

In 1794, Philadelphia shoemakers came together to form the first ever union. Soon, more and more people joined the organization, yearning for a better work environment. These individuals wanted freedom to speak about issues and be heard, as well as a safer working environment. As the labor union grew in numbers, it became more diverse, with people from all different backgrounds joining together for one same motive: Better rights for workers. An increase in workers in labor unions will create a more safer and diverse work environment with more freedom to workers, overall leading to a more productive society.

To begin, more workers in labor unions will lead to a safer work environment. People who join labor unions receive a higher salary than an average worker, meaning that the customer pays more money for the work that the person puts into completing a task. Since labor union workers earn more money for their work, they are more valuable to their employers. Employers will fund money towards better equipment and proper training in order to keep valuable labor union workers safe. For example, UWUA explains “When labor costs more, employers invest more in training and equipment, which improves workplace morale and boosts productivity. When workers are taken care of, everyone benefits...Companies recognize that they can take steps to make a stable workforce more safe, productive and effective, through training, better equipment, and making better use of their knowledge,”(UWUA, 2016). The following example reveals that investments into training and better equipment leads to workers who are more confident in what they do, and more productivity. Not only does an increase in safety affect workers, but society itself. Things will be produced rapidly and be dependable due to training and equipment given to workers.

Continuing, more workers will have freedom to talk about work related issues if there is an increase in labor union workers. Labor union workers are a community, and work together to

make an individual's voice heard. Regular workers are often ignored when they bring an issue up, but labor union workers join together to bring awareness to the certain issue, making the issue heard by the company. UWUA emphasizes, "For instance, a single worker might feel that a certain new safety measure should be implemented in his factory, but he might have limited power to get the company to install the new measure. If the entire workforce is made aware of the need for the new measure and bands together to pressure the company to install it, there is a much greater chance that the company will comply. Labor unions join workers together, allowing the voices of individual workers to be heard and made into a goal of the whole union,"(UWUA, 2016). This information confirms that labor union workers gain more freedom to share issues, because the labor union is a community which helps individual labor union worker's voices be heard. At the time when there was no labor union, worker's issues would often get ignored, which especially had a negative effect when the issue related to the safety of the workers. Issues brought up by individual workers could affect themselves, other workers, or the company itself, this being why it is incredibly important that each worker's claims are considered by the organization.

Above all, an increase in labor union workers will create more diverse communities in a work environment. The first union to accept women and Black workers was in 1867, 53 years before women's rights were established and 97 years before Black individual's rights were established. Throughout the years, labor unions became more diverse and accepting than they were before. To illustrate, Ronni Sandroff states, "Today, labor union members are very diverse, including more women and Black workers than ever before...In 1867, the National Union for Cigar Makers was the first union to accept women and Black workers,"(Sandroff 2022). This implies that labor unions are tremendously diverse, and were so even before women's and Black

individual's rights were established. If the labor union community grows, it will become even more diverse than before, and more people will push past discrimination, instead focusing on helping each other out for the better good. The labor union is an organization where people don't care about the different qualities of others, and instead stand together to defend their working rights.

In summary, an increase in workers in labor unions will create a more safer and diverse work environment with more freedom to workers, overall leading to a more productive society. As a welcoming, diverse community, labor unions tie people together, no matter how different they may be. Labor unions give workers more rights, higher wages, and safer environments, which is why I believe that every worker should become a labor union worker.

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