Marion County Bargaining Update

Thank you for your efforts to help our community survive this pandemic. We know that nurses are the heroes in this story. By exposing yourselves to possible infection to care for our clients, you are leading by example.

As you know, our contract expires on June 30, 2020. In these times, it is difficult to conduct normal bargaining. Our employer has offered us a two-year rollover, which means our contract remains the same except for pay increase and the employer’s contribution to our health insurance. They have proposed these terms:

- A two percent pay increase beginning July 1, 2020
- A two percent pay increase beginning July 1, 2021
- An additional $50 of contribution to our health insurance for 2021
- An additional $50 contribution to health insurance for 2022
- A contract that expires June 30, 2022

Since we have few ways to show our unity under the gubernatorial “stay home, stay healthy” policy, we would have a difficult time to move the employer. Our bargaining team is looking to our members for advice. While only ONA dues-paying members may vote on the ratification vote, we would like to hear from all of our members by Wednesday, April 22.

Our colleagues in Marion County Employees Association (MCEA/SEIU) have agreed to the same terms as our employer proposed to us. MCEA/SEIU represents nearly a one thousand Marion County workers. In their estimation, the employer’s proposal was the best they could negotiate.
If we take this vote to ratification by our ONA dues-paying members and it is rejected, our bargaining team doesn’t many other options. If rejected, the employer has indicated they are unlikely to discuss other proposals. If rejected, we could continue to work after our contract expires, but without any pay increase or larger health insurance contribution. That situation could conceivably continue for months or longer. We would not have an ability to move the employer.

Please contact any member of our bargaining team (Melanie Breedlove, Jessica Hanson, and Dana Finch) or our labor rep, Gary Aguiar, by next Wednesday with your feedback on the proposal. Text/call Gary 503-444-0690 or email Aguiar@OregonRN.org.

If you have any questions, please contact your ONA labor representatives, Gary Aguiar at Aguiar@OregonRN.org.