December 18, 2020

The PNMC Contract is Ratified!

By a unanimous vote, the Newberg contract is ratified! A big thank you to Brandi Osborne, Lisa Carey, Theresa Muncy and Wendy Touzeau who stuck together through a year of hard work, training, survey preparation, proposal writing and nearly seven months at the bargaining table. A special thank you goes to Laura McBride, who even continued staying on the bargaining team after she left PNMC for other employment.

Some of the comments from nurses about why they voted yes:

* Everything but so excited they will open a position for a break RN! And standard yearly raises! :)

* I agree with what my fellow ONA members have worked hard bargaining for!

* I see a lot of good progress in this contract. I appreciate all your work to get this done very much.

* To make improvements to existing language, improve benefits and pay.

* Keeping our Vision benefit this year, creating a bank of hours to use in place of our PTO, being able to work an incentive shift the same week as taking a PTO vacation day.

* It seems fair, increased wages and increased PTO with the loss of EIT, thanks for your hard work

Some nurses did express concerns about ambiguity in some of the language. It is difficult to get crystal clear contract language on issues that are contentious and/or are new contract benefits—such as floating, break relief and low census. We finally saw movement on our last day on two of our top issues: break relief and low census. It is possible that the movement on these issues could have been lost if we continued bargaining past this day.

We have a task force meeting scheduled for Jan. 7, 2021. This is where we will begin our planning on the break relief nurse program.

Meanwhile, let’s take a moment to thank our officers for their hard work and have a joyous holiday season!