

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

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE**

**Christopher J. Hudgins, BS, ASN, RN, CNOR**

- 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.**

I am very passionate about surgical smoke education and mandatory evacuation. That is why I helped start a grassroots movement about two years ago to educate health care workers and law makers about the dangers of surgical smoke, with the mission of passing legislation requiring surgical smoke evacuation in Georgia. I recently participated in hearings for the Georgia Senate Surgical Smoke Study Committee. I conducted a presentation on how surgical smoke is created and how it can easily and effectively be evacuated. I also had the opportunity to present information on respiratory protection for health care workers. This has been a rewarding and learning experience working with my colleagues, legislators, and lobbyist. It even

afforded me the opportunity to help write a Bill. Hopefully, we will have a law passed next year protecting health care workers from surgical smoke in Georgia!

**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 operating room was also one of the most challenging. I was new nurse at a facility and circulating a case when a radiopaque sponge was unaccounted for during an initial closing count. The surgeon was notified but left the room, and then was unable to be located. The resident refused to suspend closure or perform a wound search and became verbally abusive. I continued to advocate until x-rays were taken. I asked the radiology technician to bring the x-rays back to the room before taking them to radiology. The surgical resident was surprised (after announcing the sponge was not in the patient) when I pointed it out in the abdomen. The films were later read by radiology as “no foreign body seen”. This taught me a lesson – no matter what happens - always do what you know is right and protect your patient.



**3.) Identify the two most important things you feel need to be a part of the candidate selection process.**

The Nominating Committee has an important responsibility to prepare and present a slate of qualified candidates to serve for all elected positions. I feel there are two important qualifications that should be considered for national office. First, is service. It is said that one of the greatest gifts that someone can give is their time. A candidate should demonstrate service to the organization at the local, state, and national level. This includes service to their chapter, community, state council, and AORN. Second, is dedication. This conveys that a candidate is committed to a purpose. A candidate should demonstrate dedication and longevity to the organization and the profession. Additionally, they should be dedicated to projects, committees, and task forces that support the organization's mission to promote safety and optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and invasive procedures.