Eighth Bargaining Session

July 22 was our eighth bargaining session with GSRMC. We continue to make small strides forward; however, negotiations have been slow. Your negotiating team sent across our counter offer on paid time off (PTO) in Article 6 of the contract.

PTO is a huge dissatisfier for the nursing staff based on the nearly 90 percent participation in the pre-negotiation survey. This has been an area your negotiating team has spent a great deal of time and energy working to improve. We feel that we have presented several viable options to the administration.

GSRMC’s original offer was to eliminate all Tier 1 PTO accrual and move everyone to the current Tier 2. After reviewing several other contracts, we feel this is not consistent or competitive with what other facilities throughout Oregon offer. Your bargaining team has proposed an
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alternative by eliminating the two tier system, combining the tiers, and adding additional steps. We have also proposed a secondary sick call bank that would exist and accrue independently of the current PTO bank. We believe that having separate banks for sick time and PTO is the system Oregon legislators had in mind when they created the current Oregon state law that requires paid sick time. You can find more information about this law by searching online for “Oregon BOLI chapter 839 division 7.”

The team would like to thank everyone for their participation and support through this lengthy bargaining process. Birdsong is keeping us caffeinated and seeing those audience chairs consistently being filled by our fellow bargaining unit nurses continues to keep us motivated to work toward a fair and equitable contract. Our CAT members continue to be a strong foundation of support, communication and motivation - thank you all for your hard work!

GSRMC nurses share why they are valuable resources

Oregon Nurses Foundation was established in 1982 to advance the profession of nursing in Oregon. They raise funds to support three key areas: scholarships, workforce assistance and retention programs. ONF’s goal is to raise $100,000 this year so they can award larger scholarships in 2020.

Visit www.OregonNursesFoundation.org for more information or to donate.

Visit ONA’s Facebook page from 2-2:30 p.m. on Aug. 14, 2019 to hear from our nurse practice consultants. They’ll be taking questions about everything from nurse staffing and scope of practice to continuing education. If you can’t see it live, it is archived for viewing later.

www.facebook.com/OregonNursesAssociation