Mercy Bargaining Begins Thursday, May 10

Thanks to all the nurses who attended our membership meeting on Thursday night! We enjoyed the camaraderie and information about our upcoming bargaining for wages next week.

Everyone who attended reported on their units and agreed that nurses are aware of and attentive to bargaining. The group agreed that we need nurses to attend the first bargaining session.

Join your bargaining team for the first bargaining session next Thursday, May 10, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., in the board room of the administration wing.

Please attend, even if only for a few minutes and encourage others to attend as well. Send a representative from your floor/shift, send one person down at a time, or come in a group, but please attend.

On Thursday, we also reviewed the results of our successful survey, as 55 percent of nurses at Mercy submitted response. This is the highest response rate for an ONA survey in a long time at Mercy. From the comments and results, we can see that nurses are in agreement that we are under-staffed at Mercy.

The best way to recruit and retain nurses is pay competitive wages. We remain more than 5 percent below the regional market. A majority of survey respondents (53 percent) wanted our negotiators to seek wage increases of five percent or higher. Such an increase would bring us into alignment with other hospitals in southern Oregon. Newer nurses are leaving for higher-paying jobs in nearby cities. They would rather stay in Douglas County, but find that often-crushing student loans can be paid off more quickly when they earn a higher wage elsewhere.

Nationwide, workers have seen tremendous wage growth, averaging raises of nearly five percent over the last five months, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. With unemployment at historical lows, employers must raise wages to recruit and retain nurses and other workers.

We look forward to seeing you at wage negotiations next Thursday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The single best way to show your support for our bargaining team is to show up!