BARGAINING HAS BEGUN

Bargaining for the new ONA Contract began Monday, May 16, 2011 with nearly five hours of talks between nurses and the employer. The nurses’ Team, made up of six nurse members, is being led by ONA staff member, Christine Hauck. Management’s Team consists of eight managers from various departments and is led by Sheryl Helms, Vice President of Human Resources for SLCH.

ONA Team opened with introduction and a discussion with Management regarding ground rules for bargaining. Both sides have tentatively agreed to put all of their proposals on the table, including economics by the second session (scheduled for Tuesday May 31, 2011). ONA requested additional dates for negotiations during the month of July. The employer responded with two additional dates that they would be willing to meet. The ONA Team is reviewing those dates now and expects to have additional dates set soon.

ONA Team and Management did reach five tentative agreements on our first day of bargaining. Most of the tentative agreements pertain to language clean up. The employer stated they intend to have more proposals ready to discuss during our next session, including several economic items that they’re working on. For our part, the ONA Team is reviewing financial documents from the Hospital and refining our own language around issues our members have identified as priorities in the bargaining survey.
Deadline Approaching for Bargaining Surveys

The ONA’s Bargaining Team is using survey responses to prioritize their proposals at the negotiating table, so it’s important that as many RNs as possible participate.

Responses are kept confidential, although participants are required to enter their last name as a measure to prevent fraudulent response.

Ready to take the survey? Visit:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BGSC3HQ

For paper survey requests, please call Melissa TANGEDAL at:
503-293-0011, ext. 323.

Nurses Invited to Observe Contract Negotiations at LCH

Thus far, two additional bargaining dates have been set between ONA and LCH Management (more dates are pending). While our first session mostly covered ground rules and some initial proposals, we expect the intensity of sessions to rise once economic proposals are put on the table by both sides.

Tentatively, both Management and ONA have agreed to put all proposals on the table by the second round of talks, which is scheduled for May 31. That means economics are likely to be on the table by or before then.

Nurses are encouraged to support their Team and watch the bargaining process unfold first-hand by attending one or more of the sessions below:

**Tuesday, May 31, 2011**

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011**

**Tuesday, June 22, 2011**

Feel free to drop by whenever you’ve got some time— but keep in mind that as we move towards more controversial issues (including economic proposals), both Management and ONA Team will likely spend more time in private caucus, discussing the impact of each other’s language.

Sessions are slated to start at 10:00 a.m. Ending times are flexible, so observers are advised to come early if possible.