New Medical/Surgical Unit on the Horizon

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) was approached by the Sky Lakes Medical Center (SKY) management to relay their need to dissolve the Medical and the Post-Surgical Services (PSS) units to create a new Med/Surgical unit. The hospital stated ongoing financial losses related to low census in PSS, even prior to the COVID-19 crisis. The COVID-19 house-wide low census has further exacerbated the financial problem.

The issue was brought up at the recent staffing committee meeting. Staffing committee members from Medical (Megan Romero and Steph Drake) and PSS (Shannon Galpin and Cyntia Pope) have been making rounds with their colleagues to hear from them. They have also been meeting with ONA and management to work out a plan that adheres to the contract and addresses issue of concern from both units.

Hard dates have not been set, but the union is strongly encouraging the hospital to make a plan so that nurses can have the information they need to make decisions that have huge impacts on the lives of themselves and their families.

Med/Surg Virtual Townhall via Zoom

ONA will be hosting a Virtual Townhall via Zoom on Tuesday, May 26 from 7 to 8 p.m. We will give an overview of what we know so far and hear concerns and comments. In the meantime, reach out to your executive team and your staffing committee members to discuss.

If you have a question or concern for the Townhall, but would like to remain anonymous, please email Liz Weltin weltin@oregonrn.org.

For security reasons, we request you register in advance for this meeting: https://aft.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIlcuqrrDMoGtWkkjVkAB740znFiuMDk-zQ

Mega Raffle Winners!

Here are the winners of the mega raffle! Email ciaobabykris@hotmail.com to arrange getting your raffle item.
You can also see a recording of the Facebook Live event at: www.facebook.com/groups/120584101925372.
If you aren’t in the Facebook group, just answer a few short questions and you will be added.

March Raffle Results
Coffee winners:
Katie Dearing – Post Surgical
Michelle Blair – PSS
Green straw cup winners:
Brittany Fergusen – FBC

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In a much-needed break from COVID-19 issues, the Sky Lakes BU pulled off a great showing of support of one another! Cake, thank you notes, selfies of gratitude and appreciation and a fun raffle, all in the spirit of celebrating the dedication and hard work of our nurses! Sky Lakes Nurses you make us, proud! Thank you!

Mega Raffle Winners! (continued from page 1)

Marcy Majors – PACU

Hand sanitizer winners:
Ashley Hansen – Day Surgery/PACU (lavender)
Kaitlyn Altenbach – PSS (lemon)
Diann Kerr – PACU (rainwater)
Carrie DeGutis – PSS (rainwater)

Bee mug winner:

Angela Kohler-Edwards – PACU

Nurses Week Raffle Results

T-shirt winners:
Tracy O’Dea – FBC
Cynthia Pope – PSS
Joanna Kepa – PSS
Mat Sikes – Flex
Maggie Simmons – Flex

Claire Jambalos – Resource
Tawn Coleman – PSS
Ashley Cooper – FBC
Lila Backer – ER
Carrie DeGutis – PSS
Teresa Brunick – FBC
Erin Snodgrass – FBC/IV Therapy
Nicole Zurbrugg – FBC

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Mega Raffle Winners! (continued from page 2)

David Malm – Flex
Jamie O’Connor – ICU
Kent Druckenmiller – ER
Brittany Fergusen – FBC

Restaurant Gift Certificate Raffle Winners

Los Potrillos:
Cristy Sheckels – ICU
Bobijo Wheelock – FBC
Lauren Roberts – Infusion
Kirsten Balin – Medical

Thai Orchid:
Ashley Hansen – PACU
Megan Romero – Medical
Melissa Schott – PACU
Kayla Johnson – PCU

Chicken Shack:
Brittany Kirk – ER
Ashleigh Connor – Edu

ONA COVID-19 Resource Center

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ONA is dedicated to keeping nurses and our communities safe. One key aspect of this work is providing up-to-date information and guidelines related to COVID-19.

Reopening Elective Surgeries

ONA has published a position statement regarding Oregon’s plan to reopen elective surgeries, along with a document that outlines the common questions to help guide nurses through the reopen process.

These documents and other practice guidelines can be found at www.oregonrn.org/covid-guidelines.

Declining an Unsafe Assignment

ONA has issued guidance to our members on declining unsafe assignments for COVID-19 patients when lack of PPE, safe staffing levels, or breakdown of triage protocols put your health at risk.

Share Your COVID-19 Stories

We invite everyone to share your stories about how COVID-19 has impacted your practice, your workplace and your life. Your stories will help educate officials, elected leaders, the media, and the general public about what is really happening in our health care system.

Share your stories today to help in the advocacy efforts as we push for safer conditions for nurses, health care workers and patients!

To learn more about all of these issues and to stay up to date on the work being done and to take the COVID-19 Workplace survey, visit:

www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus

ONA Text Updates

Be the First to Know with ONA Text Updates

Don’t miss critical information about Sky Lakes meetings, bargaining updates and local and statewide events or other important ONA news.

To receive ONA texts:

Text ONASKY to 43506

You can opt-out at any time by texting STOP to 43506. Frequency varies by user/month. Msg & data rates may apply.

Before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic, ONA is here for Oregon nurses.

We have fought for emergency temporary COVID-19 contract protections for health care workers across Oregon, and collectively bargained them in 75% of ONA represented facilities so far.

We have developed groundbreaking nursing practice guidance on the questions that matter most to our members, including guidance on how to safely decline unsafe assignments due to lack of adequate PPE, and the ongoing crisis of PPE reuse in Oregon healthcare facilities. We have taken collective action together, 15,000 nurses and health care workers united together for FDA-approved PPE, safe triage and intake protocols, paid admin leave for all nurses exposed, and the practice standards we need to safely treat our patients in a pandemic.

Now, we are acting to protect the nurses and health care workers who are in financial trouble because of COVID-19 impacts to staffing in our hospitals, clinics, and facilities. If you are experiencing financial hardship as a result of changes inside your hospital related to COVID-19, your union and professional association is here for you.

Contact us at memberservices@OregonRN.org today about how we can help if you are struggling financially because of COVID-19.