Our Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining team has tentatively rescheduled the mediation session with the Samaritan Albany General Hospital (SAGH) administration team for Thursday, Sept. 21.

On Aug. 23, our team had a conference call with Talia Stoessel, an attorney with the law firm Bennett Hartman Morris & Kaplan who will assist our team during mediation while our ONA labor relations representative, Christine Hauck, is on leave. Prior to the conference call, Talia reviewed the bargaining notes and files to get up to speed, and during the call, our team reviewed outstanding issues on the table and discussed our strategy moving forward.

This includes making sure nurses at SAGH are involved in supporting our priorities at the bargaining table. We are stronger together!

While Talia is handling negotiations, ONA labor relations representative Gary Aguiar will be handling contract enforcement issues. Gary is based in Eugene and serves as Christine’s backup, so he is familiar with SAGH. He can be reached at 503-444-0690 (call/text) or Aguiar@OregonRN.org.

Mediation FAQ

**What is mediation?**
Toward the end of contract negotiations, movement can be difficult for hospital administration and for our ONA bargaining team. At that point during bargaining, enlisting the help of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service can be useful. A federal mediator can help have independent and objective conversations with both sides to get negotiations moving again toward an agreement.

**Is mediation common?**
Yes. Many ONA contracts require mediation toward the end of the negotiation process.

**What is the mediator’s role?**
We should start with the fact that a mediator does not have binding authority to dictate any terms of a settlement. The mediator’s sole objective is to get both sides to an agreement through recommendations and facilitating discussions. They are not employed by either the hospital or by ONA and therefore can bring a more neutral perspective. However, it’s important to note that their job is not to help us get a good contract. Their job is to get us to an agreement—regardless of whether it address nurses’ and patients’ concerns.

**What happens during mediation?**
Typically, our team is in one room, and the administration team is in another. The mediator will have already been notified of outstanding issues on the table. During the mediation session, they will have separate conversations with both sides to get a better understanding of what each party can live with or can’t live without. They will get permission from each team about what they can share with the other party. In this way, the mediator can help facilitate conversations and keep things moving forward during bargaining.
Do Your Part for a Fair Contract!

SIGN OUR PETITION

OurONA bargaining team is circulating a petition in support of a fair contract for nurses at SAGH. We are asking all nurses to sign it. Signing our petition sends a strong signal to SAGH administration that we are united and together as we fight for a fair contract that protects all of our nurses and all of our patients.

All bargaining team members have a copy of the petition you can sign. You can also take a copy and help us collect signatures community-wide! The deadline to sign the petition is Sept. 8, 2017.

ATTEND OUR WELCOME WAGON

We will kick off mediation with a “welcome wagon” taking place the morning of Thursday, Sept. 21. Come stand with our bargaining team to demonstrate to the mediator and SAGH administration that nurses want a contract that protects all of us and all of our patients. Nurse solidarity sends a clear message that we are paying attention and that you want our team to keep fighting. Invite your friends and family! We will be standing outside before mediation begins (time and location to be announced). The welcome wagon will last 10 minutes.

PETITION to SUPPORT NURSES in the Samaritan Health system

We, the undersigned community members, nurses, and employees within the Samaritan Health system, support the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in achieving a fair contract for nurses. We ask that Samaritan Health administration come to the negotiation table with a fair contract that protects all of our nurses and all of the patients in our community.

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Email signed petitions to ONA at ONA@OregonRN.org or fax to 503-293-0013.

Watch for details about our sign-making event this week!