July 19th was our seventh negotiation meeting with Rogue Regional Medical Center (RRMC). We are pleased to share that we made some significant progress.

RRMC has finally made wage increase proposals for all three years of the proposed contract. While the proposal was for one percent in each of those years, it is an improvement from one percent and then meeting again to negotiate next year. RRMC also clarified they still have room to move in regard to the financial issues. They also withdrew the proposal to eliminate the contract language about the health plans and our ability to meet prior to any proposed changes, as we have done in the past. Breaks and meals relief, information provided to the staffing committee, EST changes to ESDP, the ETO take away, mandatory staff meetings, financial proposals, as well as a few other issues are still open.

We are committed to reaching a tentative agreement prior to the expiration of this contract which is through June 30, 2017. RRMC has proposed dates for up to four additional sessions. We really want a commitment to reaching an agreement as quickly as possible. We have agreed to meet again if necessary on July 7.

Show the administration that you support your ONA negotiation team and want to reach an agreement by July 1, 2017!
What Happens After July 1?

Many nurses have been asking what happens if we do not reach an agreement by July 1. There are a couple of things that could happen: one option is that we agree to extend the term of the contract for a defined period of time, the second option is that the contract expires.

If we agree to extend the term of the contract, it would be at our bargaining unit members’ direction. How does this benefit our members? Extension of the contract keeps all of the provisions of the contract in place—including the grievance and arbitration provisions—and ensures that the hospital cannot lock us out of work.

The second option is also bargaining unit-driven. If the bargaining unit votes to let the contract expire, we lose the ability to use the grievance and arbitration protections of the contract. We also then have the right to picket or strike if the bargaining unit votes to move forward with such actions. But, the hospital would also have the right to lock us out and hire replacement staff.

All of these options will impact our community. As nurses at RRMC, our goal is to be treated respectfully and continue to provide the excellent care we are known for. Please complete the ONA survey linked below this week to vote on whether we let the contract expire or not and if you are willing to accept hospital proposed ETO changes.

Share your opinion here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RRMCNegotiationSurvey

SAVE THE DATE!

Join our ONA negotiators for an update on how negotiations are going and give input on how you want us to move forward!

Holmes Park S. Modoc Ave
Medford, OR 97504

June 25 from 2–4 p.m.

Families welcome!