Welcome back Gary Aguiar!

Gary has been covering other ONA hospitals in Southern Oregon while ONA has been hiring and training new labor representatives. Gary will officially return to MWMC on Monday, June 12.

Prior to joining ONA in 2015 as a labor relations representative, Gary Aguiar was an academic. He was most recently employed for 16 years as a professor of political science at South Dakota State University (SDSU). At SDSU, he was very active in the faculty labor union in many capacities, including state president, where he served as chief negotiator for a particularly contentious and lengthy round of negotiations. Gary also has extensive experience in leadership development and political advocacy. Born and raised in Hawai‘i, he walked his first strike line at the age of 8 and canvassed for a state legislative candidate when he was 16.

At ONA, Gary has developed strong bargaining units in small towns, which fostered successful campaigns. In Florence, Peace Harbor nurses ran an effective nine-month bargaining effort that resulted in wages and working conditions that matched Eugene hospitals. The campaign included a unity break attended by one-third of the bargaining unit, a standing-room-only community meeting, and a visible informational picket. In Klamath Falls, Sky Lake nurses recently concluded a victorious contract campaign that led to the “best contract we have had since I have been involved,” according to one long-time leader. In less than two years, the membership rate at Sky Lakes tripled, which gave our negotiators power to win an accelerated step scale, true shared governance in vigorous UPCs, and strong anti-bullying language.
Oregon is facing a staffing crisis in our hospitals. Nurses and health care workers have been pushed to the brink by short staffing. Workers are struggling, and patient care is suffering. House Bill 2697, as amended, will support nursing, professional, technical, and service workers and improve patient care in hospital settings through enforceable mechanisms by requiring that hospitals provide enough staff to care for patients, prevent unsafe patient assignments, provide legally-required breaks for meals and rest, and give workers a voice in setting the staffing levels. As amended, there is no known opposition! Use this easy tool to write a letter to your legislator asking them to vote YES on House Bill 2697 to support health care workers and patients. Safe staffing saves lives!


### Nurse Staffing: Help Pass HB 2697

**You Know It Matters • You Know You Care • Help Make an Impact!**

**ONA stewards are the lifeblood of what makes our union strong. A strong union has at least one steward for every unit and shift. Stewards are there to answer colleague’s questions and discuss concerns and help keep every nurse up to date on important union activities.**

There are three different steward trainings offered throughout the year. Introductory steward training focuses on representing your coworkers and problem-solving workplace issues. Grievance handling covers identifying, filing and following up on contract grievance. Building worksite power stresses how to build your union and create an environment that results in improvements for nurses.

**Stay tuned for more training dates as they are finalized.**

Space is limited so register today at: [www.OregonRN.org/Steward-Training](http://www.OregonRN.org/Steward-Training)