

MARBA MATTERS

GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONSⁱ

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations

MARBA did not receive any arbitration demands in the month of February.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in the month of February. The next regularly scheduled JGC is set for March 26, 2024, at the Laborers District Council offices in Burr Ridge.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee met on February 7, 2024, at the Operating Engineers offices in Countryside to hear two (2) grievances. The first grievance alleged the contractor was operating bargaining unit equipment and was not a member of the Union. The contractor in question stopped paying wages, fringe benefits, and dues on both him and his employees. The contractor failed to appear at the hearing and an award was issued in favor of the Union based on the evidence and testimony presented by the Union's business agent. The second grievance alleged that the contractor was not in good standing with the Union and was found to be operating bargaining unit equipment. The contractor failed to appear at JGC and like the first grievance an award was issued in favor of the Union based on the evidence and testimony presented by the Union's business agent. The next regularly scheduled JGC is set for April 3, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Local 150 offices in Countryside.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in February. The next regularly scheduled Teamsters JGC is set for March 28, 2024, provided there are any cases set to go forward.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

MARBA to Host Microsoft Teams Webinar Regarding Teamsters Article 3/LMCC Side Letter

MARBA is pleased to host a Microsoft Teams meeting covering changes to the MARBA/Teamsters Article 3 "Subcontracting" provision, specifically as it relates to the Owner/Driver Pension Contribution Side Letter. The meeting will be held on March 14, 2024, at 9 a.m. CST. To request a link to the meeting please email Aaron Janik, MARBA Executive Director, at ajanik@marba.org. Joining Aaron in this presentation will be John Healy, MARBA Teamsters Craft Committee Chair, and Rick Samson, Attorney with Ogletree Deakins.

Delegation of Bargaining Rights Due Soon

Negotiations will take place in 2024 between MARBA and the Operating Engineers Local 150. The MARBA Associations have distributed 2024 bargaining rights packets to their membership. The packet contains information, including key deadlines, about the 2024 negotiations. If you have not yet received the packet, or if you have questions about the information contained in the bargaining rights packet, you may contact your Association or Aaron Janik at ajanik@marba.org.

Additionally, consent forms regarding the five-year extension reached between MARBA and the Carpenters were sent out in October 2023. If you have not yet returned those consent forms to your MARBA Association, please do so as soon as possible. Again, if you have questions about the consent forms you may contact your Association or Aaron Janik at ajanik@marba.org.

Both the consent forms and bargaining rights forms are time sensitive so please refer to the dates contained in the respective documents to ensure timely compliance.

List of Expiring Contracts Posted on MARBA Website

A list of contracts set to expire in 2024 has been posted to the MARBA website. This list can be accessed by clicking [here](#). This list will form the basis for the weekly Negotiation Update emails that will begin sometime in April. There have been a few updates to that list based on information just recently received. As always, if you are aware of any agreements expiring not on the list, please contact Aaron Janik at ajanik@marba.org.

INDUSTRY NEWS

White Sox and Bears Competing for Same Pool of Money?

Spring training has kicked off and the Super Bowl just ended but behind the scenes the White Sox and Bears are ramping up their pursuit of new playing fields. Within the past few weeks word has leaked out that the White Sox are looking at land near the “78” neighborhood in the South Loop as a potential site for a new stadium. This, coupled with the Bears looking at Arlington Heights (and now the lot of Solider Field) has left many wondering where the money to build two new stadiums will come from.

Both the Sox and the Bears have met with numerous governmental agencies and taxing bodies over the past several weeks and months. It has recently been reported that White Sox Chairman, Jerry Reinsdorf, along with leadership from Related Midwest, met with Governor Pritzker to discuss the plans to seek close to \$1 billion dollars in assistance for developing the land in and around the 78 so the stadium can be built.

The proposal, which is still in its infancy, will look to allow the White Sox to tap into money generated by a 2% sales tax on hotel occupancy in the City of Chicago. The Illinois Sports Finance Authority currently draws from that 2% to pay down the bonds on both the construction of Guaranteed Rate Field and the Solider Field renovations done several years ago. Those bonds are expected to be retired in 2034. The Sox would also seek an overlay a tax district that would seek to capture the sales tax generated in the 78 (estimated at \$400 million).

This proposal, which has drawn a tepid response from Governor Pritzker’s office, is a highly complicated proposal which would ultimately need legislative approval. Further complicating the matter is the fact that the Bears would most likely also be requesting some sort of assistance in the way of subsidies to develop a new stadium. The Chicago Red Stars (major league soccer) have also been rumored to be engaging in similar conversations regarding stadium funding.

Two NFL teams have recently built stadiums; the LA Rams/LA Chargers and the Las Vegas Raiders. Sofi Stadium (home to the Rams/Chargers) cost \$5.5 billion dollars to complete. Allegiant Stadium (home to the Raiders) cost a little under \$2 billion to complete with \$750 million coming in the form of taxpayer subsidies. Sofi Stadium took 12-million-man hours to build, and Allegiant took almost 6 million. Globe Life Stadium, home to the Texas Rangers, was opened in 2020 and cost \$1.1 billion dollars to construct with the team receiving \$500 million in public subsidies. Globe Life also took about 6-million-man hours. The projected size of the White Sox new stadium proposal has drawn support from labor leaders in the Chicago area including CFL President Bob Reiter. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and other City of Chicago leaders have also publicly supported the White Sox project. Earlier this week both the Sox and the Bears were urged to work together on one comprehensive proposal for taxpayer funding.

