



Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
AFT Healthcare Local 5017
www.ofnhp.org

PRO News & Updates

News and Updates for the PRO Bargaining Unit

December 2010

In the interest of keeping you up-to-date on events in our Bargaining Unit, we will be periodically sending out these update emails. There's a lot happening right now, and we want to be sure you know how our union is working together to protect and promote PROs and patient care.

LVK PA Brian Mahon Gets Revved Up about Cancer Prevention Wins Lawrence Award

Brian Mahon doesn't want you to meet his friends in Oncology. "They're a bunch of great people," he says, "but you don't want to meet them professionally."

Mahon developed the "Cancer Prevention MANUAL," a colorful, funny and simple 16-page "owner's manual" designed to look like the manual for a car. An engaging and unpretentious speaker, Mahon makes presentations to high school and college classes, health fairs, community groups, and workplace wellness sessions – all on his own time. Mahon also created the Cascade Cancer Challenge, an annual mountain-climbing event to raise awareness of cancer prevention.

In recognition of his efforts, Mahon's wife, Cathy, also a PA, and another Kaiser colleague, Dr. Albert Luh, nominated him for KP's David Lawrence Community Service Award. From 180 nominees companywide, Mahon was one of nine individuals

Save the Date!

OFNHP's after-holiday holiday party will be Friday, January 21, at Big Al's in Vancouver, 6-9pm. Start the year off right!

Be a Part of Strengthening the Union

Every day, our members manage overloaded schedules, decreased admin time, and tighter restrictions on our ability to give the best care possible. And even under those conditions, we have some of the best professionals around, giving the best care possible.

To maintain that quality,

and four groups – and the only employee from the Northwest region – to receive the award in 2009. Each winner received \$10,000 to donate to nonprofits of their choice. Mahon split his award between local hospice care and the nursing schools that trained him.

Congratulations, Brian, for winning this award and for representing the Northwest Region. But even more importantly, thank you for the work you do every day to help educate, enlighten and inform about the importance of cancer prevention.

To see the website related to the MANual, visit www.ultimatethrivingmachine.com.

"Work Creep" is a Growing Concern

Working through meal breaks, staying late, and coming in early to finish paperwork are increasingly common for members of our Professional Bargaining Unit. And although the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to compensate employees who work overtime, members of our unit are salaried – not hourly – meaning we are "exempt" from those rules.

As we've seen workload increase, we've also seen admin time decrease. What is the status of your admin time vs. patient time? Are you finding that you're spending more and more time in "off" hours trying to finish paperwork and charting? How much of your time and work are you "giving away"? We should always be looking for ways to improve efficiencies and maximize our own time – but when is enough enough?

we need to maintain a strong union that defends members' rights and advocates for our interests. Please consider becoming a Steward or working with your Steward to learn how you can best support them. We are also in need of a Bargaining Unit President and Vice President to help direct our efforts.

Working together, we can resolve problems and improve working conditions not only for ourselves but for our peers. In just 18 months, we head back to the bargaining table with Kaiser – and to be prepared, we need to know what our members need and work in unity to achieve it.

To find out more about how you can get involved, please contact OFNHP Executive Vice president Elex Tenney, (971) 340-9692 or tailwinds22@yahoo.com.

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