McKenzie-Willamette Updates

Many Thanks!

We appreciate the hard work of our bargaining team! Curt Stupasky, Crow Bolt and Candy Bigbee have worked more than 300 hours so far on bargaining our contract. Once we ratify the contract, we’ll be asking benefitted nurses to donate up to ten PTO hours to make our team whole. Please plan to reserve PTO hours to compensate them!

Thanks also to our dozens of field activists and hundreds of nurses who participate in ONA events. Our negotiators value your time and determination!

As you know, we are still apart from the employer in two main areas: (1) wage parity to prevent the loss of nurses to other hospitals and (2) increase standby pay, which hasn’t changed in 14 years.

Mediation is not bringing us any closer to an agreement. Escalation is necessary to give our voices weight. We need to hear from you on our next steps. What are you willing to do to move the employer to recruit and retain experienced nurses through wage parity and increased standby pay?

We Need to Hear from You. Complete Our Survey!

We will release a survey on Thursday, April 29, which will close on Thursday, May 6. We need every nurse to complete the survey and provide input. We will ask if you are willing to participate in an informational picket, a community meeting, or strike (“check all that apply”).

INFORMATIONAL PICKET?

An informational picket is NOT a strike. In an info picket, nurses continue to work their scheduled shifts. For one day, we bring masses of nurses and our supporters to walk the
sidewalks near the hospital entrances displaying signs. We build community support for our efforts to recruit and retain experience nurses. Will you commit to participate in an informational picket, even if it is not convenient for your shift and sleep cycle?

COMMUNITY MEETING?

A community meeting gives nurses the opportunity to provide information to the public. We'll invite patients, our coworkers, other unions, the media, and anyone else interested to attend. We will share what it is like to be a nurse during the pandemic. Will you commit to attend and bring your family and friends?

STRIKE?

With a strike, our goal is to remind the employer that their profits are built with our labor. A strike causes short-term economic harm to the Quorum Health Corporation (QHC) to bring that message home.

Nurses do not work during a strike. Instead, we actively and peacefully work to deny the hospital their revenue stream by denying them our nurse labor. Daily, we walk the hospital perimeter with our supporters displaying signs. We don't know how long we'll need to strike, possibly a few weeks or a few months.

While on strike, nurses cannot access their PTO and the employer may deny us healthcare insurance benefits. The employer could bring nurses and nurse managers from other QHC facilities around the country to cross our strike line. Patient care may suffer as these scabs work five or six 12-hours shifts a week at a job for which they may not be prepared. Will you commit to join together with your coworkers to strike?

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