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Nurses at St. Alphonsus-Ontario Continue to Fight for Respect in the Workplace

Union leadership waits for resolution on multiple labor violations

(ONTARIO, Ore.) - Since April 5, 2022, administrators at St. Alphonsus-Ontario have illegally pushed nurses to end their union affiliation. ONA has represented nurses at St. Alphonsus-Ontario for more than ten years and the existing contract was negotiated in 2019. Over the last year, the administration has not paid contractually obligated raises and bonuses, refused to bargain over working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, ignored grievances, and circulated information disparaging Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). The actions are violations of federal law and in response, ONA filed multiple unfair labor practice (ULP) charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

A vote to determine if ONA would continue to represent nurses at St. Alphonsus-Ontario closed today, but the NLRB has impounded those votes while it reviews ONA’s request that the NLRB review the ULP charges before counting and certifying the election. ONA alleges that St. Alphonsus management repeatedly interfered in the voting process by supporting an anti-union petition on paid time, by holding captive audience meetings, by blocking ONA’s access to nurses and the facility, and by posting negative messages about ONA around the hospital.

ONA will continue to represent and fight for the nurses of St. Alphonsus-Ontario as the NLRB handles each ULP. St. Alphonsus administration is failing to meet the high standards of care that patients and their families deserve. At any point, management could return to the negotiating table to improve working conditions for nurses and outcomes for patients and the community.

The vote only involves nurses at St. Alphonsus-Ontario. Nurses and techs at St. Alphonsus-Baker City continue to be represented by ONA.

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is the state’s largest and most influential nursing organization. We are a professional association and labor union which represents more than 15,000 nurses and allied health workers throughout the state. We are a proud state affiliate of AFT and the American Nurses Association. ONA’s mission is to advocate for nursing, quality health care and healthy communities. For more information visit: www.OregonRN.org.

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