

# MARBA MATTERS

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

### Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration demands in the month of January.

### Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers JGC did not meet in February. The next meeting will be on March 25, 2025, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operators JGC did not meet in February. The next regularly scheduled JGC hearing was scheduled for March 5, 2025, at the Operators offices in Countryside, IL, however, that has been canceled as there is only one (1) grievance on the docket and the Employer has indicated they will resolve the issue. 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 will advise the JGC of the number of grievances to be heard at a later date.

### Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters JGC did not meet in February. The next meeting date is scheduled for March 27, 2025, provided there are any grievances set to go forward.

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

### Plumbers/Tech Engineers Local 130 Launches New Benefit Website

The Plumbers/Tech Engineers Local 130 Fringe Benefits Funds have launched a new website. The website provides easy access to the myriad of benefits provided to Local 130 members. Contractors are encouraged to let their Local 130 members know of the recently updated website and also encouraged to have them access the site.

### Expiring Contracts Posted to MARBA Website

MARBA maintains an active list of contracts due to expire in 2025-2027 on its website. The list is compiled from various Associations throughout the Chicagoland area. Many Chicago area construction CBAs expire on May 31 of any given year. As such, MARBA is seeking information concerning agreements that are due to expire this year not on the list posted to the website. The list may be accessed by clicking [here](#). If you are aware of any agreements expiring this year, or in 2026/2027, not on the list, please contact Aaron Janik at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### ***Save the Date – MARBA to Co-Host Encore Collective Bargaining/Negotiations Seminar***

MARBA, along with the Plumbing Contractors Association of Greater Chicago (PCA), is pleased to announce it will be Co-Hosting an encore presentation of its successful Collective Bargaining seminar on March 19, 2025. The seminar will be held at the PCAs new offices in Oakbrook. Speakers will include Rick Samson from Ogletree Deakins as well as Christna Wernick and Wes Covert (both from Laner Muchin). A variety of topics will be covered as it pertains to collective bargaining including perspectives from the Union side and how to prepare for negotiations. Advance registration is required. A registration form is posted on the MARBA website. Please contact Aaron Janik at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org) if you have any questions.

## STATE OF THE ECONOMY

### ***Economic Indicators***

Unemployment Rate	January 4.0% (December U.S. 4.1%), Illinois 5.2% (47 <sup>th</sup> )
Labor Participation Rate	January 62.6%, December 62.5%, November 62.5%, October 62.6%
CPI All Urban Consumers	January 2025 over January 2024 = 3.00%
CPI Chicago All Items	January 2025 over January 2024 = 4.26% Annual 2024 over 2023 = 3.46%
CPI Midwest All Items	January 2025 over January 2024 2023= 3.40% 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%)
Unionized Construction Workers	11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 2-27-25 6.76%, up 0.01% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 2-27-25 5.94% down 0.04% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$73.53 per barrel (as February 27, 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	0.1% above revised December rate 1.7% below January 2024 rate

Privately Owned New Housing Starts	9.8% below revised December rate (+/-12.5%) 0.7% below January 2024 rate (+/-13.0%)
GDP	Q4 2024 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) +2.3% Q4 2024 (Adv) +2.4% Q3 202+3.1%
DJIA	43,407.30 as of February 27,2025 (2:00 p.m.) 44,538.40 as of January 31, 2025 (2:00 p.m.) 42,544.22 as of December 31, 2024 (4:30 p.m.)

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

**Bill Introduced to Abolish Repeal OSH Act and Abolish OSHA**

The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The OSH Act, in addition to other matters, authorized the creation of an agency to administer the requirements under the Act. Thus, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was created. The OSH Act also allows states to develop their own “OSHA” plans. Illinois is one of 21 states that operates its own OSHA approved state plan, but the Illinois plan only pertains to state and local government workers. Private sector employees in Illinois are covered by the federal OSHA.

The same year the OSH Act celebrates its anniversary could also be the same year of its demise. Representative Andy Biggs (R-AZ) has introduced a bill (currently with no co-sponsors) in the House entitled the “Nullify the Occupational Safety and Health Act” (NOSHA). NOSHA could possibly be the shortest piece of legislation ever written. It is two sentences, stating, “The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 is repealed. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is abolished.” The bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. While it is unlikely this bill will pass, if it does job safety requirements for private sector employees in Illinois would be in limbo. Most likely, the Illinois Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, would step in place of the federal OSHA, although that would take some time to ramp up that activity.

If the past month has been any indication, labor and employment related agencies and regulatory requirements are in a state of flux. Amidst the backdrop of the Executive branches’ use of Executive Orders is not only legislation such as NOSHA, but also the judiciary’s increasing willingness to reign in administration agencies authority. The Supreme Court, particularly Justice Thomas, has shown a willingness to review broad delegations of authority to administrative agencies (like the authority OSHA seemingly has). Justice Thomas wrote a dissent in which the Supreme Court denied certiorari in the case of *Allstate Refractory Contractors, LLC v. Su*. In that case the Supreme Court declined to hear the case which sought review of a challenge to OSAs authority to set workplace safety standards. In his dissent, Thomas stated that the Supreme Court should review cases in which agencies, such as OSHA, are conferred with a far-reaching grant of authority of legislative power. His dissent also indicated the Court would be likely to review cases where that authority was being questioned in the coming term(s).

This will be an important area of the law to watch over the next few months, not only legislatively and

judicially but also from an executive perspective as well, since it is anybody's guess where issues like this will settle.

**UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

**MARBA AND PCA TO CO-HOST ENCORE CBA/NEGOTIATIONS SEMINAR**

DATE: WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 2025  
 TIME: 7:15 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.  
 LOCATION: 900 JORIE BLVD  
 OAK BROOK IL 60523  
 COST: \$25.00  
 CONTACT: CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

**THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COUNCIL AND ASA HOST THEIR ANNUAL SAFETY EXPO**

DATE: MONDAY MARCH 3 & TUESDAY MARCH 4  
 TIME: 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.  
 LOCATION: DRURY LANE  
 100 DRURY LANE  
 OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL 60181  
 COST: CONTACT ASA FOR PRICING  
 CONTACT: MARISA WITH THE ASA AT 847-827-8336 OR [MLITOBORSKI@ASACHICAGO.ORG](mailto:MLITOBORSKI@ASACHICAGO.ORG)

**CALENDAR**

<b>MARCH 4</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>PREVAILING WAGE SEMINAR</b>
<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>	<b>CEMENT MASONS LMCC (BELLWOOD)</b>
<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>	<b>MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)</b>
<b>MARCH 12</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>UCA TRAINING COURSE (SCHAUMBURG)</b>
<b>MARCH 14</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>AUTO MECHANICS 701 TRAINING FUND (AURORA)</b>
<b>MARCH 19</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>CBA/NEGOTIATIONS SEMINAR (OAKBROOK)</b>
<b>MARCH 25</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)</b>
<b>MARCH 27</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>TEMASTERS JGC (MARBA)</b>

<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?*

Monopoly was invented on March 7, 1933. The Chicago River has been dyed green since 1962.



Cubs open the season against the Dodgers on March 18 and 19 in Tokyo. The rest of the league opens on March 27, the earliest opening day ever.