

# WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE UNION?



Unions fight for better work conditions, good benefits, and fair pay, and one of the things that we do know is that in places where union membership is low or where so-called “right-to-work” laws weaken unions, work conditions, the quality of benefits, and pay rates all suffer. By coming together, workers are better able to make their voices heard in our demands for a better work life.



Unions fight not just for material goods that compensate us for our work, but also for the value of intangibles. Local 243 values the idea that everybody deserves to be respected, and recognized and honored for your hard work and commitment to the work of education.



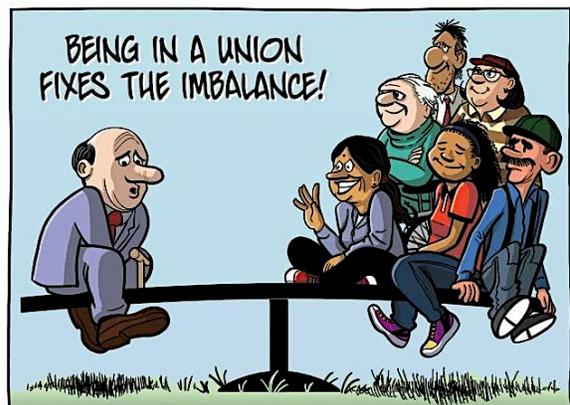
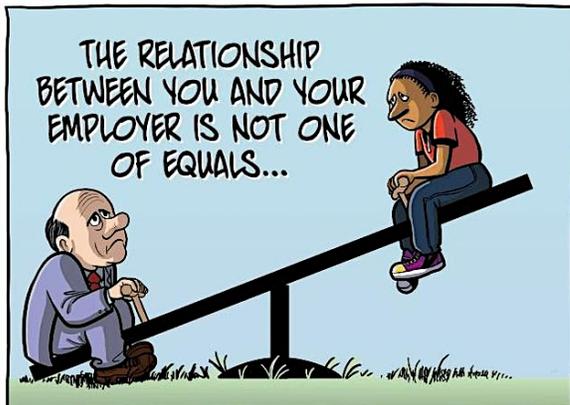
Unions are democratic in their governing structures. Union officers are elected by members and so are accountable to those members. Contrast that with the hierarchical (top-down) structures of the college in which staff and faculty often feel they have little to no say about policies.



Unions are communities of workers. By joining a union, you join a group of like-minded people and we look out for one another. If you’re having trouble with your supervisor, with HR, and so on, you don’t have to feel alone in all of that. The union can provide you support in dealing with such issues.



Unions respect the value of due process, and press hard for management to honor their own policies. The union stands for fairness and against favoritism.





☞ A higher rate of union membership together with the ability of employees to collectively bargain is strongly correlated with a higher rate of social mobility, that is, with people being able to improve their economic standing in society and to ensure that their children are also able to improve their economic standing.



☞ A higher rate of union membership together with the ability of employees to collectively bargain is strongly correlated with narrower wealth and income gaps between society's wealthy and those in the middle class, and with lower rates of poverty. Declines in union membership have accompanied the trend of increasing amounts of society's wealth coming under the control of the very rich. Declining union membership is associated with the shrinking of the American middle class and an increase in the number of people falling into poverty.



☞ A higher rate of union membership together with the ability of employees to collectively bargain is strongly correlated with a stronger commitment to the ideals of democratic government. All people should be heard by their government representatives and be able to live in dignity. Declining union membership over the last few decades has been accompanied by the increasing and now overblown influence of the very wealthy over the laws and policies enacted by government and over the decisions our elected representatives make.



☞ A higher rate of union membership together with the ability of employees to collectively bargain is strongly correlated with a positive tendency toward societal and government attention being paid to social issues such as availability of and access to quality health care, education (not just K12 but through the first 4 years of college), public transportation, a clean environment which includes clean water and air, decent housing, and food security.



*Use the camera on your smartphone and scan & click this QR code to get to our secure on-line membership application form. Join your community of siblings. Join the fight.*

Or click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4ekv3hmb>

