Ratification Rejected!

Ratification Vote Results are in: Management’s Proposal Rejected

Over the weekend BAH/ONA members voted against ratification of management’s one-year rollover proposal with 53 percent voting “no”.

These results mean our ONA bargaining team is going back to the table with management. The bargaining team proposed many new language proposals and improvements to our benefits package over the last six months, all of which were rejected by BAH executives.

Public sector rules require a public facility, like BAH, to be in negotiations for 150 calendar days before either party may request mediation. ONA and BAH have been negotiating for more than 150 days so either party may seek to enter into mediations.

The mediator is a state employee of the Employee Relations Board (ERB) and will facilitate at least three bargaining meetings over a fifteen day period. If no agreement is made after these meetings, then either party may declare impasse. A declaration of impasse then requires each party to submit final proposals to the mediator and triggers a 30-day cooling off period.

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**Student Debt Program**

ONA knows that nurses desperately need relief from their student loans. As the most trusted profession in the United States, nurses have always been willing to stand up and help those who need it most.

After many years of struggling, the U.S. Department of Education reached a settlement with the American Federation of Teachers to make a long-standing public service student loan forgiveness (PSLF) program more accessible for nurses. We are grateful that nurses are finally being given what they have rightly earned.

Many nurses from Oregon will likely benefit from the settlement and the temporary PSLF expansion resulting from it. ONA is affiliated with AFT-Healthcare, which means as an ONA member you can access AFT services to help borrowers - for free!

Summer is a trusted online platform that can help you simplify and navigate your student loan situation, supplemented by student loan advisers who ensure you are support through the repayment process.

**How to Enroll**

First, if you have not done so already, you will need to register to access your free membership benefits account with AFT-Healthcare by visiting this link: [https://members.aft.org/members/register](https://members.aft.org/members/register).

As an ONA member in a collective bargaining unit*, you are part of local 05905. Click here for step-by-step instructions if needed.

Next, once you log into your AFT Member Benefits account, enroll with Summer, an online resource started by student loan borrowers to help others. Using Summer’s online student loan management platform, you can complete the PSLF Employment Certification Form and manage the certification and application process. You can also receive assistance from Summer’s borrower success team to maximize your loan repayment and forgiveness options.

*Nurses who are Professional Association Members do not have access to AFT benefits. However, you may still be eligible for the PSLF Program.

Visit [https://studentaid.gov/pslf/](https://studentaid.gov/pslf/) for more information.

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**Weekly Student Debt Clinics**

AFT is hosting a weekly national student debt clinic on Thursdays at 4 p.m. PT. Register for a scheduled session and learn more about reducing your student debt.

►Click here to register for one of the weekly clinics

**What if I don’t qualify for PSLF?**

If you have a private student loan or work for a for-profit health care facility, Summer may still be able to help you with managing your loans and reducing monthly payments.

Log into the [AFT membership benefits site to learn more.](https://members.aft.org/members/register)

The American Nurses Association also has partners that can help you with student loan refinancing.

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At the conclusion of the month long cooling off period, the mediator will provide both parties with their “fact finding” report which essentially becomes the tentative agreement which would be voted on by the members.

If the tentative agreement is not ratified, then the employer may implement their “last, best and final offer” and we may issue a 10-day strike notice. Our team will be meeting this week to discuss how best to keep negotiations moving forward. Stay tuned for more information on next steps and how you can participate to achieve a fair contract for BAH nurses!

To find out more about timelines and public sector bargaining please visit: [https://www.oregon.gov/erb/pages/pecba.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/erb/pages/pecba.aspx).
ONA is proud to announce that Anne Tan Piazza has been hired as Executive Director, beginning April 4, 2022.

Piazza has worked for the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) for nearly 25 years, with 16 years as an executive leader of the union and professional association. Her roles with WSNA included lobbyist, Director of Governmental Affairs and Communications, Assistant Executive Director and, most recently, Labor and Operations Executive Officer.

“Anne comes to ONA with a deep understanding of the unique challenges facing nurses in the Pacific Northwest, and across the country, that could only be achieved through her many, many years of leadership at WSNA,” said Lynda Pond, RN, President of the ONA Board of Directors. “Anne knows the breadth and depth of our work here at ONA, from creating and advancing health care and nursing policy to contract negotiations and bargaining, to membership services and member growth. There is not a single aspect of our work that Anne doesn’t know like the back of her hand.”

Steward Trainings

ONA stewards are the lifeblood of what makes our union strong. A strong union has at least one steward for every unit and shift. Stewards are there to answer colleague’s questions and discuss concerns and help keep every nurse up to date on important union activities.

Introductory steward, grievance handling and building worksite power trainings all focused on representing your coworkers and problem-solving workplace issues.

More training dates will be announced as they are finalized.

Topics and Dates

Introductory Steward Training
- Saturday, April 2
- Friday, May 6
- Saturday, June 4

Grievance Handling Training
- Monday, March 28
- Saturday, May 28

Building Power Training
- Saturday, April 16
- Monday, June 20

www.OregonRN.org/Steward-Training
The ONA Convention and House of Delegates will be held May 17-19, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency in Portland, OR. The theme for the convention is Stand Up, Rise Up, Celebrate! The Power of Our Profession.

The past two years have been difficult for everyone, bringing new challenges at every turn, all while exacerbating many of the issues that nurses have been facing for years. The 2022 ONA Convention is an opportunity for leaders from across the state to come together to learn from these challenges, share our knowledge, and move the nursing profession forward. Together, we can stand up to employers who seek to put corporate profits ahead of those who are caring for the community. Together, we can rise up and build a better health care system that values caregivers and patients. Together, we can celebrate our victories, small and large, over the last two years as we continue to fight for a health care system that works for us, our colleagues, our patients, and our communities.

Join us for the ONA House of Delegates (May 18) and two days of educational sessions (May 17 & 19).

### Featured Sessions
- Empowering Nurses to Lead at Uneven Tables
- Beyond Diversity: Addressing Racism in Nursing for the Good of the Profession
- Advocating for the Nursing Profession
- Medical Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy
- and more!

### Continuing Education
Two days of nursing continuing professional development credits will be available, up to 12.5 contact hours.

Oregon Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

### Registration
- Members: $125 for all three days
- Non-members: $275 for all three days

Registration is open through May 6.