Meet Your New ONA Labor Relations Representative

Gary Aguiar is a former political science professor who joined the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in 2015, after gaining extensive experience in contract negotiations, teaching and researching women’s community-level participation, and political organizing. Born and raised in Hawaii, Aguiar walked his first strike line at the age of eight and canvassed for a state legislative candidate when he was 16.

He’s a small-town boy, who thoroughly enjoys the intimacy found in rural communities and the cultural activities available in college towns. Aguiar and his wife, Cecile, a food safety microbiologist, have a 16-year old daughter graduating from Sheldon High School, who participates in theatre and loves to play chess. The family has chosen to live in Eugene. Aguiar replaces Labor Relations Representative Lori Shott, who is returning to full time clinical nursing.

At ONA, Gary has developed strong bargaining units in small towns, which fostered two successful contract campaigns. In Florence, Peace Harbor nurses ran an effective nine-month bargaining effort that resulted in wages and working conditions that match 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 Lakes nurses recently concluded a victorious 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 provisions on bullying and lactation.
Meet Your ONA Nurse Practice Consultant, Nicole Cantu, RN

Nicole Cantu joined the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in 2017. She graduated with honors from California State University Long Beach and is certified as a medical-surgical nurse by the ANCC. Prior to coming to Oregon, Nicole worked in San Diego, CA for three years on a medical-telemetry unit designated for the care of patients with psychiatric illness. She excels at getting just about anyone to take their medications. In 2015, she came to Oregon as a travelling nurse and has experience working at Mercy Medical Center, Sacred Heart University District and RiverBend and Salem Hospital. In 2017, she graduated from ONA’s Nurse Leadership Institute.

As a nurse practice consultant, Nicole assists and educates other nurses on a wide variety of clinical practices, including questions about the Nurse Practice Act. She also coaches other nurses on Oregon’s Nurse Staffing Law by offering a one-hour Staffing 101 workshop, which is eligible for CE units. She will be offering these classes at Mercy Medical Center soon.

2018 Convention and House of Delegates

Wednesday, April 18 - Friday, April 20
The Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend, OR

ONA invites you to bring your voice and perspective to the ONA Convention and House of Delegates (HOD), held April 18-20, 2018 in Bend.

The HOD is ONA’s primary governing body. As a delegate, you will hear from ONA’s Board of Directors, Cabinets, Constitution Associations and other leadership groups and discuss and vote on resolutions, amendments and other initiatives.

Delegates pledge to register for and attend ONA’s House of Delegates on Friday, April 20 and delegates and other nurses are invited to register to attend the continuing education days, April 18-19.

Travel, lodging and education reimbursements may be available. Please see your bargaining unit or constituent association rules on how to apply for reimbursement.

Becoming a Delegate is Simple!

Step 1: Go to the ONA website: www.OregonRN.org/Delegate

Step 2: Complete your Delegate Nomination Form

Step 3: Register to attend ONA’s HOD and Convention

Questions? Contact Whitney Wong, at Wong@OregonRN.org or 503-293-0011 ext. 1325.