On June 23, 2017, our Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining team reached a tentative agreement (TA) on a new contract with Benton County. A copy of the “redlined” TA showing all changes to contract language is available on our bargaining unit webpage.

Next week our ONA bargaining team will hold a membership meeting to answer your questions about the new contract. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in the Public Health Department’s Santiam conference room. We hope you will attend!

**Membership Meeting**
Monday, July 10
5:15-6:15 p.m.
Public Health Department’s Santiam conference room
We will answer your questions about the new contract!

**Contract Highlights**

**Wages:** Most nurses’ salary ranges will see an increase effective July 1, 2017. As described in Article 13 of the “redlined” TA, ranges will be adjusted up to 2 percent on July 1 of each subsequent year using the employment cost index (ECI) produced by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics. Please see this wage supplement to the TA to review any changes to your salary range.

**Paid time off (PTO) accruals:** The length-of-service requirements for earning PTO accruals have been shortened by one year. See Article 10.1 for the proposed changes.

**Professional development:** Benton County will pay for nurses’ certifications that are directly related to the delivery of assigned services.

**Contract Ratification Vote:** July 10-14

A contract ratification vote is scheduled to begin Monday, July 10, at 8 a.m., and run through Friday, July 14, at noon.

The vote will be held online only. Instructions for online voting will be sent to you via email prior to the opening of the vote.
Upgrade your nurse leadership skills at the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference Sept. 19-20 at the Portland Hilton and Executive Towers in downtown Portland.

- Solve local issues through concerted actions
- Build strength through issue-based organizing
- Identify and develop nurse leaders
- Use Oregon’s hospital nurse staffing law to improve your workplace

Join ONA nurses and staff from across Oregon to discover new ways to engage your coworkers, build nurse strength and create a community of committed advocates who can lead changes in your facility.

**Purpose** Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the interstate compact and Oregon nurse staffing law. Participants will be able to improve their leadership skills in the workplace and identify other potential leaders in the field of nursing.

**Agenda and Topics** This year, participants will chose one of two educational tracks to attend with sessions designed to develop and hone skills related to that topic. The tracks are:

- Building Power Through Bargaining
- Building Power Through Workplace Action

**Registration** This two-day leadership event is FREE for ONA members and student affiliates. Registration closes Sept. 8, 2017.

For more information and to register, visit [www.OregonRN.org](http://www.OregonRN.org) today!