Marching Forward

Negotiations are moving forward in earnest, and it appears there is an acknowledgement that ONA is here to stay! We have always stated to Willamette Valley Medical Center (WVMC) that we want to be an ally and contribute to a safe working environment for our colleagues and our patients, while addressing the significant recruitment and retention problems that WVMC is encountering.

We know morale is low but that should be buoyed by the fact that we have had strong interest from the community regarding our upcoming rally. We can demonstrate our solidarity while making the public aware of the deterioration of working conditions for nurses and our fear that it can jeopardize our ability to provide the care our patients deserve. Nurses are undervalued and underpaid. We know that good nurses who worked with us side by side have left because they were not fairly compensated and just this week, we had reports that a nurse candidate who was highly recruited, rejected a job offer simply because of the pay and economic package. This is what the corporatization of health care looks like when it goes unchecked. ONA gives you the ability to speak out against the poor decisions that WVMC continues to make and we are committed to negotiating a fair salary and benefit package as your partner.

We advanced a proposal today in negotiations to address the need for a Nurse Practice Council to improve communications between nurses and WVMC administration to provide you with a voice and an avenue to address practice issues of concern to you. We had a good conversation with WVMC and look forward to our next meeting.

Thank you to the nurses that continue to join the bargaining team in our negotiations. It is great having you there. We look forward to standing together with all of you at our rally and display support for the bargaining team and safe patient care.

Proposals

Your ONA bargaining team met WVMC this week. These are the proposals we received on April 14 and 15:

**TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS REACHED:**
- Per Diem Sick Leave

**WVMC management presented:**
- Association Business/Management Rights

- Holidays
- Nurse Practice Council
- Seniority

**In addition, ONA submitted the following proposals:**
- Association Business/Management Rights
- Holidays

continued on page 2
Proposals (continued from page 1)

- Nurse Practice Council
- Seniority
- Staffing Committee
- Unit Based Councils

Items also discussed:

- Issues concerning Tier System
- Meal and Rest Period Policy

Of particular note, this round of bargaining was the ONA bargaining team’s introduction of a comprehensive proposal on Nurse Practice Council, Staffing Committee and Unit Based Councils.

These proposals are of particular note because they are meant to provide a true voice in the workplace for ONA nurses. Whether it be concerns around nursing practice, staffing at the hospital which is especially timely at this moment, or councils that focus on the specific needs of particular units within WVMC.

It is our goal to push for the voices of ONA nurses to be heard in all capacities at WVMC! After all, who better to inform WVMC of how true positive change can be made at the hospital than those who are doing the work everyday and caring for patients around the clock.

On the morning of April 14, 2021, a delegation from the WVMC ONA bargaining unit delivered a 10-Day Notice of Intent to hold a rally at the hospital. Now is the time for everyone to stand behind your bargaining team and show your support on Tuesday, April 27, 6-8 pm.

Rally to support nurses at Willamette Valley Medical Center

Tuesday, April 27, 6-8 p.m.

Corner of SE Norton Lane and SE Stratus Ave
(near WVMC, 27 SE Stratus Ave, McMinnville, OR 97128)

Join us for our rally to support the nurses of Willamette Valley Medical Center as they fight to ensure fair treatment for workers, gain a local voice in hospital decision making, raise safety standards, and improve patient care!

Join the rally any time between 6-8 pm. On Tuesday, April 27 to show your support.

Family and friends are welcome to attend and show support!

Everyone who joins must wear a mask and follow appropriate social distancing guidelines.