COVID-19 MOU

Your ONA Harney District Hospital (HDH) executive team was hoping to participate in negotiations around COVID-19 specific issues on Thursday, April 30, 2020. A COVID-19 specific Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) work proposal was presented by the ONA/HDH executive committee on Tuesday, April 7, click here to view the MOU. After having the proposal for two weeks, and only providing information on current practice and no counter proposal, a demand to bargain letter was issued. A meeting was set for negotiations with the assumption that Harney District Hospital (HDH) would provide a counter proposal. To our surprise, no counter proposal was ready, and the hospital implied that the nurses should be satisfied with what was current practice at the hospital.

Without a counter proposal, no work could take place and the meeting was called off. The team insists that HDH management respond with counter proposal and we will meet again with them on Thursday, May 7. We sincerely hope that HDH will come to the table with a counter proposal as other hospitals with their nurses’ best interest are doing through-out the state.

Hospitals need to know that nurses are working hard and are prepared to do what is necessary to provide care to their communities during this unprecedented time. They need to come to the table with agreements that protect the health and safety of the nurses who are on the frontline!

Please take this opportunity to sign this letter of support that asks Governor Kate Brown to urge hospitals through out Oregon to come to the table prepared to create legal agreements on the safety of nurses.

•  Click here to sign the letter of support
•  Click here for ONA’s COVID-19 resource center

Welcome Your New Executive Committee

ONA Harney District Hospital nurses recently held elections and we are happy to announce the following results:

Executive Committee
•  Chair: Carolyn Robey
•  Vice Chair: Laura Dary
•  Secretary: Lauren Seymore
•  Treasurer: Jessica Adams

•  Grievance Chair: Lola Childress
•  Membership Chair: Christy Sanders
•  PNCC Chair: Laura Dary

Staffing Committee
•  Carolyn Robey
•  Darbie Kemper

Welcome your newly elected executive team.
Nurses Week is a time we celebrate the profession of nursing and honor the life-saving work done by every nurse in every practice. This year is especially meaningful as nurses across the country are on the front lines of a global pandemic, dedicated to fighting COVID-19 and protecting our communities.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) called for 2020 to be the Year of the Nurse and we didn’t know how true this would be. Nurses have shown they are the backbone of our health care system and work hard every day on behalf of our patients and our communities.

In Oregon, ONA nurses stand together to advocate for safer working conditions and fight for proper PPE to protect all health care workers and our patients.

During Nurses Week, May 6-12, we honor the dedication of ONA nurses! While we may not be able to hold celebrations together, we will celebrate throughout the week with various events online and some bargaining units will hold small celebrations where they can.

Thank you for everything you do, every day, every week. We will continue to stand together because together, we are ONA.

ONA’s Stance on Governor Brown’s Reopening Hospitals for Non-Urgent Procedures

The main office of ONA has issued the following statement regarding Governor Brown’s recent guidance allowing hospitals to resume non-urgent procedures:

“ONA understands the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our daily lives and our communities have been impacted by the governor’s suspension of elective procedures. Our members do not take this suspension lightly and are acutely aware of how distressing this has been. The resumption of non-urgent cases will have negative consequences on the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) in Oregon.

Governor Brown’s plan to resume non-urgent procedures does not do enough to protect frontline healthcare workers. It allows facilities to engage in the dangerous PPE conservation practices that should be reserved only for times of crisis. It is dangerous to reuse single use PPE. It is dangerous to extend the use of single use PPE. There is not enough science to support reprocessing single use PPE.

Governor Brown’s order allowing facilities to resume elective surgeries lacks the specificity and oversight to protect our members. ONA believes that it is unethical to resume non-urgent procedures while allowing institutions to engage in dangerous PPE conservation practices. Governor Brown and OHA must stipulate that facilities may not resume non-urgent procedures if the facility is engaged in reuse, extended use, or reprocessing of PPE.”