ONA/GRH Executive Committee
President: Molly Gornowicz, RN, ICU/CCU
Vice President: Autumn Strand, RN, ED
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Leary, RN, PACU
Grievance Chair: Karmin Maher-Hasse, RN, ICU
Membership Chair: Sarah Welley, RN, FBC
PNCC Chair: Debbie Wright, RN, Surgical

Unit Stewards
Med Surg - Kalean Boltz, RN
FBC - Emily Wheeler, RN
ED - Anita DeLint, RN
Surgical Services - Corky Gillies, RN
CCU - Molly Gornowicz, RN

ONA BOARD STATEMENT

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Board of Directors unanimously approved the following statement regarding Governor Brown’s recent rule change implementing mandatory vaccinations for health care workers in the state.

ONA calls upon all nurses to get vaccinated before the Oct. 18 deadline or, alternatively, fill out the necessary paperwork for a medical or deeply held religious belief exemption. Failure to do so may result in the termination of unvaccinated nurses at a time when Oregon faces an unprecedented staffing crisis.

Our patients and our communities need you at the bedside, now more than ever before. The science is clear: vaccinations are safe and effective, and nurses and other health care workers who are vaccinated are acting in line with our ethical, clinical, and professional responsibilities to our patients.

To all nurses in Oregon who can, ONA says ‘get vaccinated.’

ONA will continue to fight tirelessly for our members at the bargaining table on the impacts of this new mandatory vaccination requirement. That includes fighting to ensure you are provided appropriate levels of PPE, paid time off for adverse effects of the vaccination, more (and more substantial) retention and hazard pay, pushing hard for safe staffing, and more.

At a time when nurses, and our state’s health care system, are at the breaking point, we must stand united in the face of historic failures on the part of hospitals to ensure safe staffing. All nurses know that this staffing crisis has been years in the making; the COVID-19 pandemic has simply pushed those failures into the spotlight.

This current level of crisis was created by hospitals who have failed to invest in their nursing staff, failed to recruit and retain experienced nurses, placed a greater focus on profitability than patient outcomes, and have done so at the expense of nurses.

We have so much work to do for our patients, and for each other. We have so many more issues that unite us than we do that divide us; safe staffing, nurse recruitment and retention, increasing the number of future nurses, increased pay for nursing faculty, iron-clad protections against violence in the workplace, ensuring rest and meal breaks, improving working conditions and wages; these must be our focus now.

ONA Virtual Town Hall, Sept. 1

The ONA Board of Directors is holding a virtual “ONA Town Hall” on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at 7:00 p.m. ONA members are invited to register for this event online. Personalized registration links were sent to each ONA member via email. If you did not receive your invitation email, please contact ONA at news@oregonrn.org.

This event is for ONA members only.
ANA Resilience & Nurse Suicide Prevention Resource Site

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is committed to meeting the needs of nurses and has launched a NEW Nurse Suicide Prevention and Resilience Resource site to provide information and tools to address the critical issue of suicide prevention. Research indicates that nurses are at a much higher risk of suicide than the general public. During this unprecedented time, nurses are struggling with mental health issues like fear, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress as they respond to COVID-19 and continue to care for all patients. Effectively managing these mental health issues is essential in nurse suicide prevention.

ANA’s Resilience and Nurse Suicide Prevention Resource site provides information and tools to:
- Build resilience
- Assist in active crises
- Support suicide survivors
- Offer grief and bereavement coping strategies
- Honor a nurse’s memory

We encourage all nurses to check out the site, bookmark the pages, and share the resources with a colleague or a friend in need.

Nurses, you are not alone. Help is available. Learn more here.

Steward Trainings

ONA stewards are the lifeblood of what makes our union strong. A strong union has at least one steward for every unit and shift. Stewards are there to answer colleague’s questions and discuss concerns and help keep every nurse up to date on important union activities.

We offer three, rotating steward trainings. Introductory steward training focuses on representing your coworkers and problem-solving workplace issues. Grievance handling covers identifying, filing and following up on contract grievance. Building worksite power stresses how to build your union and create an environment that results in improvements for nurses.

Find the training that works best for you!

Space is limited so register today at:

www.OregonRN.org/Steward-Training

Introductory Steward Training
- Tuesday, September 21, 2021
- Saturday, October 16, 2021
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021
- Thursday, December 9, 2021

Grievance Handling Training
- Saturday, October 9, 2021

Building Worksite Power Training
- Wednesday, November 10, 2021