

We are the Union!

Boston Tea Party: The Original Union Activists

The roots of our country's trade unions reach far back to the early history of America. Several of the Pilgrims arriving at Plymouth Rock in 1620 were working craftsmen. In 1794, fighting for shorter hours and higher pay, printers were the first to go on strike; they were followed by cabinet makers and carpenters.



The Top 10 achievements of the U.S. labor movement

- 1) *Ended child labor in US with the passage in 1938 of the Fair Labor Standards Act*
- 2) *Established the legal right of workers to form unions and collectively bargain for wages, benefits and working conditions*
- 3) *Established the 8 hour work day and paid overtime*
- 4) *Secured unemployment insurance for workers who lose their jobs*
- 5) *Secured a guaranteed minimum wage*
- 6) *Won pensions and healthcare insurance for workers*
- 7) *Won paid sick leave, vacations, and holidays as standard benefits for most workers*
- 8) *Helped to win passage of the Civil Right Acts and Title VII which outlaws job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin*
- 9) *Won passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act*
- 10) *Won passage of the Family Medical Leave Act*