Bargaining Is Coming Up - Your Voice Counts!

Because we are in a union, we have the legal right to collectively bargain with our employer over our wages, benefits and working conditions. Unlike nurses at hospitals where they don’t belong to a union, we don’t have to negotiate as individuals against a company with more than $3 billion in assets like Legacy Health. When we negotiate, nurses at Silverton collectively raise our voices to advocate for improvements for nurses and our patients.

We will be going into bargaining soon for our next contract. As the first stage in this process, we need to hear from you about what your needs and priorities are. The things we advocate for at the bargaining table will be those things that nurses across the hospital hold as priorities. Those might look like improvements to wages, benefits, staffing levels, the low census procedure or something else.

We need to hear from you to determine what the priorities of our union will be and what we should be advocating for at the bargaining table.

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO FILL OUT OUR PRE-BARGAINING SURVEY:

WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/SIL-PREBARGAINSURVEY

Wildfire Relief

There are several options available for nurses who have experienced an income loss due to the wildfires across Oregon. The statewide Oregon Nurses Association has implemented programs to offer dues relief for members who experienced a loss of hours due to the wildfires.

There is also an emergency grant program intended to cover expenses associated with wildfire evacuations. Members who have been evacuated for 48 hours or more are eligible for grants of up to $500 to help support your and your family.

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If you are experiencing financial hardships due to this disaster, know that your union is here for you. Please contact us MemberServices@OregonRN.org to apply for the new emergency dues relief program or emergency grants program.

Additionally, nurses who were evacuated for more than 48 hours and were in a Level 3 Evacuation Zone are eligible for three days of additional bereavement leave through Legacy. Nurses can also apply to the Helping Hands fund for assistance. Check your Legacy emails for more details.

Finally, we contacted Karen Brady to request that Legacy commit to ensuring that any nurse who was unable to work due to the hospital being closed would not lose income as a result. This is a standard that both Providence Health System and Kaiser Permanente have agreed to for their facilities. Unfortunately, we were recently told that Legacy is not willing to commit to providing the same standard. We are going to continue to advocate for fairness in this issue.

Pandemic or Unemployment Assistance

Lost Hours?
If you’re being low censused you may qualify for either benefit.

Unemployment Benefits
If you are losing hours and worked at least 500 hours last year OR earned more than $1,000 last year and worked throughout the year, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits.

For most nurses, if you were paid less than $648 in a week, you’re likely eligible. Note: Unemployment is not a substitute for paid leave. If you used paid leave to fill in for hours you would normally be working, unemployment benefits will not cover those hours.

Benefits range from $151/week to $648/week per person. Individuals are eligible to receive 1.25 percent of your yearly earnings per week.

How Do I Apply?
Apply for unemployment benefits click here, or go to: https://bit.ly/Online-Claim-System.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
Even if you don’t qualify for regular unemployment benefits, people out of work due to COVID-19 are eligible for pandemic assistance.

Assistance ranges from $205/week to $648/week. You can receive 1.25 percent of your yearly earnings per week.

How Do I Apply? Apply for pandemic unemployment assistance click here, or go to:
https://govstatus.egov.com/PUA

Please note that this is not legal advice. This summary is based on our understanding of Employment Department rules. If you have a legal question, you should speak with an attorney. ONA members receive a free half-hour consultation with a local law firm as a member benefit.
Contact information is available at the ONA website, www.oregonrn.org/485.