Now what?

As you may be aware, Governor Kate Brown’s announcement made on August 19, 2021 states that all healthcare workers must be fully vaccinated by October 19, 2021. This mandate has brought many questions and concerns. Your Executive Committee and Labor Representative, Jessica Barnes, are working hard to develop a Memorandum of Agreement. With the change in working conditions, and under the provisions set forth by the National Labor Relations Board, our union has the right to negotiate over any impacts that may be experienced.

Know your Contract

Article 5.3 Wage Adjustments

5.3.1 An employee who has competed a year of service by October 31 of each year beginning 2020, will be eligible to move to the next step as shown in the Salary Schedule at Appendix A, provided:

The tech completed all mandatory education, training, and in-service by the due date during the preceding year (unless on an approved continuous leave of absence, in which case must be complete within 30 days of returning from leave).

The tech has met all licensure and certification requirements by the due date.

The tech attended at least 75% of all mandatory staff meetings (meeting which took place during an approved continuous leave of absence shall not count towards the calculation of meeting attendance).

Want to learn more?

If you are interested in learning more about ONA and your union, please register and attend a stewardship training. They occur monthly and it’s free to members.

Please visit www.OregonRN.org/Steward-Training to register for the training on September 21, 2021. We will be teaching the basics of:

- Knowing your union rights
- Representing a co-worker
- Filing and processing a grievance
- How to find important items in your contract
- How to make our union stronger!

Your New Executive Committee

The votes were submitted and results are in. Your new Executive Committee is:

- James Gwynn as Chair
- Cori Mills as Membership/Grievance Chair
- Mike Reidy as the Professional Practice Committee Chair
- Doug Lien as Secretary/Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who voted, your decisions matters.
Oregon nurses are too important to not get vaccinated!

"I thought about my grandparents who have comorbidities, about a friend who lost his dad, the newborn I am around at work, and my best friend’s baby who I would do anything to help keep safe."

- Jessica Conrad, RN, Klamath Falls, OR

Health Care Workers and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Nurses and health care workers 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 we all have a commitment to the communities they serve to be well-informed about the vaccines. The position statement encourages nurses and health care workers 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 policy 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.