Urgent Update for All Medical/Surgical Nurses and ICU Nurses

This is an update for all Medical/Surgical nurses and ICU nurses, regarding the employer’s staff meeting and the email that Amy Bizon sent out on Sunday October 21, 2018. We want to make it clear our Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Executive Team, has NOT AGREED to this process or the changes that the employer is seeking.

Our bargaining team was asked to attend a management meeting with our labor representative on October 12, 2018. Management at the meeting included Dan Keteri, Erin Frenzel, Misty Samard and Scott Russell. The ONA team included Karen Janzti, Evonna Westlund, Amina Topp, and Christine Hauck, ONA labor representative.

Management asked if we would work in partnership to look at rotational cuts for medical/surgical floors and ICU nurses. Management explained the need to hire more nurses to have them ready and trained for the two new orthopedic surgeons and two new general surgeons coming in the spring of 2019.

ONA met with management to hear the concerns. In NO way did we agree to move forward on this issue. As of this newsletter, we have a request out to management for additional information that was not provided to ONA during our October 12 meeting. The ONA Executive team has had two urgent meetings regarding this rotational cut.

Management has also stated they want to give more nurses time off for vacation. ONA attempted to bargain this issue last year, but management was adamant they would only keep the existing contract language. Also, on last year’s survey when the rotational vs. seniority cuts was polled, 86 percent of the nurses voted NO to rotational cuts and to keep seniority cuts in place.

ONA bargaining team did slightly modify these cuts to be capped at 24 hours per pay period. This was voted on and accepted by the membership at the ratification vote.

Our ONA Executive team will be holding membership meetings next week. Additional information regarding dates and times will be sent out once they are confirmed. We need to hear from you regarding this change. We have a process that must be followed. Neither the Executive Team nor our labor representative can amend the contract without following the process laid out in our bylaws. The contract is signed and ratified!

Please seek out a bargaining team member, executive officer or our labor representative for clear answers and a better understanding of what is being proposed.

Thank you,
SAGH ONA Executive Team
Made up of ONA members from across the state, ONA’s Political Action Committees endorse pro-nursing ballot measures and candidates based on a variety of factors including local member feedback, voting record, support for nurses, safe patient care, and overall alignment with ONA values. Patient care and nursing practice are at stake this election season – to learn more and get involved, contact ONA’s political organizer, Catie at theisen@oregonrn.org to make a difference today. And to see the full list of ONA’s endorsements, including state legislative candidates, visit OregonRN.org/2018Endorse.

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- Learn how to effectively lobby decision makers
- Advocate for priority legislation and issues like patient health care access, workplace safety and advanced practice scope
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