

Forthcoming Solidarity Honoring Traditions

by Lily Zingale

As the future gradually leans towards further unionization, the working class of the United States begins to thrive anew. In essence, unions are historically one of the strongest foundations that have upheld labor rights. America prides itself off of checks and balances; those can no doubt be identified in the fashion labor unions that have been organizing strikes early as the 1880s.⁽¹⁾ Workers continuing to organize could only entail centering more stability in the workplace—livable wages, affordable healthcare, safe working conditions are a few of the various substantial benefits. A most pivotal gain, however—would indubitably be solidarity, which is fundamentally intertwined with the very theory and practice of unions. Versus approaches rooted in purely self-interest alone, advances through the lens of solidarity amongst workers helps them in effectively joining forces in the name of common interest instead.

Seeing how the economy has shifted into a post-industrial state, there are more ways to work than ever. Historically, the bulk of unionized workers were skilled laborers and workers in manufacturing. Today, sequential developments allowed for a multitude of technological and creative-based careers to emerge. In view of the fact that the skillsets imperative to perform these jobs are not always tangible, that's no indication these competencies are rendered without value. People working in these careers are all working in the same field and contributing in the same way. A vast majority of the population working in creative or technical fields are more apt to work alone than those in the skilled labor market or factory fields. With that established, the call for unionization should be all the more accounted for. Having a united voice in the new economy seeks to promote further elevations in favor of the people. Unions are not a thing of the past as some may claim due to the knee-jerk association with industrial-era jobs. History does not impede them from being a critical component in postmodern society.

As recent as June 18th of this year, 2-1 Apple employees have mustered the fortitude to vote for unionization.⁽²⁾ This upshot imprinting itself in history as a display of victory in an uphill battle is a step in the right direction. That doesn't even begin to touch base on the other triumphs that labor unions strung across Starbucks stores throughout the country. The aforementioned latter-day examples are both illustrations of the extent of demand there is for unity in technological and creative fields—not just manufacturing alone. Whether time is devoted to physical demands, serving others, or aiding in the completion of projects, fair compensation is secured underneath unity. It's only when this equalization is adequately achieved that we can presume mental labor will too be honored, and not just manual labor alone. Every single labor

union that's established is a stamp of the forthcoming activism that will allow workers' rights to flourish.

Our generation has a lot to learn from the various other generations of workers that precede us. Such being the case, it's not uncommon to hear from those more experienced, a voiced aspiration to circle back to times where mentality in the workplace had been more team-oriented. Returning to the roots and readapting the traditional attitude for unionizing could achieve fulfillment and economical successes higher than even our predecessors could have hoped to foresee. Uniting the working class by banding together as one is the indubitable pursuit necessary to ensure quality of workmanship is upheld. There is an unmistakable pride to be had in the knowledge of what our forefathers have stood for, and what we ought to continue to stand for.

Even though the world of work is changing so much, we still need to work together in these areas to have representation. The need for unions hasn't changed. For a company, it might not be a tangible product for a dollar amount; nonetheless, that doesn't change the fact that it's talent, creativity and knowledge which will help grow these companies. A labor union of quality won't incite unreasonable demands that imperil the practicality of an employer's trade. Livable wages, stronger benefits, safe working conditions, and a voice on the job are a fair trade for someone's invested time and labor—labor which is not limited to physical labor, but extends to creative and technical fields too.

Citations

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