

Samaritan Nurse News

Oregon
Nurses Make
A Difference

Lebanon Community Hospital (LCH)

June 13, 2011

LCH Bargaining Team

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Endo

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CCU

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Bargaining Dates

JUNE 22, 2011

JULY 6, 2011

JULY 26, 2011

Update Your Contact Information

To ensure you get the most of your membership and receive information in the timeliest manner, be sure to update your contact information online!

Visit www.OregonRN.org and click on "Update Your Contact Information" under the Member Services menu.

THE EMPLOYER CITES BUDGET CONCERNS, SAYS "WE'RE NOT PREPARED" TO TALK FINANCIALS

A second round of bargaining took place at LCH on Tuesday May 31, 2011. This was a very short session, which resulted in no tentative agreements. The ONA Team started the session by presenting an economics package, which included proposals for wage and differential increases that would bring RNs at LCH more in line with what nurses at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center earn. After hearing our proposal, the Employer's Team asked for a one hour caucus.

When the Employer's Team returned from their caucus, they informed the ONA Team they wanted all economic issues to remain status quo. When pressed on this issue, the employer's spokesperson cited pending increases to the Provider Tax and potential reductions in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements. The Employer stated, since they don't know how this will effect their budget they are not ready to discuss economics.

Moving on, the ONA Team proposed doing away with the recently implemented Two-Tier system for new hires. Bargaining survey feedback has indicated a large majority of RNs think the current system is unfair and want to see it returned to prior contract language. The Employer said they were not ready to talk about economic issues and that they wanted to keep the status quo.

The Employer proposed, Preceptor RNs who have a student from Linn-Benton be exempt from mandatory reductions in shifts. The Employer qualified their proposal by stating it has been difficult for students to receive their mandatory hours for graduation. The ONA Team is seeking input from RNs on this proposal, and is requesting you talk to a bargaining team member and let them know how you feel about this issue.

In general, the Employer deferred on any issue they classified as "economic," citing concerns about their budget, potential cuts to Medicare/Medicaid, and increases in the Provider Tax. The Employer warned that cuts to Medicare/Medicaid could cost the facility between three and five percent in year one, and as much as 20 percent in year two. However, ONA has yet to see hard data supporting these or other economic figures.

SURVEY DEADLINE IS APPROACHING JUNE 17, 2011

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 responses.

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 the Employer's Team (more dates are pending). We expect the intensity of sessions to continue to rise as economic proposals are put on the table by both sides, so having nurses there to support the ONA Team is really important.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2011

WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2011

TUESDAY JULY 26, 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 the Employer's Team 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.