This week we received our first wage proposal from management. In principle we have reached agreement on the concept of a wage scale that provides you with step increases for years of experience. Although there was some progress, the proposal made by management would still leave us well short of the average in comparable area hospitals.

For instance, a nurse with two years of experience at WVMC would be paid $37.74 while a comparable nurse at Providence Newberg would receive a pay rate of $44.04. Similarly, a nurse at the six-year rate at WVMC would earn $40.85 while the same nurse at Good Samaritan Regional in Corvallis would earn $47.13.

The hospital appears to ignore the 35 percent turnover rate at WVMC, not to mention the difficulty recruiting nurses. This coupled with our poor working conditions is a petri dish that breeds continued trouble.

We want WVMC to be the hospital of choice for patients but also for nurses. Yet, our concerns over safety and the numerous assaults on nurses in the Emergency Room have fallen on deaf ears. We proposed increased security to protect us and our patients. The hospital’s answer was to assure us that these concerns are being studied by the safety committee! This is simply not acceptable to your bargaining team.

The hospital has said it is committed to working with nurses and developing a nurse practice committee to address the significant workplace issues that exist at WVMC.

For instance, we understand that patient falls are up. Their answer to our proposal is to agree to create a nurse practice committee that meets once every three months for one hour. Four hours a year set aside to resolve all our problems!

Is it any surprise that the committee structures at the hospital have been a complete failure? These problems rest at the top levels of administration who apparently has decided that their first priority is their stockholders.

We believe that we can make WVMC a better place and we continue to be committed to a contract that meets the interest of our nurses. In our next newsletter we will provide you with further information on your health insurance plan.

Thank you to the nurses who joined us in negotiations this week, please consider joining us at our next session on March 18.
Support Your Bargaining Team, Pledge Your Membership

When we stand together, we have power. Join your bargaining team by pledging membership to ONA. The higher our membership, the more united we show we are. Ask your unit CAT or bargaining team about why this is important. Click here, use the QR code or go to: http://bit.ly/WVMC-PLEDGE

Parking Lot Meetings

Join us in the parking lot before/after shift on Monday, March 22!

We will have sustenance and give an update about how bargaining is going and how you can get involved!

We will be there from 6 – 8 a.m. and 6 – 8 p.m.

ONA Virtual BULC, June 25

Join your colleagues from across the state to develop your skills and learn about Bargaining for the Common Good.

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 25 for the ONA Virtual Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference (BULC). This year’s conference will focus on Bargaining for the Common Good.

Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG) is a return to the roots of unionism – the basic idea of advancing shared interests. We are not just nurses, we are community members, parents, users of public transportation, and renters too! Our employers are required by law to negotiate employment contracts with us, but that only addresses one part of our lives and largely ignores the community members we live with and care for.

Come to ONA’s 2021 Bargaining Unit Leadership Conference to learn more about the BCG framework and how to achieve win-win results for ONA members and our communities on issues ranging from racial inequities to public health improvements and more.

Registration will open in early spring. Visit www.oregonrn.org/event/2021BULC for more details as they are finalized.