Our Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining team met with the Samaritan Albany General Hospital (SAGH) administration bargaining team on May 17 and May 23, 2017. During both negotiation sessions, our bargaining team and the SAGH administration team proposed changes in low census and more clarification around the charge nurse role. We have not come to an agreement on either subject.

The changes to low census proposed by SAGH administration involve cutting nurses on shifts when a traveler nurse is working. The administration team made it very clear: they will cut a SAGH nurse while letting a traveler nurse work. Their reason? They would have to pay the traveler nurse whether the traveler works or not. Our bargaining team pointed out that our nurses at SAGH are part of the community, live in the area, support local business, and are better able to support our patients and their families because we all share this community.

Our bargaining team is launching a quick survey on Friday, May 26. It asks for nurses to provide additional information and comments on two subjects:

- Low census/rotation/seniority: Nurses have previously communicated that the current practice of cutting shifts by four hours is unacceptable.
- Paid time off (PTO): Nurses have expressed dissatisfaction with trying to get time off during the summer months. They have reported frustration when they are not able to be granted time off, but co-workers are granted time off and then give back that requested time weeks before the PTO is to occur.

The survey link has been emailed to you. You can also access the survey on our bargaining unit webpage, or use this direct link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017_SAGH_Mid-Negotiation_Survey

The survey should only take five to ten minutes to complete. It will remain open until 5 p.m. on June 3, 2017.
On Tuesday, June 6, join nurses and advocates from across the state for a State Revenue Reform Rally and Lobby Day at the Oregon State Capitol!

As the Legislature continues to consider revenue proposals to address education, health care and services funding gaps, nurses need to make sure legislators know what’s at stake for patients and our communities.

During the day, we’ll talk with legislators about Oregon’s budget and why it’s important to continue investing in health services and avoid devastating cuts that will negatively impact patients.

Boxed lunches will be served and transportation is available from Portland, Eugene, and Corvallis. Contact Chris Hewitt at Hewitt@OregonRN.org for more information.