Meet CHS’s New Labor Relations Representative

Gary Aguiar, BA, MS, Ph.D., is a former political science professor and researcher who joined the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in 2015, after gaining extensive experience in contract negotiations, teaching and researching women’s community-level participation, engagement and political organizing.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Aguiar walked his first strike line at the age of eight and canvassed for a state legislative candidate when he was 16. He’s a small town boy, who thoroughly enjoys the intimacy found in rural communities and the cultural activities available in college towns.

Aguiar and his wife, Cecile, a food safety microbiologist, have a freshman-aged daughter, who is an avid volleyball player and camp-loving Girl Scout. The family has chosen to live the Eugene/Springfield community, near Sheldon High School.

Meet ONA Nurse Practice Consultant Tonya Tittle, RN, MSN

Tonya Tittle, RN, MSN, joined ONA in Oct. 2015, bringing with her a wealth of expertise in critical care practices from multiple hospital systems – OHSU, Providence and Tuality Healthcare.

Over the past 12 years, Tittle has come to realize the different systems are interconnected in their approach.

Tittle looks forward to sharing those insights with fellow ONA members, as they too grapple with challenges in their units and facilities.

“I value the time I spend in meetings and listening to my peers. When a question arises, I find sharing the experiences I’ve had working in other facilities enables me to suggest related solutions I’ve seen. It’s great when nurses say (Continued on page 2)
‘That totally works for us.’ So often, a new approach breaks the constriction and we all move forward.”

I’m also seeing that some nurses’ lack of ownership for changing their workplace is driven by a perception that it is someone else’s responsibility. I tell them it’s my experience that no one else is going to do it for them.

Once I share that observation and give them permission, then help by providing a pathway, it’s empowering. Nurses are able to make meaningful change.”

Tittle, who has an 1-year old daughter, has been a working mom, a graduate student and an adjunct professor at Linfield College. She’s used to having little free time. When she can carve out a moment, Tittle reads widely and especially enjoys seeing her daughter develop her own passion for horseback riding. “Just watching my daughter with the horses feels good,” she said.

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As part of ONA’s ongoing efforts to best serve our members and every nurse in Oregon, we are excited to present OCEAN (Oregon Continuing Education Activities for Nurses) online continuing education. [www.OregonRN.org](http://www.OregonRN.org)

This new learning environment provides continuing education (CE) opportunities to ONA members and nurses across the region, in a convenient and user-friendly format. The OCEAN system features:

- Self-paced, independent learning modules, covering a broad range of topics and encompassing all levels of nursing practice
- CE that is conveniently accessible 24 hours a day
- The ability to house each learner’s CE history for easy access and retrieval

You can find out more about using OCEAN online CE by visiting the ONA website [www.OregonRN.org](http://www.OregonRN.org). We encourage you to enjoy the courses currently available and be sure to check back regularly as more courses are added.

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### 2016 STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

**ONA’s Open Offices – 2016 Elections**

- President
- Secretary
- Director (3)
- Cabinet on Health Policy (1)
- Cabinet on Education (4)
- Cabinet on Nursing Practice and Research (3)
- Cabinet on Human Rights and Ethics (2)
- Cabinet on Economic & General Welfare (2)
- Nominating Committee (4)
- Elections Committee (1)
- ANA Delegate Alternate (2)
- Last ANA Delegate Alternate (1)

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Considering running for an ONA office?

January 20, 2016 is the deadline to self-announce candidacy for statewide ONA elections. If you are interested in candidacy for any of the above positions, please complete the Talent Bank & Consent to Serve form found by clicking the ONA 2016 Elections button on ONA’s home page and mail it to: ONA, 18765 SW Boones Ferry Road, Suite 200, Tualatin, OR 97062 or submit an online form on our website [www.oregonrn.org](http://www.oregonrn.org).

For more information, please contact Kathy Gannett at 503-293-0011, 800-634-3552 ext. 309 or gannett@Oregonrn.org.