



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

### **Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Arbitrations**

MARBA received an arbitration demand in the month of August alleging a violation of several Articles of the Agreement.

### **Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers JGC did not meet in August. The next meeting will be on September 30, at the Laborers District Council office in Burr Ridge beginning at 9:00 a.m. There is currently one case scheduled to be heard. The Union will advise the JGC if there are any other grievances set to be heard about two weeks prior to the 30th.

### **Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Operators JGC did not meet in July, and it will not meet in August. The next hearing date is scheduled for September 17, 2025. There are currently ten (10) grievances to be heard. The hearings will be held at the Union offices in Countryside.

### **Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters JGC met on August 21, 2025, at MARBA to hear two (2) grievances filed against the same contractor. Both grievances alleged a violation of 3.2 of the agreement. The Union alleged the contractor illegally subcontracted out work covered under the agreement to non-signatory contractors and failed to ensure those subcontractors were paid area standards. The contractor alleged they were paying more than area standards. However, the contractor did not provide the Union with any evidence they had paid their subcontractors more than the area standards. After hearing the testimony and receiving the parties' evidence the JGC upheld both grievances and as a remedy the contractor was ordered to pay the Union \$5,000 per grievance. The next JGC is set for September 25, 2025, provided there are any grievances set to go forward, there are currently no grievances on the docket.

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING/LABOR ISSUES

### **Meet the Leadership Night One Week Away**

MARBA is hosting a Meet the Leadership night with the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council (MACRC) on September 9, 2025. The event will take place at Gibson's in Oakbrook beginning at

4 p.m. and concluding at 6 p.m. Heavy appetizers and cocktails will be served. This is a free event, but advance registration is kindly requested. A link for registration can be found by clicking [here](#).

MACRC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Kevin McLaughlin, Joel Pogese, Wade Beasley, along with other members of the MACRC Executive Committee 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

##### **Dodge Momentum Index Sees 21% Gain in July**

Dodge Construction Network released their monthly Dodge Momentum Index which saw a huge gain in the month of July. This was a result of many projects that had long been talked about, getting moved into the planning stages. Sara Martin, Dodge’s Associate Director of Forecasting, indicated several large-scale projects entered the planning stages such as data centers, research and development labs, hospitals, and service stations. Also, according to Dodge, the commercial segment increased 24% from July 2024 and the institutional segment also increased, by a whopping 85% over the same period. The Dodge Momentum Index is the monthly measure of the value of nonresidential building projects entering the planning stage.

Despite the positive DMI news, Dodge Construction Network also found that construction starts for the month of July declined by 10%. This comes on the heels of strong June numbers which saw an increase in construction starts of 16%. Residential construction (i.e. single-family homes) continues to struggle while data center and warehouse construction continues to perform strong.

#### STATE OF THE ECONOMY

##### **Economic Indicators**

Unemployment Rate	July 4.2%, (June 4.1%), Illinois 4.6% (40 <sup>th</sup> )
Labor Participation Rate	July 62.2%, June 62.3%, May 62.4%
CPI All Urban Consumers	July 2025 over July 2024 = 2.70% Half 2025 = 2.59
CPI Chicago All Items	July 2025 over July 2024 = 2.70% Half 2025 = 3.62%

CPI Midwest All Items	July 2025 over July 2024 = 2.59% Half 2025 = 2.84%
Union Membership	2024 = 9.9% (Private Sector 5.9%), 2023 = 10.0% (Private Sector 6.0%), 2022 = 10.1% (Private Sector 6.0%)
Union Construction Workers	11.2% (2024), 11.4% (2023), 11.7% (2022), 12.6% (2021)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 8-28-25 6.56% up 0.21% over the prior year. Annual Average 6.90% (24), 6.61% (23), 5.34% (22), 2.96% (21)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	As of 8-28-25 5.69% up 0.18% over the prior year. Annual Average 5.98% (24) 5.93% (23), 4.58% (22), 2.27% (21)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$66.86 per barrel (as August 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	2.8% below revised June rate 5.7% below July 2024 rate
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	4.6% above revised May rate (+/-10.6%) 0.5% below June rate (+/-9.9%)
GDP	Q2 2025 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) +3.3% Q2 2025 (Adv) +3.0% Q1 2025 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) -0.5%
DJIA	45,516.86 as of August 29, 2025 (2:45 p.m.) 44,324.19 as of July 30, 2025(2:45 p.m.) 43,999.75 as of June 30, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) 42,051.83 as of May 29, 2025 (11:35 a.m.)

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

### **NLRB ALJ Removal Protections Declared Unconstitutional; Board Left With One Member**

The National Labor Relations Board has seen its fair share of action over the past six (6) to nine (9) months. From the removal of its General Counsel to the removal of one its Board members, it has been difficult to keep up with. Adding to the difficulty in keeping track of where things stand is the Fifth Circuit recently ruled that the removal protections afforded to the Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) is likely unconstitutional.

