Thank you to the more than 200 nurses, community members and fellow workers who came out to our three informational picket sessions today! The support we received from our community helps make the difference as we continue to fight for a fair contract.

We continue to stand united to show Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) administration that we are dedicated to ensuring economic stability for our nurses and delivering high-quality patient care to our patients and our community.

“I’m on the info picket line and part of the union because I’m hoping for real changes in the hospital and the environment in the hospital,” said Becki Glasson, RN. “I feel nurses need more respect and consideration. We are educated individuals and want to continue our education and bring the best care for our community.”

We were honored to be joined by representatives from SEIU, OEA, OSEA, AFSCME, Teamsters, the steelworkers, longshoremen, pipefitters and Oregon AFL-CIO. Many of the representatives spoke to the crowd, providing messages of support to the nurses.

“The strength of the labor movement is when we stand together,” said Oregon AFL-CIO president, Tom Chamberlain. “The strength of the labor movement is when we don’t give up. The strength of the labor movement is the solidarity you see here.”

Lon Martin of SEIU delivered a strong message as he spoke to the crowd. “Remind the hospital it needs to be Planetree, not plain greed.”

ONA president, Lynda Pond, RN, a nurse from Eugene, brought the support of the more than 15,000 ONA-represented nurses. “I feel privileged to be here as part of this show of strength. This was a great event and it feels like you have tremendous support from the community. I hope administration comes to the table on Friday, ready to settle a contract so nurses can do the important work we do.”
Next Mediation Session, Aug. 23

Mediation is scheduled this Friday, August 23. Management is undecided if they will attend. Be sure to come to the picket tomorrow and make it clear: we expect management to come to the table and agree to a fair contract now!

Questions/concerns? If any issues arise in the hospital or at the picket be sure to contact your ONA labor representative, Amber Cooper at cooper@oregonrn.org or one of our nurse leaders:

Kelsey Betts
Nicholas Bowling
Shaun Haner
Sarah Rogers

Shelby Mendoza
Angie Tucker
Theresa Hecox