What’s Going On With Our Pension Plan?

Last week, we were notified by mail that OHSU Hillsboro would be eliminating our noncontributory pension plan. We were immediately concerned as our contract stipulates that a noncontributory plan will be provided. Article 9, Section A states:

“Hospital will provide a noncontributory pension plan in which nurses may participate in accordance with its terms.”

On Jan. 27, we met with administration regarding this concern. We learned that the board had made this decision last summer! Yet they never notified us until six months later.

They could have addressed this during ongoing negotiations last year, as they would have had indications that they were losing revenue prior to the fiscal year ending in June.

This unilateral decision will freeze and intentionally cripple the plan for all current staff nurses in its entirety. This was done without your consent.

In addition, they will not allow participants (new nurses) to be added. This course of action essentially stops your pension’s main source of growth, the money that the OHSU Hillsboro promised would go in via our labor agreement.

Interest would still be earned, but the current formula of adding 2.5-5 percent of your yearly income would completely vanish going forward. That’s a loss of thousands of dollars to everyone that works more than 1000 hours each year.

What’s going to happen?

This is a clear and major contract violation. People are planning on this promised money in regard for their retirement.

We ran this issue by our legal counsel, and they agreed that a grievance is the best course of action. We will be filing soon.

Since the next time a scheduled deposit would be made is not until December 2021, we have plenty of time to resolve the issue prior. We expressed this to management in the meeting.

Stay tuned for next steps. Working together collectively is what will make us successful!

Participants in the January 27 Meeting:

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<tr>
<th>ONA</th>
<th>OHSU Hillsboro</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair Chris Peterson, RN</td>
<td>President &amp; CEO Lori James-Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievance Chair Jayesh Palsikar, RN</td>
<td>Vice President of HR Kelley Frengle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber Cooper, Interim ONA Labor Rep.</td>
<td>Attorney Andy Lukes</td>
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We Have A New Labor Representative!

Our new labor representative is Jocelyn Pitman. Jocelyn has been working at ONA for 4 ½ years, most recently in the Providence system.

She has experience as lead negotiator for eight contracts, settled multiple grievances and has organized successful nurse actions. She has 14 years of experience working in the labor movement.

“I have had the chance to meet two of your officers this week, Chris Peterson and Jayesh Palsikar. I am impressed with the knowledge and passion these two possess! I look forward to meeting the rest of our officers and members. Together we can make OHSU Hillsboro a great place to work.”

Jocelyn has been a Portland resident for 20 years. She is originally from the Bay Area, where the union movement is strong. She is married with an 8-year-old and two stepchildren in college. She has become a Portland stereotype during the pandemic by acquiring three chickens named Blanche, Dorothy and Rose. In addition, she also has a pandemic puppy named Leo.

Virtual Nurse Lobby Week Feb. 22-26, 2021

We Always Show Up!

Join hundreds of nurses and nursing students for Virtual Nurse Lobby Week, Feb. 22-26.

This is your opportunity to change Oregon’s health policies, improve nurse staffing, raise patient care standards and more by meeting with legislators to advocate for innovative health care solutions. Share your experiences and stories with legislators to help shape health policy for years to come!

This year, you will have multiple opportunities to advocate for your profession and patients, including:

- Virtual Legislative Meetings
- Video Testimonials
- Online Letter Submission

Learn more and register for Nurse Lobby Week and Membership Meetings at:

www.OregonRN.org

Legislative Priorities

- Hospital Nurse Staffing: Emergency Planning & Funding OHA for Effective Oversight
- Telehealth Reimbursement
- Workers Comp and COVID-19
- Public Health Modernization
- Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis
- Progress Toward Universal Health Care

Leg. Agenda Membership Meetings

Get your first updates on legislative hearings and priorities this legislative session.

- Monday, Feb. 1, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 3, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 5, 6-7:30 p.m.