Executive Committee Opening

ONA Secretary Position Open!

This Spring we elected a slate of new ONA officers:
- Lisa Carey (Surgical Services), Bargaining Unit Chair
- Wendy Touzeau (ICU), Vice-Chair
- Theresa Muncy (ICU, SANE), Membership Chair
- Beth Lepire (Birth Center), Treasurer
- Ann Marie Mecham (Surgical Services), Secretary

Unfortunately for us, Ann Marie departed from PNMC in June to return to a position at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center. Her departure creates a vacancy on the ONA Executive Committee that we are now seeking to fill. If you or a colleague are ready to step up and help lead our important work in raising standards and protecting safe staffing, we hope you’ll make a nomination to the Secretary position. It would be especially valuable to have a representative from the Emergency Department or Med/Surg Unit.

To make a nomination, email Ashley Bromley (Bromley@OregonRN.org) by Friday, August 13, 2021.

Push Back on Unsafe Staffing

No matter the unit you’re working in, you’ve no doubt noticed the increase in census and the difficulty in retaining experienced nurses. These factors have combined to create significant staffing shortages in most units of the hospital. In two of these units, nurses are ready to push back!

ED Nurses are joining a growing campaign to push back on unsafe staffing in Oregon’s EDs. Nurses at Providence St. Vincent, Providence Willamette Falls, and Providence Portland have already delivered petitions demanding adherence to their staffing plans via improvements to minimum staffing, real meal and rest breaks, and recognition of increasing acuity and intensity. Together with these petitions, nurses are filing grievances and, in some hospitals, Oregon Health Authority complaints to help enforce their staffing plans. PNMC’s ED nurses are now stepping up to join this fight. Increased boarding in the ED, combined with high acuity/intensity and too few nurses have created real staffing shortages in our ED.

Similarly, Med/Surg nurses are stepping up for safe staffing. High census and increased acuity has resulted in significant understaffing that endangers both patients and nurses. While efforts have been made to hire new nurses, other actions to increase staffing and retain experienced nurses have not been taken. We work in the most profitable Providence hospital in the state and the sixth most profitable (as a percentage) hospital in the state. We can afford to make all possible investments to ensure safe staffing. It’s past time that our hospital abides by our staffing plans, the contract, and Oregon’s Hospital Nurse Staffing Law.
Providence Newberg Medical Center (PNMC)

Unsafe Staffing Continued

If you’re an ED nurse, please add your voice to our petition for safer staffing and retention of experienced nurses.

ED Staffing Petition: https://tinyurl.com/EDStaffing

Or Scan the QR Code below with your cell phone camera.

If you’re a Med/Surg nurse, please add your voice to our petition for safer staffing and retention of experienced nurses.


Or Scan the QR Code below with your cell phone camera.

September 1 Day of Action

More than 4,000 ONA-represented nurses from across the Providence system are taking action together on September 1. This day will mark the kick-off of bargaining at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and Providence Willamette Falls. More importantly, it marks a renewed commitment to coordinated bargaining among all 10 ONA Providence facilities. Seven of 10 contracts will be open in 2021-2022, giving us a remarkable opportunity to raise standards across the state.

We ask that you join with thousands of Providence nurses on Wednesday, September 1 by wearing green ONA gear to show our unity and our commitment to returning Providence to higher standards of employment and care. Your ONA officers will be in contact leading up to this day of action to provide you with ONA gear to show your support. If you want to help plan and execute this effort, contact any ONA leader!

Upcoming Contract Trainings

We are still working to set dates, but we want you to know that we’re working with PNMC management to plan virtual contract trainings. We plan to divide the content into three sessions. We hope you’ll join in person if you’re able so we can answer any questions and provide the greatest clarity on new (and old!) contract provisions. If you can’t join live, we will provide the videos for reference. Of course, your ONA officers are also always available for a chat about contract terms and interpretation.

Keep an eye out for contract training dates and details coming soon!

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