Welcome our new labor rep!

First of all, let me introduce myself: I’m Brian Howard and am the lead labor representative for Eastern and Southern Oregon. I have been with ONA for over 5 years and in the labor movement for 17 years. I currently live in Portland.

I am reaching out to you all because I am very excited to announce your new permanent labor rep, Bridget Lovelace!

Bridget joined ONA first as a member in 2006. She became active in her local bargaining unit in 2018, as treasurer/secretary and then co-chair of her executive team. She has served as chair of her unit based council, co-chair for the staffing committee at Mercy Medical Center, and as a member of the Professional Nurse Practice Council. She currently works casual part-time in the day surgery department at Mercy Medical Center. She has enjoyed her sixteen-plus year career as a bedside nurse and has worked in a variety of practice settings including on the surgical floor, the PCU, ICU, PACU and day surgery/endoscopy units at Mercy Medical Center. She joined ONA as a labor representative in September 2022.

Bridget is a strong proponent of nurse empowerment, professional strength, and the creation of unity within the nursing profession. She believes nurses working to support each other and their coworkers raise the standards of the work and practice environment. By assisting with the creation of healthy and sustainable working environments for the bedside nurse she hopes to positively impact the future of the profession as well as improve patient outcomes.

Bridget was born and raised in Alaska, transplanted to Oregon in 1998, and has lived in Southwestern Oregon since 2003. She is married to a nurse, who practices in the OR, and has one of her three grown children attending nursing school.

She enjoys adventures with her spouse such as back roads mountain motorcycling, hiking, mountain biking, and more recently scuba diving and rafting.
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!

Some key highlights of the changes:

- Clear limits on how long a Hospital can deviate from plans.
- To deviate from staffing plans there needs to be "a national emergency or state emergency requiring implementation of a facility disaster plan and crisis standards of care."
- The incident command shall report a written assessment to both co-chairs of the staffing committee within 30 days of deviating from a plan.
- Deviation may not occur for more than 90 cumulative days unless approved by the staffing committee.

New OSBN Online Licensing System

A new OSBN online licensing system will launch on Monday, October 10.

The current licensing system will be deactivated at 3 p.m. Friday, September 30.

Any new or renewal application in the current system that has not been paid for and submitted by that time will be deactivated.

If your unfinished application is deactivated, you may create a new user account and begin a new application once the new system goes live.

No applications will be accepted, and no licenses will be issued during the migration period of Sept. 30 – Oct. 10.

Visit the OSBN Proposed Administrative Rules page for information on how to testify at upcoming rule hearings, participate in upcoming rule advisory committees (RACs) or other task forces, or listen to board meetings.