

Why are Unions needed in America?

Unions created the American middle class. Between 1945 and 1973 when a high percentage of workers were in unions wages kept pace with rising productivity, prosperity was widely shared with economic growth, and the American middle class was strong. Since, 1973 the number of people in unions has declined causing real living wages to stagnate, even though worker productivity has steadily risen. For the same reasons we are slowly coming to see an end to the American middle class.

There are good and bad aspects in unions just like in any organization. However, more than 1/3 of the American public hasn't heard enough about union to know if they like them or not or if they're good or bad for the economy. The strongest value of belonging to a union must be the workplace health and safety for all employees. Most unions also provide training, suggest employees to advice of job improvements, and help reduce stress, giving workers a voice to cope effectively with job hazards or any other problem. Fair and just treatment must be assured which is beneficial for both employee and employer, causing problems to be dealt with at personal level. In most circumstances avoiding the potential problem to escalate and staying outside the court system saving time and money. The members that are served pay all of these benefits and resources. No money is taken or asked from the taxpayers or any industry. A union also trades, deals, and bargains fair contracts to secure non closures of factories, outsourcing jobs, workers going against each other, wage decline, and keeping unemployment levels low.

Bad aspects of a union that misinformed people believe may be that unions protect incompetence, forces outrages compensations for little output, and work to undermine the very own industry they're involved with. Teacher unions are perfect examples of it, destroying education for our children rather than working to improve it. Misinformed people believe unions don't reward good labor or punish bad labor. No matter how poorly they perform the deal is equal for all. All of the above is not true. Every employer has a set of acceptable policies every employee must abide by. Good employees can be rewarded by outstanding performance by getting bonuses and promotions. Leading them to move up in the ladder of opportunities, however, some might say unions got greedy and corrupt forcing companies to pay high wages with outrages benefits. Strong laws and member involvement to oversee potential problem are needed. Members have options to choose from. If they want to be involved they may choose to be informed by attending monthly meetings, receive internet info, or receive a monthly newsletter by mail.

In essence, unions protect workers' rights and provide workers with livable wages so they may spend freely in the economy. The more the middle class spends the higher the demand of goods and services are. Stabilizing jobs in American will bring together leaders and activist who understand that America faces a job crisis. Real commitment on both ends will help build a better tomorrow. However, strong unions are needed to oversee that our government leaders and industries share the benefits of our economy. Together striving to control unemployment, injustice, and pursue the quality of life we all deserve.

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