The proposal ratification vote which closed on April 12 was a landslide rejection vote with 169 total voting: 101 against and 67 voting in support of the latest BAH rollover proposal. There were some votes that were disqualified because those casting voting were not members.

The survey results from the voting leave a resounding impression that BAH nurses are fed up with disrespect from the BAH administration. ONA is currently setting up dates to go back to the table with BAH in person in May in Coos Bay. We are following the ERB and public sector guidelines. We are currently contesting the BAH stance that our bargaining timeline did not start until BAH responded to a proposal on February 20, 2022 even though ONA has been proposing and asking for a response since September 23, 2021. This kind of legal trickery can only be seen as blatant disregard for the bargaining process and total disrespect for nurses by BAH. ONA will be at an obligatory mediation by July 20, 2022. However this only gives us more time to organize. Joining our bargaining team is Harry Brown from ED. We are so happy to have a voice from ED at the table. We will be holding in-person forums to listen to all of the bargaining units’ concerns and issues and discuss the current proposals in May as well. Stay tuned for dates and times.

Statement from Rachel Beissel Grievance Chair and Bargaining Team member:

Your Bargaining Team began working last fall to "negotiate" with the Administration of BAH. The ONA gave the first proposal September 23, 2021 and followed with multiple proposals and received absolutely no counter proposals for the first six bargaining sessions. BAH Administration chose to drag their feet and did not give their first proposal until February 20, 2022. February 20th would have been our 150 days of bargaining and BAH waited until this last day to officially start their bargaining which restarts the bargaining timeline so that our next 150 days will be July 20, 2022.

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Ratification Fails  *(continued from page 1)*

There was no negotiating until February 20 according to BAH. BAH administration thought they could throw a poor offer to the unit and it would be accepted, then a second offer worse than the first one! This makes nurses feel disrespected and used. No more - we will not accept this abuse any longer. We are going back to the table to fight for better wages, differentials, health benefits, better schedules, improvements to the float pool, and safe staffing. We are stronger in numbers, our co-workers in the UFCW 555 and Teamsters 206 are also negotiating their contracts at the same time and we will have solidarity with each other.

Many people are asking to go to mediation, however we cannot demand to go to mediation until July 20. We will demand a fair and equitable contract and if there is no response ONA will request mediation sessions with the ERB. Going to mediation does not guarantee a good contract, it will take collective actions as well to push BAH to do the right thing. Please show your support by wearing your green ONA shirts every Wednesday, put a sign in your car and tell your community members what is happening to the nurses of BAH. We must continue to fight!

Please reach out to any of us on the negotiating team or Misha Hernandez if you would like to be involved in our collective action for a fair contract.

New Protections for Nurse Staffing Law

Last year, ONA members brought evidence showing hospitals exploited the state of emergency to deviate from staffing plans, sometimes when they had no COVID-19 patients! The state legislature listened and passed House Bill 3016 (HB 3016), placing greater restrictions on hospitals.

On Jan. 1, 2022 these new restrictions went into effect, making it incredibly difficult to deviate from staffing plans that have been approved by the hospital nurse staffing committee.

ONA members should empower themselves by taking time to read the new language here.

You can learn more about this and other staffing rules and best practices on the ONA website at www.OregonRN.org/113.

As Oregon faces another surge it is important for ONA members to hold hospital executives accountable to the law!