Hundreds of job stewards joined together in regional meetings across the state on July 29 and made the choice to stand united against threats to our wages, benefits, retirement security and communities.

Corporations and billionaires are bringing their misleading “right to work” campaign to our state in an effort to increase their profits by suppressing our wages, rolling back benefits and privatizing jobs.

Stewards received updates on the upcoming attacks and prepared to spread the message to fellow coworkers that it’s critical we stay united to protect all that we’ve fought for and won.

The stakes are high. When corporations made Wisconsin a “right to work” state, workers saw an immediate 24% reduction in their benefits. In seven years, they saw a mere 2% salary increase.

The choice is clear. Stand together and protect our contract, or stand alone and let our hard-earned rights, wages and retirement security be taken away.

To learn more, contact your steward or call the MRC at 866.471.SEIU (7348).

“I CHOOSE MY UNION”

I choose my union because I know what our union has done, what we are doing now and what we will do in the future. As a leader, it is important to educate members on right to work. We have a strong, powerful union, and I am proud to be a leader that gets to stand up and fight along side my brothers and sisters.”

-TARA ROOKS, JOB STEWARD, CDCR, FOLSOM STATE PRISON
Our union has filed an Unfair Practice Charge against management at the California State Lottery, challenging its anti-union campaign and mistreatment of employees.

Approximately 180 employees in the classification of District Sales Representative (DSR) are affected by a widespread management campaign to smear the union and retaliate against employees who participated in and won a $1.5 million settlement after the Lottery denied overtime pay to hourly employees wrongly treated as exempt.

After good faith negotiation of this important settlement, Lottery management engaged in a campaign designed to punish employees for objecting to the Lottery’s mistreatment of their hourly status.

After the settlement, working conditions were unilaterally changed — to restrict and track the employees on their routes, to deprive them of beneficial working conditions and to replace them with onerous and unsafe alternatives, as well as to malign and insult any union association for the purpose of targeting and blaming the union as the cause for management’s retribution.

The 180 affected employees help ensure that Lottery tickets and supplies are distributed statewide for sale to the public. In just the last six months, the Lottery has supplied $1.3 billion to the State’s education system. This billion-dollar boost to our state’s budget would not function without the hard work of DSRs who ensure that the Lottery’s product is available for purchase.

“We are sending a message that we won’t tolerate backlash; we won’t be victims. My union fought for us when the Lottery denied us overtime, and they’re fighting for us again,” said Paulina Vasquez, a DSR in Fresno. “I’m thankful I have a union to push back against management’s bad behavior.”

—PAULINA VASQUEZ, DSR, FRESNO