



Isabella Downton,
Stepdaughter of Calvin
Knorr, member at Jason
Rouillard Logging

The Value of Unions in our Society

Union is a word that you hear regularly. You hear it from your parents, from your teachers, and from the media. A union is an organized group of workers that come together to make decisions about the conditions in their workplace and affecting their work and efficiency. Oftentimes, the word union is used in a context that makes it out to be something bad. Unions are not necessarily a bad thing and are generally a good thing that adds value to our society. Unions are valued in our society because they improve workplace policies, they increase income not just for union workers but also the entire middle class, and finally unions give blue collar workers a voice in the workplace.

The first reason that unions are valued in our society is because they improve workplace policies. Most unions are strong advocates for more expansive worker protections. Multiple decades ago, it was not uncommon for the average opinion of blue collar jobs to be low paying and unsustainable to support a family. Things have changed for blue collar workers in a good way thanks to unionization. These protections are vital for workers and their families to have a social safety net, fair paid leaves, and adequate regulations. Unionized workers are able to receive more generous and fair health benefits than their nonunionized counterparts. Unionized workers also receive better pension plans and a raise in wage. These points are clearly great ways that unions are of value to society. Without unions, most blue collar workers would have an unfair pay, limited health care coverage, inadequate benefits, and a paltry pension.

The second reason that unions are valued in our society is because they increase wage for not only unionized workers but also the entire middle class. One of the main reasons that workers unionize is so that they can receive a pay raise. This is without a doubt a huge reason unions are so important. If workers did not receive a fair pay then this affects the way they live their everyday life, especially if they have a family to support. It is essential for workers to be able to support themselves and any dependants they may have, but a pay raise also greatly improves quality of life and decreases any stresses the middle class might feel about money and payments.

The last reason that unions are valued in our society is because they give blue collar workers a voice in their workplace. It is vital, as a worker, to have your voice heard by your employer and have your needs met. Unions help to do exactly this. When workers' voices are heard and their requests are taken seriously, this improves efficiency in the workplace because workers will feel heard and appreciated. Companies can hold onto employees for a longer time because the employees feel valued.

In conclusion, unions are highly valued in our society because they improve workplace policies, increase pay, and make workers' voices heard. These help the middle class, blue collar workers, and their families and dependents.