Popular Providence Picketing Place

More than 700 nurses gathered at Providence St. Vincent to hold an informational picket advocating for safer staffing and a fair contract.

The way that bargaining (or lack thereof on administration’s part) is occurring at PSVMC right now is an indicator for how our negotiations at PPMC in less than a year may play out. As much as you are able, get involved in union happenings early to help show administrators we mean serious business.

Having so many picketers in attendance sent a powerful message to Providence leadership that we are united and will work together to achieve the standards of care we want in our communities.

Nurses from many local and regional hospitals, families, members of the public, and hopeful gubernatorial candidate Tina Kotek were in attendance.

It rained for a few minutes, but a rainbow emerged, and spirits remained strong! Pictured above is a gathering of PPMC nurses and a unicorn!

Get Involved!

Here are the ways:

PNCC
Join the Professional Nursing Care Committee (PNCC). We are seeking more members who are passionate about improving patient care and nursing practice at PPMC. Meetings are once a month and are two paid hours (according to page 45 in our contract).

Steward
Become a unit steward. Stewards are active participants in union happenings in many ways. This requires a quick orientation and resources are provided.

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Get Involved! continued from page 1

Join our growing list of stewards! Our goal is at least one steward for every department and every shift. Intent to serve forms can be found at www.OregonRN.org/PPMC.

CAT
Join the Contract Communications Action Team (CAT). Help the negotiation team assess what our members want for our upcoming bargaining. A small orientation is required. Applications due by Saturday, April 30.

Staffing Committee
Become a staffing committee member. Requires attendance at scheduled every other month meetings that are paid (according to page 27 in our contract). Vote on staffing plans hospital wide to improve patient care and reduce nurse burden and burnout.

PPMC Contract Expires in Nine Months

The countdown has started!
Your executive committee meets monthly to develop and implement plans to prepare for bargaining and the expiration of our contract on Dec. 31, 2022.

On Friday, March 25 look for a notification sent to your personal email containing a survey to assess what the top priorities are for union members in this upcoming negotiation.

This is a great opportunity to tell us what you want! Keep an eye on your emails. We will notify you again when the survey is live.

Now is a great time to make sure ONA has your email.

ONA Statewide Elections

Voting Deadline is March 31
ONA has sent out a voting email or postcard to your personal email or home address with an election code and PIN # to access the voting for statewide elections.

State level ONA leadership is responsible for determining how the ONA operates at the state level and what priorities it should focus on. Can’t find your voting email or need help?

Check out www.OregonRN.org/Elections or contact ONA@OregonRN.org.

Grievance Update

The grievance committee has been hard at work. Last year we had more than 30 grievances in process; so far more than half of those have been resolved.

Executive Committee Update

Welcome Gabriel Wihtol from CCS who will be a member-at-large.
He previously worked in the ED at PPMC and published the popular and hilarious department newsletter there.

We look forward to his contributions going forward.
Check Your Paychecks! Verify Your Certification Pay

Five nurses on the third floor recently realized they had not been receiving their Specialty Certification pay. Several of those nurses had not been getting paid the additional $2.25 an hour since 2019. There are other examples at PPMC where this situation has occurred.

Administration was clear in a recent newsletter when they said our certification makes a difference to our patients and to the hospital. You work hard to be an expert in your department, make sure you are getting paid what Providence has agreed to pay you.

We have had several nurses from various units/departments report that their certification pay has randomly or systematically been dropping off since going to the electronic submission process. When looking at your timecard, you should see CERT on the itemized list.

If you do not see that listed, make sure to look back to see when the last time you were paid for your certification was. It is listed separately and is not included in your clinical ladder pay.

If you notice a discrepancy, please contact Daniel Zamora Zamora@OregonRN.org for more information and learn what can be done to resolve this issue.

Student Debt Relief

Saddled with student debt? You may qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF). Thousands of health care workers, teachers and others who work in public service and consistently pay their monthly student loan bills can have their loans forgiven after ten years.

ONA is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) – Healthcare which means you have access to Summer, an organization that can help you navigate your student loan situation and support you through the repayment process.

Find more information at www.OregonRN.org/aft-summer.

Additionally, ONA will host two online clinics to help members understand PSLF, find out more about Summer and get the relief they deserve.

April 20 at 9 a.m.
June 6 at 4 p.m.

Sign up at www.OregonRN.org/aft-summer.

Managing your student loan debt is the first step in taking on the inequities which plague our system of higher education.
The ONA Convention and House of Delegates will be held May 17-19, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency in Portland, OR. The theme for the convention is Stand Up, Rise Up, Celebrate! The Power of Our Profession.

The past two years have been difficult for everyone, bringing new challenges at every turn, all while exacerbating many of the issues that nurses have been facing for years. The 2022 ONA Convention is an opportunity for leaders from across the state to come together to learn from these challenges, share our knowledge, and move the nursing profession forward. Together, we can stand up to employers who seek to put corporate profits ahead of those who are caring for the community. Together, we can rise up and build a better health care system that values caregivers and patients. Together, we can celebrate our victories, small and large, over the last two years as we continue to fight for a health care system that works for us, our colleagues, our patients, and our communities.

Join us for the ONA House of Delegates (May 18) and two days of educational sessions (May 17 & 19).

Featured Sessions

- Empowering Nurses to Lead at Uneven Tables
- Beyond Diversity: Addressing Racism in Nursing for the Good of the Profession
- Advocating for the Nursing Profession
- Medical Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy
- And more!

Continuing Education

Two days of nursing continuing professional development credits will be available, up to 12.5 contact hours.

Oregon Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Registration

- Members: $125 for all three days
- Non-members: $275 for all three days

Registration is open through May 6.

www.OregonRN.org/event/2022Convention