In an unprecedented act of solidarity, frontline nurses at Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center in Oregon City and Providence Milwaukie Hospital voted nearly unanimously to authorize a strike. They now join St. Vincent nurses in their successful strike vote against Providence— one of Oregon’s largest employers.

This historic action is a powerful demonstration of solidarity and shows Providence ONA nurses are uniting to defend our rights against Providence’s illegal unfair labor practices (ULPs) and to improve patient care, raise nurse staffing standards, make health care more affordable for Oregon’s families and address Providence’s growing staffing crisis as part of fair contract agreements.

Despite nurses’ sacrifices over the last two years serving on the frontlines of a deadly pandemic, Providence has left thousands of frontline nurses working without the safety and security of a contract while continuing to collect high revenues to add to its $14 billion bank account.

It is Oregon’s largest health care system and one of the state’s largest corporations. Now thousands of ONA nurses are standing together to raise

continued on page 2

Democratic nominee for Governor of Oregon, Tina Kotek speaks to St. Vincent nurses at informational picket.
standards for our colleagues and our communities as we demand Providence’s corporate executives re-invest in safe, high-quality, affordable health care.

Nurses across the state are leading meetings to begin preparing for a historic strike. If and when a strike is called, ONA will give Providence a 10-day notice to allow Providence management adequate time to stop admissions and transfer patients or to reach a fair agreement with nurses and avert a work stoppage. ONA’s nurse bargaining teams at all three facilities are continuing to bargain with Providence administrators. Visit www.OregonRN.org/Providence to learn more.

Historic Strike Votes

At a time when healthcare workers are leaving the profession feeling demoralized, nurse leaders at Providence are inspiring others to stay and fight for their patients and fair contracts! For more information about organizing, please contact ONA Organizer Gabriel Erbs at Erbs@OregonRN.org.

ONA nurse leaders at Providence Newberg are organizing to stop the practice of nurses being denied reasonable access to schedule paid time off (PTO) for vacation time.

Management has refused to work with Unit Based Practice Council (UBPC) to revise the PTO policy that currently only allows one nurse to be on PTO at a time. Nurses from ICU and Med/Surg are not able to get the respite that they need because of the restrictive practice.

The leadership has circulated a petition and filed a grievance calling for management to follow the contract language and work with the UBPC for each unit.

The nurses from Providence Hood River have recently completed their seventh bargaining session by highlighting that their wages are behind market standards by 13 to 16 percent.

Nurses are doing a great job of supporting their bargaining team by virtually attending, wearing their union t-shirts, asking businesses to post supportive flyers in their shop windows, and most importantly by talking to each other about the core issues (market wages, safe staffing language, competitive leave accruals, and more affordable health benefits) and working to organize an informational picket. Hood River’s next bargaining session is on Wednesday, June 8. Stay tuned for informational picket details.

Providence Home Health & Hospice nurses are fighting back against imposed productivity standards that put their patients, their licenses, and their own well-being in danger.

Nurses have been resisting this profit-driven initiative for more than a year, with their grievance finally scheduled for arbitration on Thursday, June 16. Nurses are escalating their public-facing campaign by displaying "Providence Nurses Need Time for Safe Patient Care" car placards for their patients, community, and bosses to see!