Your ONA negotiation team met with the hospital Friday, Feb. 26. While we were disappointed not to reach a deal by the end of the day, we did schedule another mediation date for Thursday, March 4. This is important, because it should be close enough to our last session to carry the momentum towards a fair contract.

Areas of concern remain around language concerning procedural units like surgery and on some differentials. We believe we are close to agreement on resolving any potential loss of pay for nurses who have a certification differential. We are close to agreement on other key differentials that were identified as most important to our nurses.

We feel we are getting closer to an acceptable deal for our nurses surrounding wages and the time off provisions. It is important that we balance the needs of newer and experienced nurses with the need to be competitive both locally and with Portland area hospitals. We are closer to agreement on the phaseout of extended illness time (EIT), accepting Short-Term Disability and balancing that loss with improved increases to wages that affect senior nurses with the highest EIT accrual balances.

Our ongoing “supposals” have been helpful to identify acceptable compromises on key issues and we are currently drafting out latest response to the hospital’s package.

It’s important to note that the employer has not acknowledged nor engaged in significant dialogue surrounding break relief nurses or infectious disease language (already contained in Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center’s contract). That said our team feels we can potentially address those concerns outside of contract negotiations. Our current contract contains language that could address break relief. There are ongoing negotiations on the statewide level and the ability to continue pushing for COVID-specific provisions via a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Thank you for all of the support and solidarity. We know it is helping and you have the hospital’s attention. We have plans already in place to escalate our public media campaign as needed over the next several weeks to build community support. Several nurses have volunteered and prepped for media interviews to help tell your stories, we now have a community petition circulating on social media, and we continue to publicly highlight our wonderful nurses displaying messages to executives for a fair contract on Twitter and Facebook. If we lose momentum next Thursday, we will plan to hold an electronic informational picket vote and will work to begin setting that up with ONA this week. Follow these hashtags:

- #ContractNow
- #ILoveProvRNs.
ONA Virtual BULC, June 25

Join your colleagues from across the state to develop your skills and learn about Bargaining for the Common Good.

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 25 for the ONA Virtual Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference (BULC). This year’s conference will focus on Bargaining for the Common Good.

Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG) is a return to the roots of unionism – the basic idea of advancing shared interests. We are not just nurses, we are community members, parents, users of public transportation, and renters too! Our employers are required by law to negotiate employment contracts with us, but that only addresses one part of our lives and largely ignores the community members we live with and care for.

Come to ONA’s 2021 Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference to learn more about the BCG framework and how to achieve win-win results for ONA members and our communities on issues ranging from racial inequities to public health improvements and more.

Registration will open in early spring.

Visit www.oregonrn.org/event/2021BULC for more details as they are finalized.

Run for an ONA Statewide Position

Serving as a statewide leader in ONA is a rewarding opportunity and a way for you to weigh in on the most important issues facing nurses today. ONA is actively seeking enthusiastic, engaged nurses to run for leadership in our organization’s internal elections!

You can run for office no matter where you live.

High profile openings you or your coworkers can run for include vice-president, treasurer, board directors and multiple cabinet positions including designated seats based on geographic region.

Nominations are now open until March 22.

To learn more and complete your Consent to Serve form to declare your candidacy, visit:

www.OregonRN.org/Elections