

# MARBA MATTERS

March 31, 2020

*Serving the Construction Industry Since 1971*

## Grievances and Arbitrations<sup>i</sup>

### Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations

MARBA received no arbitration requests this month.

### Laborers Joint Grievance Committee

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in March. The next meeting is currently set for April 28, 2020, at the Laborers Burr Ridge office beginning at 9:00 a.m. Due to Governor Pritzker's Shelter in Place Order recently being extended through April 30, 2020, it is unclear if this meeting will proceed as planned.

### Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee

The March 18, 2020 meeting of the Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee was postponed. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2020, at the office of Local 150 in Countryside, IL beginning at 8:30 a.m. There are currently six (6) grievances on the docket.

### Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in March. The next regularly scheduled grievance committee hearing is scheduled for April 30, at a location to be determined. Due to Governor Pritzker's Shelter in Place Order recently being extended through April 30, 2020, it is unclear if this meeting will proceed as planned.

## Collective Bargaining/Labor Issues

### Negotiation Updates to Begin in Early April

Later in the month of April MARBA will begin sending out negotiation update emails. At this point in time it is difficult to say how the coronavirus outbreak will impact negotiations within the industry. If you are aware of any developments with negotiations for other non-MARBA trades or in other parts of the state please contact us at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

## Industry News

### Fourth Phase COVID-19 Response Being Considered

With the passage of the CARES Act last week talk has already moved forward with a potential fourth phase stimulus being considered by the House Democrats. The package being discussed

would be centered around a \$760 billion infrastructure program. Uncertainty surrounds the funding source of the plan and whether Republican leadership will be willing to join in on the effort.

## State of the Economy

### Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	February 2020 U.S. 3.5%, Illinois 3.4% (24th)
Labor Participation Rate	February 2020 = 63.4%, January 2019 63.2%
CPI (All Urban Consumers)	February 2020 versus February 2019 = 2.33%
CPI Chicago All Items	February 2020 versus February 2019 = 2.11%
CPI Midwest All Items	February 2020 versus February 2019 = 2.00%
Union Membership	2019 = 10.3% (Private Sector 6.2%), 2018 = 10.5% Rate of Unionized Construction Workers = 13.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018), 14.0% (2017)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	February 3.47%, down 0.15% from January 3.62% Annual Average 2019 = 3.94%, 2018 = 4.54%
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	February 2.97%, down 0.10% from January 3.07% Annual Average 2019 = 3.39%, 2018= 4.00%
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$ 26.35 per barrel (as of March 31, 2020) \$ 145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$ 2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	5.5% below revised January rate (+/-1.5%) 13.8% above February 2019 rate (+/- 2.1%)
Annual Housing Starts	1,289,8000 in 2019 3.2% above 2018 1,249,900
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	0.2% below revised January rate (+/- 12.4%) 1.4% below February 2019 estimate (+/- 14.8%)*
DJIA	22,327.48 as of March 31, 2020 (close) 25,003.92 as of February 28, 2020 (2:03 p.m.)

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

With much of the past few weeks being devoted to COVID-19 I wanted to include a link to Ogletree Deakins website. Their firm has a COVID-19 Resource Center. Information regarding new legislation (FFCRA and CARES) can be found here.

<https://ogletree.com/solutions/coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/>

**Upcoming Seminars/Events**

There are several COVID-19 webinars that will be taking place over the next few days and weeks to come. There will be one presented by Ogletree Deakins on Thursday, April 2, 2020 that discusses the CARES Act (Phase 3 Stimulus Plan).

Please see below for the registration link:

<https://ogletree.com/webinars/2020-04-02/cares-act-what-the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act-means-for-employers-2/>

**Calendar**

The calendar of events for the next month is up in the air at this point. The Shelter in Place order issued by Governor Pritzker runs through April 30, 2020. Once the current situation stabilizes the monthly calendar will be published.

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Did You Know: Mutiny on the Bounty occurred on April 28, 1789.

<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.