

**Candidates' responses to the Q&A are presented in their entirety without changes, edits, or corrections.**

## PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE

Brenda G. Larkin, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CNOR, CSSM

- 1. Surveys of members indicate the most common reason they don't vote is that they feel that they "don't know the candidates." To help the members get to know you better describe something you are passionate about or enjoy doing in your free time.**

Both my grandmothers were great ladies and talented. When I was in middle school, I decided that I wanted to be just like them. I learned baking and cooking from my one grandmother and knitting, crochet, and needlework from the other. Both have become passions for me. I have found that cooking and needlework have given me the ability to sit still, gain patience and perseverance and of, course follow directions. I have joy in preparing meals for family and friends; serving dishes that perhaps they would not have made for themselves.

When I do needlework, it must be challenging. Simple projects do not hold my attention; my first knitting project was an Aran Isle hooded sweater with pockets, while my latest project is a

knit lace shawl. I have also completed several counted cross stitch angels. When I was younger, I thought that all this needlework would prepare me for a career as a surgeon. In fact, it did help prepare me for scrubbing difficult cases and I once needed to step in for a vascular surgeon at 3 AM when he was too tired to close, but that is another story.

**2. Describe your most meaningful day in the OR, or in the office, and how it has impacted your current practice, or work, as a nurse.**

My most meaningful day in the OR was also the most difficult for me. Although I routinely scrubbed and circulated orthopedic and spine cases, I also volunteered for the liver transplant team. It was during one of the on-call liver cases where I was scrubbed that I really became aware of the impact we have as perioperative nurses. Sometimes we take for granted how much our skills and caring mean to the patients we care for because our days/surgeries become so routine. In orthopedics, we are likely to restore function and quality of life to our patients versus some other procedures that only delay the inevitable as in oncology surgeries. It was a Good Friday when I was assisting the surgeons on the transplant team. Liver transplant was relatively new and experimental in those days. The patient coded and we could not resuscitate him. I was devastated thinking about how the family would be impacted

forever on this day, knowing he would no longer be with them. It really caused me to reflect that I am caring for more than the patient, but the family as well and that what I did had far-reaching repercussions.

### **3. Describe what makes you the most qualified candidate for the office of President-elect.**

The office of President-Elect is charged with planning for the association of the future. I am well-equipped for this position for many reasons. First, I am a student of history and I feel it is important to know our association's history as well as, the current trends that impact our association. I will consider what members truly want and need from our association, both in the near and far future. Secondly, I have good management and people skills which helps me to bring diverse people together to implement plans with positive outcomes. I use these skills routinely as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. I know that anything can and does affect perioperative nursing practice and patient safety. I have good analytical skills to assess potential or current trends. Everything I will do as your next President-Elect will be weighed with the members best interest as well as, our mission, vision, and values. Finally, I am passionate for our legislative initiatives. I believe that every patient deserves a Perioperative Registered Nurse. I have achieved smoke-free environments for all three of my facilities in my last



# VOTING MATTERS **2021**

organization. I am currently involved in achieving smoke legislation in my new State of Oregon.