

Addressing Ongoing Staffing Crisis



ONA nurses and allies hold a community-wide informational picket outside PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services Eugene offices Nov. 29. Photo Courtesy of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA)

A Civil Rights Legacy to Remember

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family's intellectual property. In addition to serving as chairman of the King Center, he was also president of the King estate. Dexter King and his siblings, who shared control of the family estate, didn't always agree on how to uphold their parents' legacy.

In one particularly bitter disagreement, the siblings ended up in court after Dexter King and his brother in 2014 sought to sell the Nobel Peace Prize their father was awarded in 1964 along with the civil rights leader's traveling Bible used by President Barack Obama for his second inauguration. Bernice King said she found the notion unthinkable.

The King siblings settled the dispute in 2016 after former President Jimmy Carter served as a mediator. The items were turned over to the brothers, but other terms of the settlement were kept confidential.

Decades earlier, Dexter King made headlines when he publicly declared that he believed James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty in 1969 to murdering his father, was innocent.

They met in 1997 at a Nashville prison amid an unsuccessful push by King family members to have Ray stand trial, hoping the case would reveal evidence of a broader conspiracy. When Ray said during their prison meeting that he wasn't the killer, Dexter King replied: "I believe you and my family believes you." But Ray never got a trial. He died from liver failure the following year.

Dexter King is survived by his wife as well as his older brother, Martin Luther King III; his younger sister, the Rev. Bernice A. King; and a teenage niece, Yolanda Renee King. Coretta Scott King died in 2006, followed by the Kings' oldest child, Yolanda Denise King, in 2007.

"Words cannot express the heart break I feel from losing another sibling," Bernice King said in a statement. Martin Luther King III said: "The sudden shock is devastating. It is hard to have the right words at a moment like this. We ask for your prayers at this time for the entire King family." A memorial service will be announced later, the King Center said. The family planned a news conference Tuesday in Atlanta.

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patients and their families transition into the final stages of life.

Despite their essential work, PeaceHealth continues to low-ball local home care nurses with inequitable compensation offers during bargaining. The compensation PeaceHealth has offered nurses is less than other similar home health agencies and less than what PeaceHealth agreed to with Sacred Heart hospital nurses in Eugene/Springfield. PeaceHealth's offers also fall below inflation and ignore the standard practice of compensating hospital and home care nurses equally; which is done at Providence, OHSU, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, and was done at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services for many years including in its most recent contract agreement.

"We need wage equality to keep nurses and hire new ones. Nurses cannot afford to take a pay cut to come work here. To recruit and retain nurses we need equality," said Heather Herbert, an ONA member and hospice nurse at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services. "We are not asking for more or special treatment, just what we have always had and the standard that all other PeaceHealth hospitals have had in Washington and Oregon."

ONA home care nurses first bargaining date with PeaceHealth was nearly a year ago on Feb. 14, 2023. Local nurses elected to the bargaining team have sacrificed their personal time to meet with paid PeaceHealth executives 40 times to try to reach a fair contract agreement—including several meetings with a federal mediator. Nurses have also led public rallies and informational pickets

on April 10 and Nov. 29, held a community education event December 16 and held a bargaining unit wide strike vote December 27-28. All in an effort to reach a fair agreement.

Throughout negotiations, nurses' have made it clear their priority is to reach a fair contract agreement that addresses PeaceHealth's nurse staffing crisis, raises safety standards, increases recruitment and retention of skilled caregivers, protects pay equity and ensures all Oregonians have access to safe, affordable and accessible home health care. Community members can visit RespectOurNurses.com now to learn more about ongoing negotiations sign a community petition in support of the nurses and clinicians, donate to support striking nurses, and get information about the impacts of a potential strike.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Black History Month Events</div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">◆</div> </div>						
4 REMEMBERING ROSA PARKS ALBERTA ABBEY	5	6	7 CAREER CONVERSATIONS: 1 BLACK FUTURES GENENTECH W+K PRESENTS: THE SOUL SHOP WIEDEN & KENNEDY	8	9 CASCADE FESTIVAL OF AFRICAN FILMS VARIOUS LOCATIONS FEB. 2 - MAR. 2	10 BLACK HISTORY MONTH: PAINT WITH ME(ART) MULTNOMAH CO. LIBRARY - KENTON
11	12	13	14	15 NW BLACK COMEDY FESTIVAL CURIOUS COMEDY THEATER FEB. 15 - 18	16 PORTLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL VARIOUS PORTLAND VENUES FEB. 16 - MAR. 2	17 BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HIP-HOP SOULSATION MULTNOMAH CO. LIBRARY - HOLLYWOOD
18	19	20	21	22	23 ROSE CITY BLUES ALBERTA ROSE THEATRE FEB. 23 - 25	24 BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HONORING BLACK HERITAGE THROUGH ART MULTNOMAH CO. LIBRARY - GRESHAM
25	26	27	28	29		