Bring Chicago Home Ballot Question Invalidated by Cook County Judge

The Bring Chicago Home question that is on the ballot for the upcoming March 19 election was recently invalidated by a Cook County Judge. The question, which seeks to make changes to the real estate transfer tax based on the sales amount of property, has been floated for several years to address the issue of homelessness in the City of Chicago. It only recently came to fruition due to Mayor Brandon Johnson’s support of the plan.

The Plaintiffs, led by the Building Owners and Managers Association, among others, argued the three-part nature of the question was confusing and against the law. Additionally, they argued it was unclear what the money raised by the changes in the real estate transfer tax would be used for. The Defendant in the case, the Chicago Board of Elections, has appealed the ruling arguing in its appeal that it is not the proper Defendant as it did not create the possible legislation, rather it is the messenger for the City. In other words, the Board of Elections is arguing that they only printed the ballots. The City of Chicago previously attempted to intervene in the case but were denied the right to do so. The City is currently appealing against that denial along with arguing the legality of the possible legislation.

As early voting has already started, the judge, Honorable Kathleen Burke, ordered the Board of Elections not to not count any votes cast on the question nor report any results on any votes cast on the question. As this matter is still under appeal, homeless advocacy groups are still urging people to vote on the question in the affirmative. It is unclear how long this matter will take to be appealed but due to the upcoming deadline of March 19, the Board of Elections and the City of Chicago are requesting an expedited appeal.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate January 2023 U.S. 3.7% (December 3.7%), Illinois % (tied)

Labor Participation Rate	January 62.5%, December 62.5%, November 62.8%
CPI All Urban Consumers	January 2024 over January 2023 = 3.09% Half Year 1, 2023 = 4.88%, Half Year 2, 2023 = 3.38%
CPI Chicago All Items	January 2024 over January 2023 = 3.26% Half Year 1, 2023 = 4.15%, Half Year 2, 2023 = 2.53%, Annual = 3.33%
CPI Midwest All Items	January 2024 over January 2023 = 2.95% Half Year 2023 = 4.55%, Half Year 2, 2023 = 2.99%, Annual = 3.69%
Union Membership	2023 = 10.0% (Private Sector 6.0%) 2022 = 10.1% (Private Sector 6.0%) 2021 = 10.3% (Private Sector 6.1%)
Unionized Construction Workers	11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021), 12.7% (2020)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 2-15-2024 6.77%, up 0.45% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.34% (2022), 2.96% (2021), 3.11% (2020)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 1-25-24 6.12%, up 0.61% over the prior year. Annual Average 4.58% (2022), 2.27% (2021), 2.61% (2020)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$83.88 per barrel (as of February 12, 2024) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	1.5% below December rate 8.6% above January 2023 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	14.8% below revised December rate (10.2+/-%) 0.7% below January 2023 rate (11.7+/-%)
GDP	Q4 (Adv) 3.3% Q3 2023 +4.9%
DJIA	38,627.99 as of February 16, 2024 (close) 38,248.86 as of January 31, 2024 (close) 37,701.63 as of December 29, 2023 (9:00 a.m.)

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

SpaceX, Tesla, Amazon, and Trader Joe's All Argue NLRB is Unconstitutional

Several large employers in the United States have all recently taken the position that the NLRB is unconstitutional. SpaceX, and Tesla, which is owned by Elon Musk, asked a federal court to block an

enforcement action issued against it by the NLRB. In arguing for the blocking of the action, SpaceX argued that the 5 member NLRB and the various ALJs (Administrative Law Judges) are insulated from removal only for cause, in violation of the separation of powers clause. Their argument claims that the Executive branch does not have the power to remove the Board members or ALJs. Amazon, which reiterated many of the arguments SpaceX made, also argued the NLRB Member exercise executive, legislative, and judicial powers all during one administrative process.

The arguments made by the companies may ultimately wind up in front of the Supreme Court which has recently shown a willingness to at least listen to these types of arguments. Cases going back to 2020 involving the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the most recent case in which the Court heard arguments about administrative agencies determinations (Chevron deference) raise the specter that there could be changes afoot to federal labor law in 2024.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

TEAMSTERS ARTICLE 3/LMCC SIDE LETTER

PLEASE JOIN MARBA FOR A WEBINAR WHICH WILL DISCUSS CHANGES TO ARTICLE 3 (SUBCONTRACTING) IN THE MARBA/TEAMSTERS AGREEMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE LMCC SIDE LETTER PERTAINING TO OWNER/DRIVER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
 TIME: 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.
 LOCATION: MICROSOFT TEAMS
 COST: COMPLIMENTARY
 CONTACT: AARON JANIK, MARBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT AJANIK@MARBA.ORG

UCA LUNCH AND LEARN

UNLOCK YOUR LEADERSHIP STRENGTHS AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS WITH THE UCA

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
 TIME: 11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.
 LOCATION: UCA OFFICES
 1051 PERIMETER DR. SUITE 1075
 SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173
 COST: \$25.00
 CONTACT: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR LAUREN BARNETT AT LAUREN@UCA.ORG OR CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

CALENDAR

MARCH 7	1:00 P.M.	CHICAGO FED WEBINAR (ONLINE)
MARCH 8	12:00 P.M.	NEGOTIATION FORUM (MARBA)
MARCH 12	12:00 P.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
MARCH 14	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS ARTICLE 3/LMCC SIDE LETTER (ONLINE)
MARCH 26	9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)
MARCH 28	9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)

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?

The first phone call was made March 10, 1876. 10 years later, Coca-Cola was patented.