finalized but it will take place at a venue in the Oakbrook area beginning in the late afternoon through the early evening. MACRC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Kevin McLaughlin along with his 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

WGN Radio Show to Highlight Transit Funding Issues

The Labor Alliance for Public Transportation will hold a live audience recording with WGN Radio 720 host Jon Hansen to discuss the future of public transit in Illinois. The event will take place on Monday, May 12, 2025, starting at 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (doors open at 1:30 p.m.). There will be a Q&A from 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM. IUOE Local 399 will host the event at their Union Hall (2260 S. Grove St., Chicago, IL 60616).

Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting Executive Director Marc Poulos will be joined by special guests Illinois State Representative Marcus Evans, Jr., Assistant Majority Leader (IL-33), and Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam, Majority Caucus Whip (IL-8) to discuss this important issue. Refreshments and snacks will be included. To find out more information or to register for the event click [here](#).

NLRB Facing Cuts

The National Labor Relations Board has had several of its field offices leases terminated early and had members of its workforce targeted for downsizing. The termination of leases coupled with the reduction in field staff could render the agency “ineffectual” according to the Union that represents the employees of the NLRB. Over the past few months’ leases for field offices in Memphis, Buffalo, Los Angeles, Birmingham, Milwaukee, Overland Park, and Puerto Rico have been terminated early. According to statistics previously released by the NLRB, it has seen its workforce decline, for a variety of reasons, by a third over the past decade while case intake has increased by 46% over that same time period. As an example, in early 2024 the Board received 1,618 election petitions compared to 1,199 the year prior. This was a 35% increase.

With the on again, off again fight with President Trump and Board Member Wilcox still hanging in the balance the “review” of NLRB operational efficiency has the potential to grind work at the Board to a halt. It remains to be seen whether the field offices that are set to be closed will be housed elsewhere or if those employees working out of those offices will be terminated and all operations in those localities will be ceased.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	March 4.2% (February 4.1%), Illinois 4.8% (tied 43 rd)
Labor Participation Rate	March 62.5%, February 62.4%, January 62.6%, December 62.5%
CPI All Urban Consumers	March 2025 over March 2024 = 2.39%
CPI Chicago All Items	March 2025 over March 2024 = 3.72%

	Annual 2024 over 2023 = 3.46%
CPI Midwest All Items	March 2025 over March 2024 = 2.75% 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%)
Unionized Construction Workers	11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 4-30-25 6.81%, down 0.46% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 4-30-25 5.94% down 0.55% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$62.68 per barrel (as April 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	1.6% above revised February rate 0.2% below March 2024 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	11.4% below revised February rate (+/-13.5%) 1.9% above March 2024 rate (+/-10.6%)
GDP	Q1 2025 (Adv) -0.3% Q4 2024 +2.4% Q4 2024 (3 rd) +2.4% Q4 2024 (2 nd) +2.3% Q4 2024 (Adv) +2.4%
DJIA	40,387.99 as of April 30, 2025 (2:00 p.m.) 41,978.05 as of March 31, 2025 (2:00 p.m.)

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

Executive Order Seeking to Expand Apprenticeships Issued

President Trump recently issued an Executive Order that looks to expand on apprenticeships offered. However, it appears the expansion would not be targeted on the shortage of skilled construction workers. The EO directs the Department of Labor, Secretary of Commerce, and Department of Education to submit a plan to the President which will seek to “optimize and target Federal investments in workforce development to align with the country’s reindustrialization needs and equip American workers to fill the growing demand for skilled trades and other occupations.” Although the EO mentions skilled trades, it seems the “other occupations” are what the Administration will focus on. Representative Tim Walberg (R-Mich) Chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee commented on the EO after it was

issued stating it would, “expand opportunities for young Americans to get into well-paying jobs”. This would seem to align with union construction careers. However, in those same comments, Rep. Walberg also criticized the Biden administration for favoring union apprenticeship plans over other, non-union apprenticeship models possibly indicating a direction on which way the EO will be implemented. Moreover, the EO targets “new industries and occupations, including high-growth and emerging sectors.” In an interview conducted on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Secretary of Commerce Lutnick discussed jobs of the future and a “new model” whereby future generations would be trained to work in factories repairing automated equipment. The AGC’s director of congressional relations for labor, HR and safety, Jim Young, lauded the administration for discussing the importance of skilled trades but cautioned it is too early to tell where the administration intends to take the EO and “where they will land on this.” A copy of the EO can be found by clicking [here](#).

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

GLCA SPORTING CLAY OUTING

JOIN THE GLCA FOR THEIR SPORTING CLAY SHOOTING EVENT AT THE NORTHBROOK SPORTS CLUB

DATE: THURSDAY MAY 22, 2025
 TIME: 1:30 P.M TO 5:00 P.M.
 LOCATION: NORTHBROOK SPORTS CLUB
 160 SPORTS CLUB DRIVE
 HAINESVILLE, IL 60030
 COST: \$150 PER ATTENDEE, INLCUDES 100 ROUNDS OF AMMO, DINNER TO FOLLOW EVENT
 CONTACT: CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

CALENDAR

MAY 2	1:00 P.M.	VMAX GROUP TRAINING ONLINE
MAY 5	1:00 P.M.	CEMENT MASONS LMCC (ONLINE)
MAY 7	8:00 A.M.	AGC LELC SEMINAR (WASHINGTON D.C.)
MAY 8	8:00 A.M.	AGC LELC SEMINAR (WASHINGTON D.C.)
MAY 9	8:00 A.M.	CHICAGO FED ADVISORY COUNCIL (CHICAGO)
MAY 9	1:00 P.M.	VMAX GROUP TRAINING (ONLINE)
MAY 13	11:00 A.M.	MIAF MEETING (MARBA)
MAY 13	12:00 P.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
MAY 14	8:00 A.M.	AUTO MECHANICS NEGOTIATIONS (MARBA)
MAY 16	1:00 P.M.	VMAX GROUP TRAINING (ONLINE)
MAY 19	8:00 A.M.	AUTO MECHANICS NEGOTIATIONS (MARBA)
MAY 23	11:00 A.M.	LABORERS CRAFT COMMITTEE MEETING (ONLNE)
MAY 23	1:00 P.M.	VMAX GROUP TRAINING (ONLINE)
MAY 27	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
MAY 29	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)
MAY 30	1:00 P.M.	VMAX GROUP TRAINING (ONLINE)

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?

May 4th is known as Star Wars Day (May the 4th be with you)!
 May 14th is Root Canal Appreciation Day (not sure who made that one up)!