

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Rebecca K. Vortman, DNP, 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.**

One of the best ways to get to know someone is to get a glimpse of what they do in their free time. What gets them up early and keeps them up late besides work? For me, it's a commitment to regularly learning new things. Whether watching independent films or traveling to different cities, wading into something new is a thrill that inspires me to think ways to influence the future. The world is full of places, people and things to inspire us, but we must be proactive in seeking those experiences. I also love watching my daughter compete at gymnastic events. She's a constant reminder of what's physically possible with dedication and discipline.

I'm passionate about the perioperative nursing profession, being a part of the solution, and supporting members to reach their fullest potential. I want to play a crucial role in securing our future as perioperative nurses.

**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.**

No two days are alike in the OR. One of the most impactful for me happened years ago when I had the privilege of working with a dedicated team for total joint procedures. The surgeon valued “teamwork” and “Quality and Safety” in the OR, creating an encouraging environment. He insisted that we conduct consistent time-outs, according to the protocol. He maintained that we take our time when performing the surgical counts and the surgical prep. This surgeon supported and valued my work as an RN Circulator, routinely showcasing ways to deliver the best care. Through his dedication to patient safety and teamwork, he inspired me to be a perioperative nurse leader, educator and devote my time to positively impacting the profession and surgical teams. I now have the privilege of paying it forward to our profession by supporting and mentoring the next generation of perioperative nurses and leaders.

**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?**

The key Board member responsibilities are to create a better future for perioperative nursing and the members of AORN during times of rapid change. They include remaining agile in an uncertain world, preparedness for the most unexpected, and honing an ability to lead without a playbook. Crucial duties also include taking advantage of opportunities to deliver services to our members in a different way. We are experiencing a massive change from the COVID-19 pandemic, which will require the AORN Board to grow together. Most importantly, the Board should be visible and present among members while upholding our mission, vision, and values and listening to our members.

My experience in shared governance has prepared me to serve on the Board. I have encompassing strategic planning knowledge, have served on advisory committees, and have served in many leadership roles for AORN (at the local and national levels) and in perioperative settings.