Management Asserts They Can Force Any RN To Be a Charge Nurse

Last week our bargaining team met with Willamette Valley Medical Center (WVMC) management to continue our negotiations and work towards a fair contract. Over the course of the two-day session, we gave counter proposals on five articles regarding professional development, leaves of absences, transitional work programs, job postings and weekend scheduling. WVMC management gave us partial proposals surrounding floating, low census, employment status, nurse practice council, payroll period, work day definitions, mandatory meetings, job postings and relief charge nurses.

Discussion was fruitful and continues to help our team understand where WVMC management is coming from. However, we are beginning to be frustrated when WVMC management refuses to come to agreement on the easiest of topics. Many of our proposals reflect current policies written by LifePoint and WVMC management won’t agree to their own policies! The most absurd position from WVMC management was that they had the right to force any nurse to be a Charge Nurse.

We are happy to report our extension of the COVID-19 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 60 days from Aug. 4, 2020. This extends access to special use paid time off (PTO) for COVID-related absence/illness. Click here for a full copy of our MOU.

Next bargaining sessions are scheduled to happen via Zoom on Sept. 1 and 2. Please wear your ONA green t-shirts on those days to show solidarity with our bargaining team! We are also inviting any nurse to join us on Zoom for a half or full day during our sessions. If you are interested in joining please email our team at WVMCona@gmail.com.

T-Shirt Days!

In order to show solidarity with our bargaining team, we are wearing our ONA green T-shirts on Sept. 1 and 2 while our bargaining team is hard at work! If you still need a t-shirt, email us at WVMCona@gmail.com.
Quick Survey!

Please help our bargaining team by completing this quick bargaining survey (less than five minutes)! This survey is to get our bargaining team more informed about all of our needs and help them best represent us in bargaining. Click here or take a picture of the QR Code to the right with your cell phone to complete the survey.

Support Yamhill County Workers!

On July 29, 2020, Yamhill County announced that on Sept. 1, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) members in Yamhill County are expected to pay $170 per month for health insurance, that is an increase from $16 a month. Click here to sign now to tell Yamhill County implementing over a 960% increase to employee contributions for health insurance, during both a pandemic and an economic recession, is unconscionable and wrong!

Stewards Training August 24!

Now that we are a union, we have a right to have representation in any meeting that could result in discipline or corrective action. Our goal is to have as many trained Steward nurses to sit in on these meetings, first training is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 24 at 4:30 p.m. Please email us at WVMCona@gmail.com if you are interested in the Stewards training.

Completing the Staffing Request & Documentation Form (SRDF)

WHY FILL OUT THE SRDF?
The Oregon Hospital Nurse Staffing Law defines “safe patient care” as “…nursing care that is provided appropriately, in a timely manner, and meets the patient’s health care needs.” Inappropriate nurse staffing can lead to patient care needs not being met. The information gathered in SRDFs allows ONA to track staffing data and provide information to hospital wide staffing committees. It also provides valuable information to labor representatives about how specific units are staffed, and can be used to assist with OHA complaints.

HOW TO FILL OUT THE SRDF
If you work a shift with insufficient nurse staffing, you should complete the following steps:

1. Notify someone in the chain of command;
2. Ask for additional staff;
3. Ask for a response in a reasonable period of time, (e.g., minutes, hours) and;
4. Complete the SRDF as detailed below.

The nurse should complete the SRDF at the end of the shift or within 48 hours. The SRDF can be found online at OregonRN.org/SRDF. A PDF copy is automatically emailed to the nurse and to ONA, and it is the nurse’s responsibility to forward a copy of the completed form to the nurse manager, PNCC chair, and staffing co-chair. The SRDF should be completed even if the problem is corrected quickly. Questions about the SRDF process? Email SRDF@OregonRN.org