Bargaining Begins!

On June 17 and 18 our bargaining team sat down with management via zoom to begin making headway on our new contract. Our team proposed 24 articles related to working conditions covering everything from orientation and probationary period to safe staffing and patient advocacy.

We also discussed our ground rules, including where we would be holding the negotiations and the recent issue of nurses being left out of incident command meetings (formally agreed to in our Memorandum of Understanding).

Management has made it clear that they will not be paying our nurse bargaining team for our time in negotiations because they do not have the funding, however they have also made it clear that they do not want to use the classrooms available at the hospital for negotiations, and instead would like to pay for rooms off campus.

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During the course of the two-day bargaining session, management responded to three of our proposals and offered a fourth for us to respond to.

The proposals management responded to were regarding the recognition clause article (who is covered by our union), the non-discrimination article and the probationary period and orientation article.

The one article management offered for us to respond to was regarding management rights and, if we were to agree, effectively would make our future contract null and void.

Our team is working on getting responses back to management regarding the three proposals they gave us and looking forward to seeing more counter proposals regarding our other 21 articles we gave them this week.

We will be meeting again July 7 and 8 and we are hoping that we can meet face to face and at our hospital.

New Tool for Safe Staffing

In light of the continued unsafe staffing, specifically in Med/Surg, ED, and OB, we are starting to utilize an ONA staffing documentation tool to aid in our continued fight to protect our patients.

This tool, the staffing request and documentation form (SRDF), is designed to capture data on what the staffing looked like during a shift and what it should have looked like. Once filled out, the form should be forwarded to your floor manager.

The more forms they get, the more pressure to have safer staffing in the future.

The forms are automatically sent to ONA to be recorded, and there is the potential for the data gathered from SRDFs to assist in complaints to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The form and more information about the process can be found at: [www.OregonRN.org/SRDF](http://www.OregonRN.org/SRDF).

Please fill out an SRDF with your colleagues on shift next time you have unsafe staffing, whether or not the issues are addressed on the shift.

ONA UPDATES ON COVID-19

As more cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are reported and confirmed, ONA will continue working relentlessly to do the work needed to keep nurses and our communities safe.

Visit [www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus](http://www.OregonRN.org/coronavirus) for resources and to learn more.