Talks at times became heated over some key issues but the parties remained professional and management and our union exchanged some substantive proposals addressing the grievance procedure, corrective action, and floating to name a few.

We still have much work ahead of us but with your support and engagement we will accomplish our goal of improving Willamette Valley Medical Center (WVMC) and negotiating a strong contract that supports nurses and our ability to provide safe care.

We have been able to engage in some frank and open dialogue around issues such as a Nurse Practice Council. We discussed a council that would allow nurses to address issues with their supervisor in the moment. The employer acknowledged the importance
of oversight by the council to consider best practices that links nursing care to patient outcomes and improves the quality of care.

Management seems to understand the frustrations we have at work but addressing our key issues with the Lifepoint corporate attorney has been difficult. He candidly does not appear to truly understand nurses and the work we do. No doubt this will impact the negotiations and unfortunately it reflects poorly on the management team. We will continue to work to educate him and to make sure that our voices are heard and our issues are appropriately addressed at the table.

Lastly, we scheduled a number of bargaining sessions for the remainder of the calendar year and we are meeting again on July 20 and 21. Our sessions to date have been conducted on Zoom. We anticipate a majority of the future sessions to be face-to-face meetings. We may ask some of you to join us to express your thoughts on particular issues as negotiations move along. Thank you for your continued show of support and solidarity. It makes all the difference at the bargaining table.

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.

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 for resources and to learn more.