Samaritan Pacific Bargaining Begins

Thank you to Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (SPCH) nurses who showed up for our bargaining session today. The single most important thing a nurse can do to support our team is to attend bargaining, even 15 minutes helps! Click here for more information on attending.

Today, we presented the employer with proposals designed to treat nurses at SPCH fairly. We scoured other contracts to propose changes to ensure that we have similar provisions.

Our following bargaining team members has been working hard for weeks to research, develop, and draft our proposals:

- Vice Chair: Rex Payne (ED)
- Secretary: Sharon Bliss (LD)
- Membership Chair: Terri McCulley (PACU)
- Grievance Chair: Shari Suchy (LD)
- PNCC Chair: Leanne Chavez (OR)
- At-large Bargaining Team Member: Rhiannon Updenkelder (LD)

In numerous conversations and in our survey, we heard you loud and clear: wages were your number one priority in this bargaining round. If we do not pay competitive wages, we will not be able to recruit and retain experienced nurses.

We proposed that SPCH nurses be paid precisely the same amount that Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC) nurses will receive beginning in July. This equates to an immediate 3.75% across the board increase for SPCH nurses. Moreover, we proposed a one-year contract to align our contract expiration dates with GSRMC and Samaritan Lebanon. Samaritan Albany General Hospital has proposed the same. Next year, we expect that all 999 ONA nurses at the four Samaritan bargaining units will bargain a single wage scale. We hope to have a coalition similar to our successful system-wide COVID-19 side letter.

Today in bargaining, we opened eight articles and Appendix B to offer 28 proposals. Here is a sampling:
• Increase differentials and on-call pay.
• PTO accrual rates while on standby or on-call.
• Increase education funds.
• Shared governance to improve Staffing Committee operations and procedures.

Many of these proposals are similar to what GSRMC or other regional nurses already receive.

We recognize we may not get everything we ask for, but if we don’t ask, we won’t ever get it!

Our bargaining tracker summarizes our proposals. The complete redline of our proposals is available here.

If your coworkers are not receiving these emails from us, please have them email news@oregonrn.org for assistance.

If you or other nurses have questions, please have them contact any member of our bargaining team or text/call our labor rep, Gary, 503-444-0690, or Aguiar@OregonRN.org