Prepare For Negotiations

We are preparing for negotiations this fall! There are many issues we want to address, and in order to win, we will need an all-hands-on-deck approach! That means we need your help to show our strength at the table. The following are opportunities for you to get involved and help the team.

Contract Action Team (CAT)

Be a CAT member! We need nurses from every unit to be a CAT member. CAT members are a key component during negotiations to make sure our nurses are informed, have a voice, and can mobilize for campaigns for contract proposals.

Bargaining unit officers depend on the CAT members to connect with the nurses across the hospital, through:

- Talking with nurses and reporting out to the bargaining unit officers,
- Handing out the newsletter and keeping nurses informed,
- Supporting campaigns by encouraging wearing buttons, stickers, etc.,
- Ensuring surveys are filled out so our voice is heard.

We need CAT members from the following units:

- ED
- MedSurg
- ICU
- OR
- PACU
- SSU
- CAPU
- Resource

If you want to be a CAT member, please contact Virginia Smith at (503) 312-7809 (call or text) or email to virginiadsmithrn@gmail.com.

Open Bargaining Officer Positions

We currently have two bargaining officer positions open — Grievance Chair and Membership Chair. Filling an officer position on the executive committee is a great way to serve your fellow nurses and hold our employer accountable. As a bargaining unit officer, you also have a seat at the table during negotiations.

Here are the descriptions for the open positions:

Grievance Chair

- Conduct and supervise the affairs of the executive committee with regard to grievances.
- Oversees the processing of unit representatives in their investigation of all grievance complaints filed by BU members.
- Responsible for securing representation, if requested, for the grievant when their unit representative is not available.

Membership Chair

- Ensures that all new hires are contacted in a timely fashion to discuss membership in the ONA Collective Bargaining Unit of PWFMC and the ONA.
- Ensure new hires are provided with a copy of the collective bargaining agreement.

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- Ensure that the new hires are introduced to the new hires’ unit steward.
- Ensure the membership list is updated on an annual basis and before every vote of the bargaining unit.

If you are interested in one of these positions and have questions, please contact Virginia Smith at (503) 312-7809 (call or text) or email to virginiadsmithrn@gmail.com. If you would like to run for Grievance Chair, Membership Chair, or become a CAT member, click here for the link to the consent to serve (CTS), or go to www.OregonRN.org/PWFMC-Nomination. We will collect nominations until June 12, 2021 and hold elections after that.

Nurses and the COVID-19 Vaccine

As one of the most trusted professions, nurses play a key role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19 by accepting and encouraging vaccination.

ONA drafted a position statement on the vaccine last December that notes nurses have a commitment to the communities they serve to be well-informed about the vaccines. The position statement encourages nurses to lead the way in getting vaccinated and provide an example for everyone else!

The American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics (2015) states that RNs have an ethical responsibility to “model the same health maintenance and health promotion measures that they teach and research,” and this responsibility includes vaccination against infectious disease.

The ANA position statement on immunizations emphasizes that nurses should be advocating, educating, and advising patients to receive Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommended vaccinations, but acknowledges that if nurses are declining the vaccine themselves, public trust is damaged.

Do your part, get the vaccine and advocate for others to do the same!

Visit the ONA COVID-19 vaccine resource center to learn more: www.OregonRN.org/COVID-vaccine.

Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference, June 25

This year’s Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference will look at the concept of Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG), how it impacts bargaining in health care, how it impacts our communities we care for, and how ONA might utilize these concepts to further our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the future.

Bargaining for the Common Good is a return to the roots of unionism – the basic idea of advancing shared interests. We are not just nurses, we are community members, parents, users of public transportation, social justice advocates and renters too! Our employers are required by law to negotiate employment contracts with us, but that only addresses one part of our lives and largely ignores the community members we live with and care for.

Join us virtually for ONA’s 2021 Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference, Friday, June 25 to learn more about the BCG framework and how negotiations can achieve win-win results both for ONA members and our communities.

Continuing Education

Limited continuing nursing education contact hours will be available.

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

Registration

Registration is open through May 26. Visit www.oregonrn.org/event/2021BULC to register.