Our bargaining team met with management for our fifth bargaining session on Friday, April 29, after waiting for an entire month since the last one. Our team continues to advocate for significant and meaningful increases in wages and differentials, increases in PTO, more affordable health benefits, and most importantly staffing language that allows for safe patient care, including breaks and meals. On all of these high-priority issues, management and the union are very far apart.

Some good news;
Management has agreed to not propose eliminating our Sick Leave language (Art 7). Unfortunately, management made this proposal while stating that they were not willing to offer any increases in PTO if we insist on keeping our Sick Leave benefits. Management’s position would leave us significantly behind market standards. Our ONA bargaining team again restated to management the many reasons that we strongly believe nurses need a significant increase in both wages and differentials and other economic areas. Our team reminded management that during the last round of bargaining, Providence openly stated that they were holding wages down to pressure PHR nurses to give up sick leave benefits. As you know, our sick leave benefits are currently the gold standard for leave within the Providence Oregon Hospital system. No other Hospital has first hour, first-day sick leave language.

Other proposals or updates we shared with management:

- Increase the Bilingual Differential from $500 per year to $1500. This extremely valuable skill makes such a difference in patient care and deserves fair pay.

- We reminded management that we do not have helping hands language in our contract (one of management’s proposals around floating tried to introduce this language with NO increase to floating differential).

- Our team has proposed significant increases to differentials for nurses who are hired into a float nurse position or for nurses who are floated to another unit.
GET A DETAILED UPDATE AND QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Our ONA bargaining team has scheduled two virtual meetings for nurses to get a more detailed update and to get bargaining questions answered. Please save May 5th at either 4:30 -5:30 PM or 8 to 9 PM. Email welp@oregonrn.org to get the Zoom invite or contact your bargaining team members. We will be sharing information about market standards around pay, benefits, PTO, and other issues. Please make time to be informed and have your questions answered! Knowledge is power.

Tentatively, our next bargaining dates are May 13 at 11:30 AM at the Hospital and possibly May 24. Management was not able to confirm their availability for these meetings yet. We will keep you informed. We urge you to come and hear what management has to say about your wages and working conditions.

Join ONA nurses from Providence Willamette Falls

Join ONA nurses from Providence Willamette Falls and community allies for a march to raise standards Wednesday, May 11 at 5 PM in Oregon City.

We are meeting at the Providence Willamette Falls Community Center located at 519 15th St. in Oregon City. ONA nurses are continuing our fight to raise standards throughout Providence including addressing safe staffing for nurses and patients, affordable health care, fair wages, and better benefits. It's time for Providence to invest in Oregonians and put people over profits!

Contact Timothy Welp, ONA Labor Rep, at 503-748-9768 for questions or details.

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