MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
For a better bargaining unit and a stronger voice for nurses at PMMC

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Mediation Session Ends Without a Contract

Mediation Update
Our Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Bargaining Unit team worked another 12 hours of mediation on March 29 to reach an agreement we could take to the nurses for a ratification vote. Unfortunately, we are barely any closer to reaching an agreement with Providence Medford Medical Center (PMMC) than we were last week. Issues that continue to be roadblocks are scheduling, appropriate staffing, paid time off (PTO), insurance, wages and differentials. Our next mediation date is set for April 12, 2018.

Informational Picket Notice
Due to the lack of a contract agreement, we provided the hospital with the Federally Required 10-day notice of intent of informational picket. Our picket event will occur on April 10, 2018 for two sessions. 0700-0900 and 1530-1830. Nurses overwhelmingly voted to approve this action and we are now solidifying the commitment for participation. We will be reaching out over the next few days to confirm commitments to attend as well as commitment to action for those who are working and unable to attend. We have a sign making session scheduled for April 7, 2018 from 1000-1200 at the OEA Building at 2495 South Pacific Highway, Medford Oregon 97501.

Please RSVP to Susan Bruce at Bruce@OregonRN.org if you plan to attend.

What Next?
We are having a drop in Q & A session tomorrow March 31 at Holmes Park, 264 S Modoc, Medford, Oregon from 1000 till 1300.

Please watch for more information, we expect to have several updates over the next 2 weeks including information update sessions. We had really hoped that we would have an agreement we could bring to the bargaining unit for a vote rather than working toward this action. We remain very far apart on some very key issues that have had very little discussion to this point.

We will continue to seek your input regarding decision on how you want to proceed for these negotiations. If you have comments or concerns please share them with the negotiation team members: Renee Swenson, Josh Murray, Crystal Brunston, Christalyn Mattson, Dan Richmond, Vicki Knudsen, Stephanie Wolgast, Rick Mailand, Connie Bologna and Susan Bruce.
What Happens After the Informational Picket?

We would continue to work toward an agreement, we would also decide if further actions such as a strike would be required. If we need to move toward a strike we would need to have two more votes to authorize such action. None of us want to get to that point. We are nurses and want to provide great care to our patients and prefer to not have that sort of divide in our community. We also want to ensure that we can provide care for our patients’ that recognizes and supports the individual needs of those patients. In order to provide that level of care we must be able to hire, keep and train our nurses. We believe this is a common goal, how to make that happen is the challenge.

KEEP IN THE LOOP Updated information is available at the ONA PMMC web page, ONA PMMC Facebook page
Or contact Susan Bruce at Bruce@OregonRN.org.

What Do We Tell Our Friends and Neighbors?

We’re proud we live and work in a community where people care about us and want to do everything they can to help us improve patient care and attract and retain capable nurses. Your friends and neighbors may have heard about our informational picket and want to know what’s going on and what they can do to help.

It’s important to let them know nurses are asking Providence administrators to work with us to reach a fair contract agreement that improves patient care and addresses the hospital’s chronic staffing and retention problems.

Providence Medford loses forty-three percent of all new nurse within their first 12 months on the job. This extreme turnover rate forces remaining nurses to shoulder an unhealthy workload and can jeopardize patient care.

Nurses are asking the hospital to help us reduce staff turnover, improve working conditions by adopting consistent, predictable schedules, and provide appropriate backup so nurses and other staff can take breaks when we need it. Every one of these issues has a direct impact on our patients’ health care.

When nurses are overworked and understaffed, medications are delayed and mistakes increase. Patients are forced to wait longer to get the care they need and costs go up. Failing to address these problems now will only increase nurse turnover and burnout; amplifying the hospital’s staffing problems.

We need to fix these problems so nurses can continue to provide the high-quality care our community deserves. That’s why we’re asking our community to stand with us during the informational picket to show they support nurses and care about their health care.

Be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to attend the informational picket with you!
If they can’t attend the informational picket, ask them to put up a sign or sign our online petition showing they support local nurses!
https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/supportnurses