Welcome New Executive Committee

After winning our union and first contract, the next big step was electing our first ONA/Unity Executive Committee. Here are our new elected leaders!

- **Chair**: Sarah Mittelman
- **Vice-Chair**: Haley Choi
- **Secretary/Treasurer**: Jeff Ferrier
- **Membership Chair**: Tracie Henry
- **Grievance Chair**: Karl Rusterholtz
- **Staffing Chair**: Sherrie Neff

They had their inaugural meeting as our new Executive Committee on Wednesday, Oct. 27 and discussed a number of important issues. One critical piece was to pledge not to cross the picket line at any Kaiser facility at which our OFNHP colleagues are striking.

Strike Pledge

This is the full text of the pledge they endorsed:

“OFNHP members have overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike at Kaiser Permanente facilities in Oregon. This strike authorization is a direct result of hospital management refusing to negotiate in good faith around patient safety and staffing issues. The primary issues relate to lack of adequate staffing, which has reached crisis levels at Kaiser and in other healthcare settings. Instead of presenting proposals to solve the staffing crisis, Kaiser executives have offered low wages and a “two-tiered” system that would mean new workers would make much less than their colleagues. This would accelerate the ongoing staffing crisis, ensuring dangerous conditions in hospitals and clinics around Oregon.

As a nurse in Oregon, you may be approached by agency recruiters to work on a temporary basis at one of these facilities or, if you currently work per diem at any of these facilities, you may be asked to pick up shifts during the strike.

We strongly urge all nurses in Oregon to not cross the picket line or work in any capacity at any of the striking facilities.

Oregon Nurses Association members fight for safe patient care and any strong contract for healthcare workers is our fight, too. We want to ensure that OFNHP gets the strongest contract possible so we can leverage their success in our future negotiations. Everyone in our state must have access to safe, quality care.

Please stand in solidarity with our fellow union nurses and commit to not crossing any picket lines!
Join The Mutual Aid Committee to Support Our Fellow Kaiser Nurses!

By this point, we have all seen stories in the news about a huge wave of strikes as unions across the country take action to protect workers and advance a range of union priorities. From the ten thousand John Deere workers on strike to more than fourteen hundred Kellogg workers, unions across the country, representing workers from all kinds of industries, are rising up to demand better working conditions, better salaries, more respect and (for nurses) a greater focus on safe staffing.

Here in Oregon, 3,400 of our union siblings from the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) have voted to authorize a strike at Kaiser Permanente. Like ONA’s nurses, they are deeply concerned about safe staffing, low wages, patient safety and the hospital’s lack of respect for the frontline healthcare workers who have been risking their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their fight is our fight and ONA staff are working closely with OFNHP to make sure we are there to provide whatever support they need should they move to a strike. One of the requests we have received from OFNHP leadership is for ONA bargaining units across the state to create "Mutual Aid Committees," or MACs. (Sometimes MACs are called Welfare Committees or Strike Committees).

MACs are exactly what they sound like: a committee that helps support workers who are in need. These committees are particularly important during a strike when nurses struggle with lost wages, pressures on their time from picketing, MACs can help in a variety of ways including raising funds to donate to OFNHP’s strike fund (which helps cover lost wages, for example), volunteering to run errands (grocery shopping, for example), home help (housework, dog walking, lawn care), childcare, making food, handing out flyers, emotional support and generally offering to help in whatever way has been requested.

ONA believes that, should OFNHP move to a strike, it will be important for our Portland-area bargaining units to offer local support (like running errands, walking dogs, helping with childcare, etc) alongside donations to the strike fund, while BUs from outside of Portland can be most helpful by providing financial assistance and public support for the nurses out on strike.

ONA has asked every BU in the state to consider creating a MAC. If you are interested in supporting our OFNHP colleagues if they go out on strike, please reach out to your Labor Rep who can help you create a MAC and put you in touch with other ONA members who want to help.

Don’t Miss Important ONA Emails

Make sure you receive timely communications, and have the most up-to-date information on your contract, bargaining issues, upcoming votes, nursing research, practice issues and workplace policies. If you are not receiving ONA emails, we can help.

You can fix most problems by simply emailing ONA at News@OregonRN.org with your name, personal email address, name of your employer, and state you want to be added to ONA’s email list.

Fixing Problems to Receive ONA Emails

1. Check your junk/spam/clutter folder for ONA emails: Flag ONA emails as “not junk/spam” and add News@OregonRN.org to your safe sender list.

2. Email ONA: To fix most causes of not receiving emails, simply email ONA at News@OregonRN.org, and include your name, personal email and facility you work at in the body of the email.

Common Reasons for Not Receiving ONA Emails

1. Spam/Junk Filters: Emails from ONA are being flagged as junk or spam by your email service provider.

2. No Email: ONA doesn’t have your email on file.

3. Bad Email: ONA has an incorrect or outdated email on file.

4. Opted Out: You have opted out of receiving emails.

5. Work Email Filters: Some health care systems filter out ONA emails so nurses don’t receive ONA-related emails. This is why we encourage nurses to use their personal email addresses instead of work emails.