

Grievances and Arbitrations¹

Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration requests this month.

Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee was scheduled to meet today, August 31, 2021, but due to some last-minute scheduling conflicts the parties postponed the hearing date until September 9, 2021. It will be held at the Laborers District Council beginning at 9:00 a.m. There is one grievance scheduled to be heard.

Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in August. The next JGC hearing date is in the process of being scheduled.

Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in August. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for September 30, 2021, at the Teamsters office in Burr Ridge. At this point, there are no grievances pending.

Collective Bargaining/Labor Issues

Know Your Contract Online Seminar

MARBA will be hosting an online seminar to cover the more substantive changes to the collective bargaining agreements with the Laborers District Council and the Operating Engineers. The seminar will be held on Friday, September 10, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to attend please email Aaron Janik, MARBA Executive Director, at ajanik@marba.org to be added to the invite.

Industry News

Right to Work Constitutional Amendment Will Be on 2022 Ballot

Earlier this summer, the Illinois General Assembly adopted Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment No. 11. The “right-to-work” Amendment would make it illegal for any law or local ordinance to be passed which would “interfere with, negate, or diminish the rights of employees to organize and bargain collectively over the wages, hours, and other terms and conditions or employment and workplace safety.” The question will appear on the November 2022 ballot which coincides the next gubernatorial election. According to recent polling, the Amendment enjoys widespread support across both party lines (81% among Democrats and 57% among Republicans).

State of the Economy

Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate July 2021 U.S. 5.4%, Illinois 7.1% (44th)

Labor Participation Rate	July 2021 = 61.7%, June 2021 = 61.6%
CPI All Urban Consumers	July 2021 versus July 2020 = 5.37% Half 2021 versus Half 2020 = 3.37%
CPI Chicago All Items	July 2021 versus July 2020 = 4.87% Half 2021 versus Half 2020 = 3.08%
CPI Midwest All Items	July 2021 versus July 2020 = 5.92% Half 2021 versus Half 2020 = 3.68%
Union Membership	2020 10.8% (Private Sector 6.3%), 2019 = 10.3%
Rate of Unionized Construction Workers	12.7% (2020), 13.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018), 14.0% (2017)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	July 2.87%, down 0.11% (June 2.98%)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	June 2.18%, down 0.09% (June 2.27%)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$ 72.97 per barrel (as of August 31, 2021, 9:58 a.m.) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$ 2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	2.6% above revised June rate (+/-0.9%) 6.0% above July 2020 rate (+/-0.9%)
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	7.0% below revised June rate (+/-8.9%) 2.5% above July 2020 rate (+/-10.9%)
GDP	1 st Quarter 2021 (3 rd) = 6.4% 2 nd Quarter 2021 (2 nd) = 6.6%
DJIA	35,425.98 as of August 31, 2021 (10:32 a.m.) 33,852.09 as of July 19, 2021, (11:15 a.m.)

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

Amazon's Conduct in Union Election Leads to ALJ to Call for New Election

Earlier this year the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union (RWDSU) was soundly defeated in an election conducted by the NLRB at the Bessemer, Alabama Amazon Warehouse. The election was closely watched by many in the field of labor relations as Amazon, the nation's second largest employer behind Walmart, has repeatedly fought efforts to unionize its workforce. After tallying the ballots, the count was skewed heavily in favor of Amazon, with 1,789 voting against unionization, 738 voting for unionizing, and 505 ballots were challenged. 78 ballots were voided for a variety of reasons.

Shortly after the ballot count, RWDSU filed objections with the NLRB citing several reasons why the election should be held again. One of the chief complaints the Union made against Amazon was based on the company's installation of an unmarked U.S. mailbox on company property. The mailbox was installed near surveillance cameras which the

union argued could have influenced employees voting. After a three-week hearing the hearing officer issued a 61-page decision which primarily focused on the installation of the mailbox by Amazon. The hearing officer called for a new election to be held.

The Regional Director in Atlanta will make the final determination of whether a new election will be held. Most pundits believe the decision to order a new election will be upheld by the RD. Amazon would have the right to appeal that decision to the full NLRB. However, with the recent swearing in of Democrat David Prouty as a Board Member, the Democrats have the majority on the NLRB. Thus, making the likelihood of an Amazon appeal to the full Board to be decided in favor of the Union. The full decision in the Amazon case can be found by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Seminars/Events	Calendar
<p>Know Your Contract</p> <p>MARBA will highlight the more substantive changes to the Laborers and Operators agreements.</p> <p>Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Location: Online Cost: Complimentary Contact: ajanik@marba.org</p>	<p>September 1 10:00 a.m. 150 JGC Meeting (Countryside)</p> <p>September 9 9:00 a.m. Laborers JGC (Burr Ridge)</p> <p>September 10 12:00 p.m. Know Your Contract (Online)</p> <p>September 13 7:00 a.m. CISCO Golf Outing (Bloomindale)</p> <p>September 14 11:00 a.m. MIAF Meeting (MARBA)</p> <p>September 14 12:00 a.m. MARBA Meeting (MARBA)</p> <p>September 23 7:30 a.m. CIF (MARBA)</p>
<p>Did You Know: The U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. It was not ratified until 9 of the 13 states voted to adopt the document. The 9th state, New Hampshire, adopted the document on June 21, 1788. The government under the Constitution was to begin on March 4, 1789.</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.

BEARS KICKOFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 7:30 P.M.!



The MARBA office will be closed on September 6, 2021, in observance of Labor Day. It will reopen on September 7, 2021