

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Merideth D. Lewis, MSN, 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 an outgoing "people person" who enjoys spending time with family and friends and meeting new people. I have made many friends from all over the world through AORN, which has enriched my life and taught me so much about how small our world is and how much we have in common. I am looking forward to seeing them again in person in August! I also love being outdoors, walking on the beach and hiking near my home in Muir Woods. This gives me time to reflect on the past and gather inspiration, ideas and energy for the future. Last summer, I was able to get a pass to hike both the Sperry & Granite Chalets in Glacier National Park – this had been on my list for the past 15 years! Spending the night in such a remote,

historic, and cozy place was incredible. The stars were so bright!

**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.**

There are so many days I can think of that have been significant for so many different reasons. The days that stand out for me are ones where I feel and see the beauty and flow of a team performing together for safe, optimal outcomes for our patients. My most meaningful and memorable moments are when I am there, fully present and ask at the end of my interview: “How are you?” and then I wait. I listen. In just a few minutes, I can offer my patient basic coping skills such as breathing together for slow, even breaths and bringing their people, pets or places that they love to mind. It can be so brief, yet so comforting and healing at that moment; right before going through the double doors. On occasion, someone will be awake enough as I pass by and they say, “Thank You!” What a gift.

**3.) What, in your opinion, are the key responsibilities for a member of the Board of Directors and what experience has prepared you for this role?**

Networking & Synthesizing. Never were these two skills more indispensable than during my two-month internship at the World Health Organization (WHO). I have had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills, personally and professionally, with AORN as well. I have the ability to network and maintain relationships and enjoy being able to bring people and ideas together. The ability to take in multiple layers of information and synthesize it is something I see as very valuable to a member of the AORN Board of Directors. The ability to communicate: our value as nurses, my and other's vision, and help a group of varied stakeholders find common ground is something I was privileged to practice as an intern at WHO. Comments at the end of my tenure included my ability to bring several departments together around a common goal as well as being a valuable resource to any company or organization.