The informational picket on Wednesday, May 11 was a huge success! We marched together through downtown Oregon City to stand on the steps of the Clackamas County Courthouse to connect with our community about our fight with Providence.

The turnout from PWFMC nurses was great. There were about 200 participants in all, and about 35 percent were nurses from PWFMC!

There were nurses from eight out of the ten Providence bargaining units out there together, which speaks highly of our solidarity with each other!

Media coverage was great too, with multiple local news outlets covering our march. Jay Formick, RN, one of our bargaining unit officers and on the negotiation team, gave a great television interview to Fox News on the steps of the courthouse, where he shared that “one of our big concerns is finding language we can agree on that will keep patients safer, but management’s dig their heels in and have rejected every opportunity we’ve given them.”

Jay went on to say that “we don’t quite understand why, after all the rhetoric..."
PWFMC bargaining unit chair Virginia Smith, RN met with the ONA Labor Cabinet, to share the current state of negotiations and seek authorization to move forward with a strike vote at PWFMC.

The ONA Labor Cabinet is made up of nurses who are elected by ONA members, and a part of their duty as such is to ensure members have the support and solidarity they need to put pressure on an employer that is pushing back like Providence is during contract negotiations.

On Thursday, May 12, the Labor Cabinet approved PWFMC to move forward with a strike vote.

What happens next is to hold an electronic vote. The ballot will go out to your personal email you have on file with ONA, so it is critical to ensure you have a personal email address that is accurate and where you receive ONA correspondence. The election is conducted by a third-party vendor in order to ensure election integrity.

It is crucial that EVERY NURSE MEMBER votes. The vote will start on Monday, May 23 and close Wednesday, June 1.

Our participation is our demonstration of our collective voice. Your contract action team members and bargaining unit leaders will be contacting you to make sure you get the ballot and can access it and will be available for questions during this time.
PWFMC/ONA Informational Meetings

Please drop in to one of these Zoom meetings to ask questions:

Thursday, May 19
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (1730-1830)
7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (1930-2030)

Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7304909354

Next Bargaining Sessions:

Wednesday, May 25
Friday, June 3
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (0900-1700)
Room E/F in the Providence Willamette Falls Community Center
New Protections for Nurse Staffing Law

Last year, ONA members brought evidence showing hospitals exploited the state of emergency to deviate from staffing plans, sometimes when they had no COVID-19 patients! The state legislature listened and passed House Bill 3016 (HB 3016), placing greater restrictions on hospitals.

On Jan. 1, 2022 these new restrictions went into effect, making it incredibly difficult to deviate from staffing plans that have been approved by the hospital nurse staffing committee.

ONA members should empower themselves by taking time to read the new language here.

You can learn more about this and other staffing rules and best practices on the ONA website at www.OregonRN.org/113.

As Oregon faces another surge it is important for ONA members to hold hospital executives accountable to the law!

Some key highlights of the changes:

- Clear limits on how long a Hospital can deviate from plans.
- To deviate from staffing plans there needs to be “a national emergency or state emergency requiring implementation of a facility disaster plan and crisis standards of care.”
- The incident command shall report a written assessment to both co-chairs of the staffing committee within 30 days of deviating from a plan.
- Deviation may not occur for more than 90 cumulative days unless approved by the staffing committee.

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 is hosting an online clinic to help members understand PSLF, find out more about Summer and get the relief they deserve.

June 3 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.