When management proposed taking a 4-12 month break from negotiations after many months of little progress, nurses at SAO responded by coming together to say loud and clear: Not good enough! Many nurses attended the September 15 ONA meeting and volunteered to take action in upcoming negotiations. Monday of this week, 52 nurses voted unanimously to reject Management’s current proposals at the table. Great work! This is a clear demonstration that we are unified behind our team and want Management to address our concerns at bargaining.

However, after nearly two months without meeting and many requests by ONA, Management finally returned to the table Wednesday with a comprehensive proposal. Our session, started at 9:00 am with a “State of the Hospital” presentation and Mission review by CEO Rick Palagi. Management’s attorney spent until after 11:30 to present their proposal that offers little in terms of movement.

In a handout provided by Management, they continue to insist that Baker City, La Grande, Pendleton and Hermiston are not comparators to Ontario. To quote the hand-out given to your negotiating team, “Neither this bargaining process nor Santa Claus can change that geographical and fiscal reality.” From this flippant response, it is evident that Management refuses to respectfully address nurses concerns. We must stand and act collectively to be heard.

Next:
**SAO INFO PICKET VOTE**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 4, 2011

**TIME:** 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Malheur Room
SAVE THE DATE:

Sign Making Party:  
Tuesday  
October 11, 2011  
Time & Location TBD

Informational Picket:  
Wednesday  
October 12, 2011  
SAO  
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Results: Unanimous and Resounding NO!

52 Nurses all said NO to management’s current proposals. 37 paper ballots were submitted and 15 were submitted online. (This does not include the two no votes we could not count because they were submitted after 6:00 p.m. MT/7:00 p.m. PST.) Well done everyone.

This was our first attempt at an online ballot to increase access to the voting process for nurses. Thanks for being patient. Please note that non-members continue to be eligible to vote but needed to complete a paper ballot. Non-member paper ballots were indeed counted. The online ballot process requires active ONA membership.

So, this is a great time to join!

Next Week:

SAO INFO PICKET VOTE

WHEN: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

TIME: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Malheur Room

Ballots will be available online and in person next Tuesday.

Many things will depend on whether Management actually responds to our concerns at the table next Tuesday when our team reconvenes with them. However, we know for certain that we cannot wait and hold our breath for them to do the right thing without nurses actively participating.

So we must be prepared to move forward and share our concerns with the community. Next week, we are asking nurses to join together and vote yes, for an informational picket and back that choice by signing up for a shift on the picket line. Every voice matters.

Vote YES for Informational Picketing Next Tuesday!