A Successful Day of Action Leads to Management Moving on our Union Rights

Our bargaining team wants to begin this update by applauding all the nurses, SEIU members, and community/political allies who showed their support and solidarity by attending the Wednesday, April 7 ONA-SEIU Day of Action!

Nurses continuing to show up is what gives our bargaining team the power to win a strong contract for us and our patients.

Today, our bargaining team met briefly with management to provide counterproposals.

For the short time frame, it was productive, and we made progress on one of our important proposals.

Association Rights

Today, our bargaining team and management came to a tentative agreement on Article 2 – Association Rights.

Nurses participating in our ONA SEIU Day of Action made this happen!

Management has agreed to our right to access our union staff, hold quarterly meetings inside our hospital, and allow our union access to newly hired staff during their orientation.

Definitions

Our bargaining team made a counterproposal on definitions, especially as it pertained to new hire RNs getting positions once they’ve passed orientation and residency.

There has yet to be a response from management to our counterproposal.
“Legacy’s administrators continue to fail patients, nurses, caregivers and our community,” said Sarah Mittelman, an ONA nurse and bargaining unit chair at Legacy’s Unity Center. “Oregon has one of the highest rates of mental health disorders in the nation and COVID-19 has only made it worse. Our community needs Unity to succeed. The only way to do that is for Legacy to start listening to and investing in the frontline staff who care for patients in need. We need Legacy to step up and prove they care about the people who care for our community.

“As nurses and health care workers — we are the frontlines. Our community needs our voices advocating for them and Legacy needs to hear and respect our voices. Legacy needs to remember: The frontline is more important than the bottom line. Taking care of our community means listening to and investing in the frontline nurses and staff who care for our patients and make our community hospitals healthy and safe,” said ONA President Lynda Pond, RN during a day of action speech.

“I work double shifts to make ends meet. I worked doubles three days straight, and I’m tired. I’ve had to get financial assistance to get bills paid. But I canceled an appointment today to come out to this picket because I need better wages and healthcare,” said Reyna, Call Center, Legacy Emanuel.

“Shouldn’t Legacy Health do everything that they can to help stop the spread of the COVID virus? When the caregivers and nurses on the frontline aren’t protected with paid time off, living wages, and appropriate staffing levels, then our community is also put at risk,” says Sunita Patel, Housekeeper, Legacy Emanuel. “Dealing with this pandemic has left us exhausted, traumatized and burned out. Management needs to value the critical work we do and settle our contracts so we can focus on the quality patient care and community health and safety we strive to provide.”