



A Union of Professionals

Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals

AFT Healthcare
Local 5017, AFL-CIO



July 14, 2009

From: AFT Healthcare

To: The Northwest Labor Community

Re: Recent Developments at the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP), AFT Local 5017

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

You may have heard that, last week, the American Federation of Teachers initiated a protective order and placed the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) under a temporary administratorship, after it learned that certain OFNHP officers had violated the local union's constitution.

This was a very difficult decision for the AFT. The second largest union in the AFL-CIO, with more than 3,000 locals and 1.4 million members, the AFT has had to place only four locals under administratorship in the union's 93-year history.

During this period of administratorship, OFNHP will continue to function with a full complement of staff, continue to represent its members well and enforce contracts under our guidance as temporary administrators.

Our priority right now is to prepare for upcoming negotiations at Kaiser Permanente and Providence Milwaukie Hospital. OFNHP has a strong and active membership, and we will draw on that strength and unity as we face a round of negotiations that could be the toughest fight we have seen since 1988.

During this period, OFNHP will remain engaged with our friends in labor, in the Kaiser labor-management partnership, and in the communities where our members live and work. Our goal is to make OFNHP an even stronger advocate for our members, for the labor movement, for healthcare and labor law reform, and—especially—for the patients we care for every day.

In unity,

Mark Richard, OFNHP Administrator
Gary Stevenson, OFNHP Deputy Administrator

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