

ONA Membership Explodes! Nurses join together to support our patients and each other

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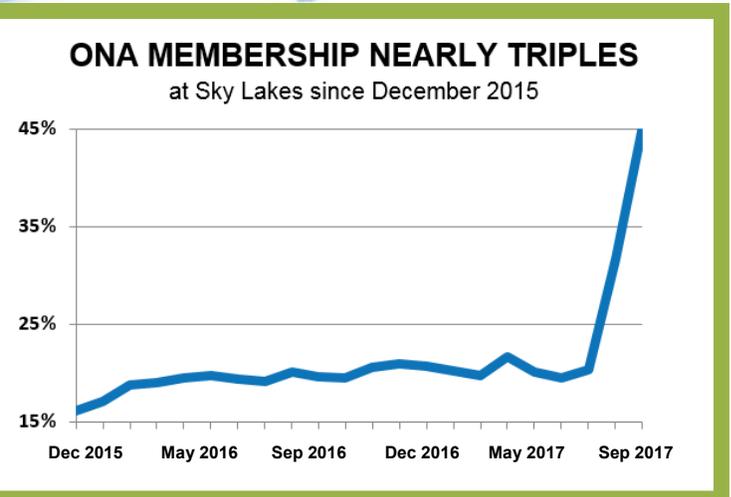
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In the last few weeks, we have continued to see a spectacular explosion in Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) membership at Sky Lakes Medical Center! By mid-September, 45 percent of our nurses at Sky Lakes have joined with us to advocate for our patients and each other. Our membership rate has nearly tripled in less than two years. In the last two months alone, more than 50 nurses have joined ONA for a total of 93 members.

These new members understand that paying their dues is an important first step in collaborating with our employer to address workplace issues. ONA nurses know that membership requires active participation. We commit to taking positive steps to support our nurse colleagues, especially our bargaining team, who will soon begin contract negotiations with the employer. Only through united action can nurses improve patient care and working conditions!

Furthermore, more than two-thirds of nurses at Sky Lakes have completed our pre-negotiation survey! Thank you for showing your support for your nurse colleagues. Early survey



The above chart shows the percent of nurses at Sky Lakes who are ONA members from December 2015 to September 2017.

results show that nurses are very concerned about:

- High patient loads.
- Lack of meals and breaks.
- Bullying by patients and supervisors.
- Large number of travelers and new grads.

Moreover, our explosive membership growth has encouraged nurses in departments formerly underrepresented in our professional association to join ONA. In particular, we have many new members in the infusion clinic, family birth center, and progressive care. Nurses in these units where ONA membership was low have joined with other nurses to broaden and strengthen our

ONA Members by Department	
Department	% ONA members
"RN1" (new grads)	82%
Post-surgery	76%
Intensive care unit	65%
Surgery	62%
Ambulatory care	50%
Flex	42%
Medical	40%
Day surgery	38%
Emergency	33%
Oncology	29%
Cath lab	25%
Family birthing ctr.	25%
Progressive care	25%
Infusion clinic	20%
Home health	0%

voices. We welcome these new members who understand that "an injury to

“I am an ONA member because...”

Long-time and new ONA members at Sky Lakes speak out!

“I joined ONA because it was the right thing to do. When I started working at the hospital in Klamath Falls, the nurses were trying to get representation by the ONA. I wanted to join ranks with those nurses so that we would have a bigger voice when dealing with the administration. I've never regretted it!”

**Cristy Sheckels, RN, ICU—
ONA member since 1990**

“I joined ONA to make a difference at Sky Lakes with better quality of work for nurses and safe conditions for patients. I know that as more nurses in Klamath Falls join, our collective voice will be heard at contract negotiations.”



**Maria Pappas, RN, flex—
ONA member since 2017**



“It's my duty to support my profession with an ability to advocate for my patients and my peers.”

**Monica Meier, RN, ICU—
ONA member since 2009**

“I joined ONA to become part of a nursing tribe that creates a culture of empowerment. Nurses advocating for nurses so in turn we can advocate for the patients we care for.”



Rose Keppinger, RN, medical—ONA member since 2016

“I am an ONA member, because I want my voice to be heard! I want to share my passion for nursing while advocating for nurse/patient safety, and I want to be a voice in ensuring the quality of the future of my profession!”



**Hannah Brollier, RN,
ambulatory care—ONA
member since 2016**

“I joined ONA because when nurses join together we can effectively advocate for our patients. Also, our local leaders have a new energy and excitement that inspired me to get active!”

**Tessa McConnell, RN,
progressive care—
ONA member since 2017**

“I joined ONA because we promote respect and fairness in the workplace.”

Brent Powers, RN, progressive care—ONA member since 2014