New Officer Announcement

Elections were held and our new officers were selected. Thank you to those that voted and congratulations to:

- Chair: Tamie Cline
- Vice Chair: Laurie Hartung
- Secretary/Treasurer: Melissa Stasik
- Grievance Chair: Sasha Jimenez

There are still two vacant positions to fill, the Membership Chair and one At Large Negotiation Team position. If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, please send an email to our labor representative Ateusa Salemi at Salemi@OregonRN.org or reach out to one of our newly elected leaders.

Information About COVID-19

ONA is working hard to make sure that nurses and our patients are taken care of during this time. To that end, ONA has set up a COVID-19 resource page for our nurses at www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus. It has information about the work we have been doing along with resources and information for reference.

We have also sent an information request and proposed a letter of agreement (LOA) to all of our represented hospitals to verify that they have plans and supplies in place to deal with this outbreak and that our members don’t suffer physical or financial harm during this time.

As a reminder, while there has been both a national emergency and a state of emergency declared in Oregon, our contract remains in place. Changes to your scheduling and hours must be negotiated. The state of emergency declaration for Oregon allows for the provisions of the staffing law to be waived. So, your units don’t have to follow the staffing plan if the hospital has declared an emergency, also staffing law prohibitions on mandatory overtime are waived. Again, the contract is in effect, whatever language the contract provides, must be followed.

Other frequently asked questions can be answered on our ONA COVID-19 resource page as many nurses are asking the same questions.
Do you Have Appropriate Use of PPE?

What should a nurse do when she feels her assignment is not safe due to not having appropriate of adequate PPE?

1. Nurses who are immunocompromised notify their employers now, or as soon as possible of the risks for them in caring for a patient with COVID-19, asking to not take care of these patients. If this request is refused, please document that refusal.

2. If a nurse is asked to care for a patient with COVID-19 and does not believe that they have the personal protection equipment (PPE) necessary to do so safely. It’s important to raise those concerns. First, make sure you are aware of what the current centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) guidelines for the type of patient they are asking you to care for (rule-out/ positive/monitoring). After you have determined that you are being asked to take an assignment you don’t feel is safe, raise that issue with the charge nurse, then the supervisor, or manager. Clarify what your concerns are, what the evidence supporting that concern is and then ask for the PPE that you think is needed.

3. If you are still being directed to accept the assignment, accept the assignment, and file a staffing request and documentation form (SRDF) and contact your labor representative or bargaining unit leader.

While we recognize that this current situation is fluid and rapidly changing, the safety of our members is important and can’t be sacrificed.

As this situation evolves, please continue to check our COVID-19 resource page for updated information.

Steward Training!

Anyone interested in learning more about their rights and benefits as a union member? You are invited to attend a virtual steward training on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Stay tuned for more information. Sign up by emailing your labor representative, Ateusa at Salemi@OregonRN.org.

Side-by-Side Comparison of COVID-19

Are you interested in seeing a side-by-side comparison of Covid-19 guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO)? If yes, please click here.

- The OHA released guidelines on March 16, 2020 for appropriate PPE for patients suspected of or confirmed of COVID-19. Patients suspected or confirmed of COVID-19 should have single room.
- The CDC released guidelines on March 5, 2020 for appropriate PPE with a focus on current supply chain shortages.
- The WHO released guidelines on March 19, 2020 for appropriate PPE for patients suspected of or confirmed COVID-19.