Meet Your New ONA Labor Relations Representative

Gary Aguiar is a former political science professor who joined the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in 2015. He gained extensive experience in his faculty labor union in South Dakota with contract negotiations. For twenty years, he taught and researched in American politics, including women and politics, local politics, 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 homemaker, live in north Eugene, near Sheldon High School. They have a daughter who is...
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currently studying Biology and Religion at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

At ONA, Gary has developed strong bargaining units in small towns across Oregon. In Florence, Peace Harbor nurses ran an effective nine-month bargaining effort that resulted in wages and working conditions that equal Eugene-area hospitals. The campaign included a unity break attended by one-third of the bargaining unit, a standing-room-only community meeting, and a visible informational picket.

In Klamath Falls, Sky Lakes nurses concluded a victorious campaign in 2017 that led to the “best contract we have had since I have been involved,” according to one long-time leader. In less than two years, the membership rate at Sky Lakes tripled. Our negotiators used this power to win an accelerated step scale, true shared governance in vigorous UPCs, and strong provisions on bullying and lactation.

At St. Charles – Redmond, nurses fought the proposed closure of the Family Birth Center (FBC) in 2018 with a successful community meeting. That event led to many of our supporters attending a Redmond City Council meeting, who voted unanimously to oppose the closure. While the employer ultimately decided to ignore community sentiment, we were able to negotiate a strong side letter that ensured that no nurse was laid off. FBC nurses bid into positions in other units with the employer and were provided adequate orientation to remain employed in their community.

The largest facility Aguiar represents is McKenzie-Willamette in Springfield, where 94% of the nurses are ONA members, which is among the highest percentage in our Association. The bargaining unit has forty stewards to represent its 350 members as well as an active leadership cadre, including an award-winning Professional Nursing Care Committee.

He has some experience with public health nurses, since he represented our Klamath County bargaining unit for many years.

ONA 2019 Statewide Elections

ONA uses Election-America as the service provider for our 2019 ONA Statewide Election.

- You will receive an email or postcard from Election-America with your voting verification information: an election code and voting pin number
- Visit https://vote.election-america.com/ONA to enter your verification information and cast your vote

For technical assistance, please contact Election-America at Help+ONA@election-america.com

For questions regarding your membership or election guidelines, please contact ONA at ona@oregonrn.org

Visit www.OregonRN.org/2019Election to see the full list of candidates.

The election closes at noon on April 15, 2019.

ONA BU LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

April 10-11, 2019 Portland, OR

Learn how to develop and cultivate your voice in your workplace at ONA’s Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference, April 10-11, 2019 at the Portland Hilton in downtown Portland.

Discover how to build power and create a community of committed advocates to lead changes in your workplace.

Register today to save your space at the conference! Registration closed April 5.

www.OregonRN.org/event/2019BUCon