Aren't We Worth the same as Corvallis Nurses?

Not according to our employer! Samaritan Health Services says that different hospitals have different needs and Samaritan Albany General Hospital (SAGH) nurses should be paid less than Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC) nurses.

They propose an annual two percent across the board annual increase, which will not bring us to pay parity with GSRMC. Our proposal is a one-year contract with the same wage scale as GSRMC.

Our bargaining team at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, who are also bargaining now, have proposed the same wage parity. We hope that next year a coalition of the four ONA bargaining units could bargain one common wage scale, like we bargained the COVID-19 side letter.

In the ongoing nursing shortage, we need to recruit and retain experienced nurses. We are not being greedy. To provide high-quality patient care, we need every nurse position filled. To add insult to injury, our employer's proposal will not even bring us to wage parity with Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

SAGH can afford wage parity. It has been profitable more than half of the last ten years, including $5.3 million in 2019 profits. By comparison, GSRMC has lost money every year in the last nine years, except in 2105.
What Can You Do to Help?

Our bargaining team cannot move our employer alone. The employer needs to see our members stand up in mass.

Thank you to the forty plus nurses who attended bargaining on May 13! So far, more than twenty percent of our members have showed up.

That is a great start! However, we will need a whole lot more participation to move our employer. Please join us at our next bargaining session, tomorrow, Tuesday, May 25. Even a few minutes adds weight to our voice.

Share a Selfie!

We ask nurses to share a selfie. We want a photo of yourself with a short, pithy personal statement expressing your support for our wage proposal. Nurses can post these selfies on our Facebook group or text/email it to any bargaining team member.

Be creative! Explain why we need to recruit and retain experienced nurses. We will collect these and hold them until we have a very large number.

Also, our bargaining team is also distributing ONA buttons and car signs. Every time you are at work, please place a sign in your car and wear a button. We want an ocean of ONA buttons and signs in the workplace.

The goal is to show the employer we are unified. It is important that every nurse display unity by showing their support until we get a settlement. It is not enough to do it on one day.

Remember, we are transparent, see both parties’ proposals and counter proposals as well as a handy bargaining tracker at our SAGH bargaining unit webpage at www.OregonRN.org/SAGH

Come to Our Next Bargaining Session Tomorrow

Tomorrow, Tuesday, May 25.

We suggest you call in on any phone, 971-254-1254, Phone Conference ID: 816 214 515#
Or Click here to join the meeting on any device.

When we meet in caucus (i.e., each team meets separately), our side joins Gary’s Zoom room.
Join Gary’s Zoom Meetings in one of these ways:

1. Any device’s browser at https://zoom.us/j/2810307587?pwd=czBLMnBVOMxKzJFWWh0b1ZSY1U3UT09
2. Download the Zoom app to any device and use Meeting ID: 281 030 7587 and Passcode: 6BjRSn
3. Dial on any phone 253-215-8782 using the Meeting ID: 281 030 7587 and Passcode: 070754

For more information, contact any bargaining team member:

• Chair: Melissa Pfleiger (ED)
• Vice-Chair: Christine Holden (Hospice)
• Secretary: Amina Topp (ED)
• Grievance Chair: Karen Jantzi (PACU)
• Membership Chair: Johanna Bilbo (Ambulatory Surgery)
• PNCC Chair: Kathie Davis (ED)
• At-large Bargaining Team Member: Shannon McGarrin (Med Surg)

Or text/call our labor rep 503-444-0690 or Aguiar@OregonRN.org

If you have any questions, please contact your ONA labor representative, Gary Aguiar, at Aguiar@OregonRN.org.