GSRMC: Howell and Dillon Step Down, Special Elections Next Month

Both our bargaining unit chair Mike Howell and vice chair Jax Dillon have decided to step down from their positions. Nurses throughout the house appreciate the many, many hours the spent serving other nurses on our bargaining teams, defending coworkers in investigatory meetings, and pursing grievances with our employer. They will surely be missed!

To fill their vacancies, our bylaws requires us to hold special elections for these two offices. It also provides us with an opportunity to fill other vacancies for membership chair and information officer. Those elected will complete the unfilled terms of these offices, which expire when we hold regular elections the second week in July. See the description of these roles in our bylaws here.

At the same time, we will hold elections for Staffing Committee and Professional Nursing Care Committee (PNCC) vacancies.

Anyone interested in any of these positions should submit a consent to serve form by March 27, Friday, 4:00 p.m.

Click here to access the nomination form

If more than one candidate self-nominates for an executive office or as a staffing committee representative from a department, we will hold an online election April 19 – 26.

Staffing Committee

As required by the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law, each hospital must have a staffing committee, which is responsible for developing, monitoring, evaluating and modifying nurse staffing plans for each unit. It is composed of one-half staff nurses and one-half nurse managers, which meets at least once every three months. The committee’s work is vital to provide adequate nurse staffing and ensures safe patient care throughout our facility. The law requires the employer to ensure that staff nurse reps be allowed time off their shift to attend the meetings.
Our charter requires one representative from each of these twelve departments: Med/Surg, PCU, ICU, Center for Women and Families, OR, PACU, ASC, ED, Mental Health, IV Therapy, Oncology, Ambulatory Infusion. The highest vote getter will serve as the primary rep and the second-highest vote getter will become the alternate. Only the primary rep gets paid to attend the meetings, but the alternate may attend on their own time. When the primary is unable to attend, the alternate will get paid for their attendance and vote in their stead.

ONA provides staffing law education to any nurse, either in person with an ONA nurse practice consultant or online, with continuing education contact hours available.

**PNCC**

The PNCC is a contractual committee that is responsible to recommend measures for improvement of patient care. The committee also approves paid educational leaves. (See Articles 8 and 11.) They meet twice a month on paid time. The contract allows nurses to get paid for work they do for the committee. It has seven members, with four current vacancies.

**Limited Rounding Due to COVID-19**

To reduce the risk of contagion of COVID-19, ONA field staff are limiting their entries to our facilities, especially patient care areas. As a potential asymptomatic carrier, our labor rep could unwittingly infect patients and employees in many facilities. As many of you know, Gary Aguiar enjoys rounding and meeting nurses, but until further notice, he will curtail those visits.

He is happy to connect to nurses via text/call 503-444-0690 or email Aguiar@OregonRN.org.