

The worker's union has been prominent for over a century and they continue to provide equal and fair representation to this day. So, when asked if I think unions are still relevant today, I respond with: absolutely. Unions may have become underappreciated and overlooked in recent times, but the importance of unions has not been diminished.

If given the opportunity to join the union, I would easily join because I would be cared for as a worker. Through job security, continued education programs, and retirement plans, I would be appreciated and valued as a worker in the union.

While considering joining the union, one might be curious of how secure a job in the union is. The union not only wants people to work, but people to work as a part of a represented group of people. Since the union values people who want to work, as an employee, your job has more value and more security than a non-union company. Obviously, a high-performance level of work is still expected, but it is nice to be a member of an environment where work is rewarded with loyalty. As an employee looking for a promising career, job security is a priority for me, which is why I would join the union without any hesitation.

Another reason why I would join the union is because of the importance of education. The union recognizes the importance of being educated and having an advanced variety of skills. We can see this appreciation of education through the vast number of continued education programs that the union has to offer. Being involved in continued education programs allows employees to mold themselves into a more valuable employee, which then in turn gives them more opportunities as an employee. The union continues to encourage providing education and advancing the skillset of its employees because they care for their employees. The union wants their representatives to be as versatile as possible. Many safety classes are offered to make sure everybody is up-to-date with safety knowledge, and many classes are taught in order to enhance workers' skills in the field. Apprenticeship programs allow

workers to experience on-the-job training and learning. Non-union companies still train their employees, but it is not nearly as thorough; since employees of non-union companies are not in apprenticeship programs, their level of on-the-job training is not comparable to that of union companies. As an employee, it would be comforting to know just how prized proper training is. Knowing that I can develop my own skillset, become more valuable to my company, and receive detailed training is why joining the union is extremely appealing to me.

Another reason why I would be eager to join the union is because of the worker-friendly retirement and insurance plans. A specific way the union fights for its workers' rights is by ensuring favorable retirement and insurance plans. Working in the union enables workers to collect a pension, which is a retirement plan that allows workers to retire at an earlier age than other typical retirement plans non-union companies have to offer. Retirement is something almost all working people stress over, but knowing that the union provides a pension that ensures my life after work is taken care of gives me great comfort and serves as an incentive to join. Insurance plans are another thing the union fights for to ensure their workers are treated fairly. The health and safety of its workers are important to the union, and we see that through the insurance plans that they fight to give to their employees. In 2019, "95% of civilian union workers had access to employer-provided healthcare benefits, and 68% of non-union workers had access to employer-provided healthcare benefits" (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019). The union truly cares for its employees even after they're done working, which is something anybody can appreciate.

Another aspect of the union to make note of is the working environment. People who work in the union are generally happier because of the benefits I've discussed. A happy work environment leads to more success and a job that people truly and wholeheartedly enjoy. Fair wages, fair treatment, and fair representation keep workers in the union satisfied and excited to go to work each day. Ultimately, the union is the working environment everybody dreams to be a part of. The care that is provided by the

union remains second to none. Whether it's because of the job security, the importance of education, or the support they give after you retire, the union cares for its people. Anybody given the prestigious offer to join the union would be senseless not to accept.