This week’s negotiations produced further successes towards an agreement. We addressed key issues like job postings, and we reached a new Memorandum of Agreement regarding COVID-19 that renews the eighty hours of time off available for nurses who must quarantine pay. This ensures if you have already utilized the 80-hour bank, your bank will return to the full 80-hour allotment of time off with pay.

Additionally, a nurse who has a licensed independent practitioner diagnoses of COVID-19, regardless of test results, will be entitled to utilize these benefits. The hospital will continue to seek volunteers for assignment to COVID-19 patients and we continue to ensure that a traveler will not displace a bargaining unit nurse in another department.

Thanks to Kirsten Ferren who listened to our concerns and supported our efforts to successfully addressed some of our key issues.

We will be addressing economic issues right after the New Year and we continue to look towards an agreement.

Our bargaining unit chair met with the WVMC CEO for the first time. Unfortunately, we are frustrated that the new CEO, Lori Bergen appears to be ill-informed about the myriad of problems that exist within the hospital.

Issues like lack of security in areas such as the ER have led to several assaults and a rash of resignations among nursing staff. Lower staffing levels compromise the quality of care nurses believe they should be able to provide their patients.

We hope meetings with your union officers enlighten her to the problems that exist in many units.

Stay strong everyone!

ONA Bargaining Team
JOIN THE CAT!

CALLING ALL NURSES IN ICU AND SBHU!

We need a representative to join our Contract Action Team (CAT). The CAT nurse makes sure that their department is informed about what is happening at the bargaining table and engaged in the bargaining process. It’s important we have a CAT member in each department and ICU and SBHU are currently without one.

Email Arenas@OregonRN.org to learn more.

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 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