Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) and Lake District Hospital met for negotiations last week, May 28-30. Both sides presented proposals. ONA proposed a 3-year contract, with wage increases and additional steps. The ONA proposals were based on our bargaining survey results – thanks to all of you who participated! We had a larger number of members respond compared to prior surveys.

Management also is proposing a 3-year agreement, and has proposed wage increases. They are also interested in exploring 9-hour shifts, and they were surprised to hear that most ONA members in our survey did not support the possible change in shifts.

Although we made progress in negotiations, we did not reach a tentative agreement (yet). The parties will resume negotiations on June 13.
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Stephen Rooney, RN, of Oregon was elected as the new President of the National Federation of Nurses (NFN) on May 17, 2013 during the national NFN delegate assembly. Rooney, who practices as an Intensive Care nurse at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon and has served as the elected President of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) for the past 3 years, will be the second President of the NFN. Rooney succeeds Barbara Crane, RN, of New York. Crane served as the President of the NFN since 2008.

Rooney said, “Working with my colleagues from Washington, Montana, Ohio, Oregon and New York to advance the mission of the NFN is one of the great honors of my life. I am humbled by the support of my colleagues and am excited to be a part of this historic union, a national union that holds among its most sacred values openness, transparency, respect for state autonomy and collaboration.”

The NFN and its four member states recently voted to affiliate with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), one of the largest unions of professionals in the United States. Rooney will play a key leadership role in forging the details of the historic partnership between the NFN and AFT.

“Nurses and teachers face enormous challenges and opportunities; the implications of the Affordable Care Act on the scope of our nursing practice and on the delivery of care throughout our nation, the creation of strong and sensible health care policies for all and, my greatest priority as we move into the next stage of our evolution, working with AFT to organize and expand the reach, voice and influence of this national union I am so proud to be a part of,” said Rooney.

The NFN is a leading national labor union and collaborative voice for registered nurses. Founded in 2008, the NFN was created to provide a unique, more inclusive option for unionized nurses and be a new model for national unions. Currently, the NFN represents approximately 34,000 nurses in four states.

ONA Membership Perks

Did you know that ONA membership also provides membership with American Nurses Association and the National Federation of Nurses? That is membership in three professional nursing organizations for the price of one. As a member, you have increased educational access to free and reduced fee CE’s, conferences, seminars and webinars. You also have access to thousands of dollars in scholarships, including funds for CEs, conferences and travel, free legal consulting services, individual consultations on questions of scope of practice, safety equipment, career counseling and safe patient handling. Membership also provides the opportunity to participate in leadership roles, cabinets and committees that shape the future of ONA and our profession. As an ONA member you also receive consumer discounts at a variety of participants.

Do you want to know more? Contact a bargaining unit officer, ONA labor relations representative or ONA directly at www.OregonRN.org.