

7 reasons to work UNION

1. BIGGER – AND MORE EQUAL – PAYCHECKS.

Despite higher employment – and much, MUCH higher corporate profits – wages aren't even keeping up with inflation. That's no accident; it's because powerful corporate interests have eroded the forces that made sure workers get paid what they're owed. Why do employers hate unions so much? The answer is obvious: unions make it much harder for those employers to underpay, exploit, and abuse workers. Unions raise wages, and they close the gap between the highest and lowest salaries in the workplace by holding management accountable. Unions also boost paychecks for non-union workers. Union contracts set the standard for non-union workers in the same occupation or industry.

2. AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE.

Health care in America is expensive. Like, super expensive. Luckily, your union fights to make sure you get the best and most affordable health care possible. Union workers are 25 percent more likely to be covered by health insurance, and their health insurance plans are 53 percent better. Union political committees – funded by the voluntary contributions of members – also fight to elect candidates who support the right to health care, and hold them accountable once they're in office.

3. BETTER BENEFITS.

Have you ever gone to work sick or skipped an amazing vacation because you couldn't get the time off work? Your union knows you'll have better quality of life – and will be a better employee – if you have paid leave benefits you can count on. Collective bargaining means union jobs provide more sick days, more vacation days, more holidays, and more advanced notice of scheduling.

4. THE CHANCE TO RETIRE – SERIOUSLY!

Millions of American workers aren't sure if they'll ever be able to retire, and millennials are even more pessimistic about their odds of retirement. Union members are 22 percent more likely to be covered by an employer-based pension, and their pension plans are 28 percent richer in terms of how much the employer provides per hour.

5. SOMEONE IN YOUR CORNER WHEN YOU NEED TO FIGHT THE BOSS.

In most jobs, you can be disciplined or even fired just because your supervisor says so – no proof needed, and no appeal allowed. Union contracts guarantee your rights to due process – and they'll help you fight back every step of the way.

6. A FAMILY OF WORKING PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU.

Union organizing is built on the foundation of solidarity: the idea that an injury to one is an injury to all and we must stand together against forces of exploitation and oppression. Being a union member is like being in a big family ready to lift you up, cheer you on, and fight for our shared rights as working people. Your union membership doesn't end when you clock out, and your union family stands ready to support you 24/7.

7. A WAY TO FIGHT THE POWERFUL INTERESTS HOLDING US BACK.

Over the past few decades, the 1 percent in America has only grown more powerful in the workplace. And as they've gotten richer, they've also taken over our democracy by donating huge checks to candidates who promise to maintain their stranglehold on power. Fighting back can seem daunting. But with your union, you can do your part to make change. We're stronger together, whether in the workplace, on the picket line, or at the ballot box. Unions are essential to making our biggest and boldest dreams possible.