Union Proud!

“Union Proud Nurse” T-Shirt Solidarity Day, July 18

We will be entering our fifteenth bargaining session on Monday, July 18. We would like you to wear your green “Union Proud” t-shirts that day to show solidarity with us out in the facilities. If you are able, please observe our session.

You can email our rep Jocelyn at Pitman@OregonRN.org for the virtual link to the session.

If you do not have your shirt yet, please wear a solid black shirt.

Our second order just came in and we will be distributing them this week. Please email us pics of you and your colleagues wearing them on, July 18. Send them to: Pitman@OregonRN.org.

Strong Bargaining Engagement

Last week, we had a well-attended bargaining unit meeting to discuss our priorities and hear from our members on what their outstanding issues are. Collectively, they said:

- An equitable raise that meets the cost of living and brings us all up to market – 9% across the board for everyone: LPNs, CHNs, NPs and PAs.
- An annual cost of living adjustment that keeps up with inflation in subsequent years.
- Floating can only be voluntary.

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Strong Bargaining Engagement

- Indirect patient care time for NPs and PAs. This will retain more NPs and PAs.
- Wage steps that honor our experience.
- Paid COVID-19 leave.
- Retention bonus.
- Degree differentials to honor our advanced education.
- Fair workday language for over and under payments.
- Parking differential for downtown workers.

In order to accomplish these goals, we need a strong presence in the field and engagement on the bargaining process by more members observing. Please keep your eye on our emails and flyers for the rest of the summer (at least) to stay engaged. We will have asks of you for more solidarity days and other actions.

In Solidarity,
Michelle Chau, Joann Buck, Evangeline Nichols, Claire Contreras, Alex Fortune, Emily Marx and Jocelyn Pitman

Protect Your License, Protect Yourself!

Should nurses carry their own personal liability insurance policy? YES! You insure your home, your car and your health. Why not your career?

A common assumption is that your employer will cover you in any incident that may occur while at work. Technically an employer is responsible for the acts of its staff, but its interest is not necessarily consistent with protecting you. Your best protection is to have your own personal legal representation. Nurses are at more legal risk now than ever before.

Additionally, your employer’s policy will not protect you in an Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) investigation. In fact, it could be your employer who makes the complaint to the OSBN about an alleged violation of scope or law. The OSBN must investigate each complaint it receives and, even if the complaint is dismissed, there are costs to you.

ONA advises all nurses, no matter where you work, to obtain your own liability insurance. ONA endorses the Nurses Service Organization (NSO) because the coverage provided offers the best protection for you. Visit www.OregonRN.org/NSO for more information. Don’t wait, protect yourself today!

Student Debt Relief

Saddled with student debt? You may qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF). Thousands of health care workers, teachers and others who work in public service and consistently pay their monthly student loan bills can have their loans forgiven after ten years.

ONA is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) – Healthcare which means you have access to Summer, an organization that can help you navigate your student loan situation and support you through the repayment process.

Find more information at www.OregonRN.org/aft-summer.

Managing your student loan debt is the first step in taking on the inequities which plague our system of higher education.