ALJs hear cases before the full NLRB rules on them. Currently, ALJs may be removed for “good cause” by the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), while Merit Board members can only be removed for “cause”. The Fifth Circuit consolidated three cases filed by Employers challenging the ALJs removal protection structure. The Employers, Space X, Energy Transfer, and FindHelp, argued the “two-layers” of removal protections for ALJs was unconstitutional. The Fifth Circuit agreed with the Employers holding, “the NLRB ALJs are inferior officers insulated by two-layers of for cause protection [and] the removal restrictions are unconstitutional.” The Fifth Circuit encompasses Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas and the court’s decision issued only covers those states. That likely means employers with ULP litigation in those states may seek to file their own constitutional challenges to the current ALJ removal protection thereby stopping/delaying the underlying ULP case (and other NLRB actions involving ALJs in the Circuit).

The case will most likely be decided by the Supreme Court. It is difficult to predict how the Supreme Court will rule. It’s possible they take a narrow approach to the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s decision and “sever” the removal protections for ALJs from the NLRA and leave intact the rest of the Act. However, they could take a big swing of the bat and deem the removal protections so integral to the initial passage of the NLRA that had it not been for its inclusion in the Act Congress would have not passed the NLRA in the first place and as such the entire Act is unconstitutional.

While the Fifth Circuits decision is most likely to be appealed the NLRB is still effectively “frozen” as they do not have a quorum of members due to the removal of Member Wilcox by President Trump which left the Board with only two members (one short of the necessary 3 to establish a quorum). However, on August 27, 2025, Board Chairman Marvin Kaplan’s term expired. This means the Board now has just one member, Board member David Prouty (a Biden era appointee), and no Board Chair. It is not likely that President Trump will name Member Prouty to serve as Board Chairman. President Trump has nominated two individuals to serve as Board Members, Scott Mayer and James Murphy, but their nominations have not yet been moved forward. Also pending is the nominee for the NLRB’s General Counsel position. Crystal Carey has her nomination in limbo as there have been hearings held but no advancement for her nomination. Currently serving as Acting General Counsel, William Cowen. He is eligible to serve as Acting General Counsel for quite some time (after two failed GC nominations and 210 days after each failed nomination).

The consolidated Employer cases can be found by clicking [here](#).

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

### GLCA TAILGATE COOK OFF

**JOIN THE GLCA AND THEIR MEMBERS FOR A DAY OF TAILGATING AT THE LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. THIS EVENT HAS BECOME BIGGER THAN THE LAKE COUNTY FAIR!**

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025  
 TIME: 11:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.  
 LOCATION: LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
 1060 E. PETERSON ROAD  
 GRAYSLAKE, IL 60030  
 COST: FREE  
 CONTACT: [EVENTS@GREATLAKESCA.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@GREATLAKESCA.ORG)

### TRUSTEE TRAINING SEMINAR

**MARABA, THE PCA, AND SEVERAL OTHER ASSOCIATIONS ARE SPONSORING A TRUSTEE TRAINING SEMINAR TO PROVIDE NEW (AND VETERAN) TRUSTEES THE BASICS BEHIND BEING A TRUSTEE**

DATE: THURSDAY OCTOBER 2, 2025  
 TIME: 7:45 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.  
 LOCATION: PCA OFFICE  
 900 JORIE BLVD.  
 OAKBROOK, IL 60523  
 COST: FREE FOR PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS  
 CONTACT: [ADRIANA@PCAOFCCHICAGO.COM](mailto:ADRIANA@PCAOFCCHICAGO.COM)

## CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 4 12:00 P.M.	CHICAGO FED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS UPDATE (ONLINE)
SEPTEMBER 8 8:00 A.M.	CISCO GOLF OUTING (BLOOMINGDALE)
SEPTEMBER 9 11:00 A.M.	MIAF MEETING (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 9 12:00 P.M.	MARBA BOARD MEETING (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 9 4:00 P.M.	MEET THE MACRC LEADERSHIP NIGHT (OAKBROOK)
SEPTEMBER 12 8:00 A.M.	BAC FUNDS MEETING (ELMHURST)
SEPTEMBER 17 8:30 A.M.	OPERATING ENGINEERS JGC (COUNTRYSIDE)
SEPTEMBER 18 10:00 A.M.	CEMENT MASONS LMCC (BELLWOOD)
SEPTEMBER 25 9:00 A.M.	TEAMSTERS JGC (MARBA)
SEPTEMBER 30 9:00 A.M.	LABORERS JGC (BURR RIDGE)

<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?

The first newspaper was published in America 335 years ago, on September 25, 1690. *Publick Occurrences both Foreign and Domestick* was immediately banned by the colonial authorities.

THE NFL KICKS OFF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 AT 7:20 P.M. WITH THE COWBOYS TAKING ON THE EAGLES!