



Oregon Nurses Association
Bargaining Unit Newsletter

Washington County (WAC) Nursing News

Nov. 2, 2016

ONA / WAC

Executive Committee:

Chair: Kathleen Souhrada

**ONA Labor Relations
Representative**



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Mid-Term Vote on Medical Benefits

Oct. 26 and 27, the majority of the Washington County (WAC) nurses gathered for lunch with the purpose of voting on the mid-term contract proposal change on medical benefits.

This change was spurred by a new Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) ruling that states an employer cannot require participation in wellness activities in order to qualify for a certain medical plan. [Click here](#) to see the final rules.

The changes did include a slight increase in the employee's contribution rate however there was a new option of an employer paid benefit: the Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA) which is a health reimbursement arrangement. The employer agreed to

pay \$125 per month for those who do not wish to participate in the medical insurance plans. This tax sheltered plan allows nurses to use this money towards health care deductibles, co-pays and other medical expenses. Many of you are excited about this new benefit!



We had a great turn out for the vote -13 out of 15 full dues paying members voted and the results are a unanimous YES! Administration was

immediately notified. Jodi Wilson, Benefits/ HRIS supervisor, let us know that open enrollment will be available to all of county staff the week of Nov. 21.

*Please join me in thanking chair **Kathy Souhrada** and member **Ivette Torres** for helping organize these meetings.*

What do You Want to See in Your Contract?

Nov. 30, we will be gathering for a union meeting to start our preparations for 2017 bargaining. Please take the time to look through your contract to see what you would like to have changed. Come to the meeting prepared to discuss your ideas. Our contract expires June 30, 2017. In order to have a strong contract, it's critical to prepare several months in advance.

**Nov. 30, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Hillsboro in room 225**

There will be food and refreshments. See you there!

New ONA Labor Relations Representative



Jocelyn Pitman, BS, joined ONA in 2016. Prior to coming to ONA, she worked at OFNHP, representing and organizing a variety of health care professionals, predominately RNs at Kaiser Permanente. She has over 12 years of community and union organizing ranging from accretion bargaining, wage and benefit bargaining, steward training, managing campaigns, handling complex disability cases, advanced grievance handling, arbitration preparation, and a variety of discipline cases. She received a Cesar Chavez Human Rights award for a successfully run workplace bullying campaign in 2010. She graduated from Portland State with a BS in Social Science. She has worked in health care in California, which is where she was raised. She has been a Portland resident since 2001. In her spare time she enjoys reading suspense novels, running and spending time with her family.

Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is proud to endorse [Measure 97](#) this November – the ballot measure that would hold some of the largest corporations accountable to working Oregonians. Measure 97 asks some of Oregon’s largest companies – including the likes of Comcast, Wal-mart and Monsanto -- to invest in Oregon’s communities by changing the tax code to ensure that C-corporations with over \$25 million in in-state sales pay their fair share in corporate taxes.

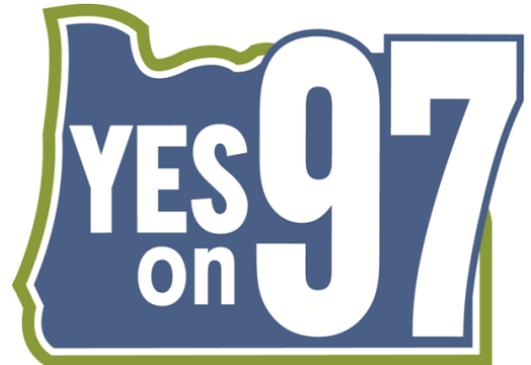
By law, the estimated \$6 billion in revenue Measure 97 would generate would be allocated to public education, senior services and health care. Part of this funding will help fill the anticipated gap in Medicaid funding to keep thousands of Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan, extend care to uninsured children across the state, and help provide Oregonians with health services like school nurses

and basic public health programs.

In advocating for our patients, nurses understand that Oregon

schools should be fully funded, all seniors should have services to stay safe and independent, and everyone should have access to quality, affordable health care. But none of that can happen when Oregon has the lowest corporate tax rate in the country.

To learn more and get involved in the Yes on 97 campaign, contact ONA’s political organizer Chris at Hewitt@oregonrn.org or by calling 503-293-0011.



SAVE THE DATE: 2017 ONA NURSE LOBBY DAY

ONA invites you to join nurses and nursing students from around Oregon to lobby on important nursing and health policy issues and meet with your legislators.

Hundreds of nurses will rally at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017** to advocate for our patients and advance Oregon nurses’ practice. It’s vital that we have nurses represented in the key decisions that are made about our priorities and key bills that will come up in the 2017 session. Early registration for ONA members is now open.

Visit
www.OregonRN.org
 for more
 information and
 registration.