Attention, Hospice House Nurses!

We are forming a staffing committee and need a nurse to represent the nurses at the Pete Moore Hospice House.

*See page 2 of this newsletter for details.*

**New Officers Nominated at Membership Meeting**

**Coven, Page to be co-chairs, Einstein to be secretary-treasurer**

On April 5, 2017, the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA)-Cascade Health Solutions (CHS) bargaining unit held a membership meeting and party at McMenamins North Bank, with about one-third of our nurses in attendance. Rita Vait and Ann Richards offered farewell remarks as their joint tenure as co-chairs of our ONA-CHS executive committee comes to an end. Both Vait and Richards also served as ONA officers at McKenzie-Willamette Hospital before the spinoff to CHS. They have helped nurses as negotiators, stewards, and mentors. Our nurses appreciate their terrific leadership.

At the same meeting, Susan Coven and Zach Page, both in our hospice department, were nominated to serve as our new co-chairs. Bev Einstein, from home health, agreed to serve as secretary-treasurer.

Together, the three will form our executive committee. They are planning to hold a joint training session to learn more about their new roles in our bargaining unit. Please thank them for their willingness to take up the mantle of leadership.

The membership meeting and party was also a welcome social event for nurses at CHS. Sometimes in the busy-ness of our daily lives, we don’t have enough opportunities to interact with other nurses, especially since the hospice house opened earlier this year. Nurses in our other two departments, hospice and home health, continue to spend the bulk of their time on the road. It is not unusual to infrequently see nurses from another unit. The membership meeting provided an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends, including meeting several new hires. Everyone enjoyed the lovely setting near the Willamette River and the wonderful foodstuffs prepared and served by McMenamins staff.
Our employer has notified us that the Pete Moore Hospice House was recently defined as an acute care hospital facility. Thus, the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law will be applied to our hospice house unit. (Note that at CHS only the hospice house unit is subject to this law.)

The Oregon Nurse Staffing Law requires the existence of nurse staffing committees at each hospital in order to develop and approve staffing plans for each acute care unit. The staffing plan mandates the appropriate level and expertise of nurses needed to staff each acute care unit in order to provide safe patient care. The law also includes requirements for the hospital to report to the Oregon Health Authority on a regular basis.

The nurse staffing committee comprises an equal number of nurse managers and direct care nurses. At CHS, we have agreed with the employer’s suggestion that the committee should include both nurse managers at the hospice house as well as one nurse from the ONA bargaining unit and one certified nursing assistant (CNA).

This is an exciting opportunity for direct care nurses and nurse managers to collaborate on appropriate staffing. If you know a hospice house nurse who is interested in serving on the staffing committee, please tell an ONA-CHS executive committee member.

ONA’s professional services department provides guidance and sample plans to assist staffing committees in their work. We anticipate the work of producing and approving a staffing plan for the hospice house will begin shortly and be concluded smoothly.

Above: On April 12, 2017, nurses from CHS attended the Constituent Association 5 (CA 5) spring dinner at Roaring Rapids Pizza Company in Eugene. CA 5 is the ONA district organization that includes all Lane County nurses who are ONA members.

Right: (From left) Susan Covern, Zach Page, and Deb Sanders, all nurses at CHS, met Katie Mattox and Shannon Carpani, nurses from McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, at the CA 5 dinner.