News from Our Executive Committee

As many of you know, Sky Lakes Medical Center (SLMC) administration is planning to implement an accelerated wage increase to our current COLA scale in our contract. (See last week's e-blast or our Facebook post for more information.) Your ONA executive committee has heard from many of you, and it has been nearly unanimous that the nurses of SLMC feel insulted by this low percentage offer. In preparation, we have been researching this matter and found a provision in our contract that gives management the right to pay us more than our contract states. Legally and contractually, we cannot negotiate this rate.

So, what does this mean? While we cannot legally or contractually refuse their offer, it does not mean this is a loss. We are still looking into options to make it clear to administration that the SLMC RNs are not just rolling over. Your executive committee met with administration on Friday afternoon and made YOUR voices known. The executive committee expects to hear back from the employer on Wednesday.

The unity the SLMC bargaining unit is showing is encouraging and empowering, and THAT is a win. The nurses of SLMC are the heartbeat of the hospital. Your collaboration among the various departments to advocate for the safe and excellent patient care of Klamath County is vital. Our contract reopens for negotiations next year, but now is the time to advocate for ourselves. This takes planning, strategy and most importantly, unity. We will spend this time showing administration that we are organized, we have strength, and we have power.

We still need to hear from you. Ten of your fellow nurses have volunteered to be advocates and you can expect to hear from them over the next couple of weeks.

You are truly inspiring. Let us now build on what we have and show SLMC administration our unity.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please reach out to us or Gary.

In unity,

Megan Romero, RN-Chair

Kristin Tyson, RN-Secretary
Monica Meier, RN-PNCC chair
Zee Gabriel, RN-Membership Chair
Gary Aguiar- ONA Labor Rep