



Oregon Nurses Association
Bargaining Unit Newsletter

Sky Lakes Medical Center (Sky) Newsletter



February 14, 2014

Executive Committee

President:

Juliann Underwood,
Surgery

Vice President:

Greg Collins, Surgery

Secretary:

Jaime Delzotti,
Post Surgical Unit

Treasurer:

Ryan Fabianek, Surgery

PNCC Chair:

Monica Meier, Flex Team

Negotiation Committee

Juliann Underwood,
Surgery

Greg Collins, Surgery

Robyn Ewing, Critical

Care Unit

Grievance Committee

Juliann Underwood,
Surgery

Greg Collins, Surgery

Robyn Ewing, CCU

Ryan Fabianek, Surgery

Susan Bruce, ONA

Labor Relations
Representative

Cell: 541-261-8359

bruce@oregonrn.org

**Oregon Nurses
Association**

18765 SW Boones Ferry Road

Suite 200, Tualatin OR 97062

1-800-634-3552 within Oregon

www.OregonRN.org



In this issue

Officer Elections Page 1

Letter from ONA President Steve Rooney Page 2

It's Time for Sky Lakes Medical Center ONA Officer Elections

Sky Lakes Medical Center (SKY) employs about 260 RNs who qualify to be members of their professional nursing organization ONA as well as having the benefit of contractual protections for working conditions, wages and benefits.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to represent their colleagues for the next two years.

While the majority of office nominees were unopposed we do have two individuals who would like to represent you as the Vice-Chairperson for the SKY Bargaining unit.

Those two nurses are:

Greg Collins (Surgery) and

William Maddaluna

(Post Anesthesia Care Unit)

You will have an opportunity to vote for your choice for Vice-Chairperson electronically starting at 0815 on February 27 and ending at Midnight on February 28., 2014.

You **must** be an ONA member to vote. If you have questions on becoming a member please contact:

Susan Bruce, ONA — Cell: 541-261-8359
bruce@oregonrn.org

Bargaining Unit Meeting

Join us for a bargaining unit meeting on Monday, February 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Abby's pizza. We encourage any nurse who has questions about ONA, negotiations or the current contract to attend.

2014 is a contract negotiation year at SLMC. We need your ideas and support as we begin to prepare for those negotiations.



A Message from ONA's Board President, Steve Rooney, RN

Reprinted from Oregon Nurse Winter 2014

The situation at the hospital where I practice provides a good illustration of some issues that are nearly universal to acute care facilities in Oregon and across the country.

In 2012, we experienced difficult negotiations, with administrators proposing the hospital save money by shifting resources from the bedside. As a result, we saw reductions in both RN staffing and hospital support staff. Thankfully, our ONA team worked with the Staffing Committee, and was effective at forestalling the worst of the proposals.

Next, the St. Charles' Board of Directors hired a consultant whose verdict was: *"Your culture is broken"*. This is the exact message our bargaining unit leaders, ONA staff, PNCC and the Staffing Committee have been telling administrators for years. On this we all agree.

The consultant's solution, just underway, is called the "Cultural Evolution". Our first project is attending classes that teach us that caring is healing. It is called *"The Soul and Science of Caring"*. Class one featured recent physician research that asserted medicine is not providing a healing environment – that if we started caring, our patients would do better. To a room of nurses (and others) this message was hardly new. In fact, many of us were dumbfounded that a speaker should suggest such a long standing value and practice of nursing had been "discovered" by medicine. The entire *"Soul and Science of Caring"* project is scheduled to last 18 months and will include bi-weekly small group meetings as well as four weekend retreats. Its evolution will be interesting to follow.

So what are the big picture points?

Health care facilities have amazing resources in their army of front line caregivers – nurses. If administrators would seek and adhere to the advice of their nurses and reallocate resources, we would devise a system that delivers better outcomes at lower cost.

We know how to care and we bring about healing in our patients. We also know that caring doesn't stop at the bedside. Caring means RNs standing up and fighting for the proper resources needed to provide effective care.

Another important point, historically, is our voice. Nurses have done the research showing caring is healing, dating back to Florence Nightingale. Unfortunately, unless a physician completes the same research, the results go unheard outside the nursing community.

This same thing is happening in our efforts to reform health care. Physicians and administrators have voices that dominate. Government staff, writing new health care regulations, often defer to them. Nurses' voices, which represent the largest group of health care workers, are all too often not heard – or worse, heard and not heeded. If nurses are to affect lasting change, we must become full professional partners with physicians and administration in our new health care environment.

One solution is: join together with your fellow nurses in your professional association and union, ONA. Collectively, your voice is powerful on the issues that matter to our patients. It is only through collective action that we will be able to shape the future of health care.

Join me. We'll make the difference.



NPO 2014 Spring Pharmacology Conference

Saturday, March 29, 2014
Legacy Meridian Park Health Education Center
Tualatin, OR 97062

For more information go to:
OregonRN.org and click on Conferences and
Trainings under News and Events.