Providence Willamette Falls Hospital (PWF) management cancelled our Dec. 13 bargaining session due to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) vote that was held that day at Providence Portland Medical Center (PPMC). We are concerned at the lack of future bargaining dates and slow movement on management’s part to even establish dates with us. Our speculation about the slow movement is due to ongoing Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining at PPMC and the SEIU vote. Management has not wanted to give us takeaway counter-proposals that would push influence our coworkers to vote yes to join a union of their own. We have established one future bargaining date — Jan. 8 at 12:30 p.m. (room TBA) — and we are working on getting more. ONA has provided dates through the end of March 2019 and are waiting to hear from management.

While we wait to get back to the table, management at PPMC dropped a bombshell in their last bargaining session that we can anticipate this coming our way. Providence management brought in a benefits specialist to present a Power Point overview of their takeaway proposal to freeze extended illness time (EIT) accruals at the end of 2019 and phase out EIT by the end of the calendar year 2020. They are proposing to then replace EIT with a short-term disability benefit that covers 65 percent of wages and a maternity/paternity leave program. Your bargaining team thinks this is a major takeaway that will negatively impact our nurses and staff. Management responded that this is a top priority for them. Providence St. Vincent Medical Center (PSVMC) does not have this takeaway of the removal of EIT and they have a four-year contract.

We need to hear from you about this — please contact us to share your thoughts on the bargaining process so far!
ONa staff interviewed several candidates for the open position at PWF and has decided to keep searching. They felt the candidates didn’t have the negotiating experience necessary to effectively bargain contracts and work through grievances. They want to ensure we have a strong representative for us. In the meantime, Jaime Newman and Rob Nosse have been a huge support, and Tom Doyle continues to advocate for us as we move through negotiations.

If you have any concerns with filing a grievance, meeting with management, or if you otherwise need representation from the ONA, please call or text PWF Grievance Chair Virginia Smith, RN (MedSurg) at 503-312-7809.

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