

Amanda Heitman
Candidate: Board of Directors

What emerging trends or anticipated changes in perioperative nursing do you believe will have the greatest impact on our profession, and how would you, as an elected leader, help prepare AORN to meet these challenges?

Emerging trends in perioperative nursing, such as workforce evolution and the need for ongoing professional development, will significantly impact our field. As an elected leader, I recognize that cultivating and sustaining perioperative nurses is critical to our profession's future. The changing healthcare landscape challenges us to innovate and develop fresh strategies to support both new and seasoned nurses. My approach involves actively engaging current AORN members, encouraging them to mentor their teams and promote best practices, thereby increasing awareness of our organization's role in advancing patient care and staff safety. As a board member, I am committed to shaping AORN's strategic vision, ensuring that membership remains the cornerstone of our ability to uphold high standards and drive staff safety initiatives. By focusing on leadership, advocacy, and professional growth, I will help prepare AORN to navigate upcoming challenges and build a strong foundation for perioperative nursing's future.

Collaboration is essential to effective leadership. Can you share a specific example of a time when you successfully fostered teamwork across diverse individuals or groups?

Collaboration is at the core of effective leadership, and I am proud of my ongoing commitment to fostering teamwork among diverse individuals in perioperative nursing. Through leading a perioperative 101 program, I have mentored and educated new nurses, empowering them with the skills and empathy vital for patient advocacy. My dedication extends beyond the classroom, as I actively promote perioperative nursing by engaging with students through outreach at schools, inspiring future nurses to join our specialty. Additionally, I collaborate with colleagues and stakeholders on legislative initiatives to enhance staff safety in the operating room, including advocacy for smoke evacuation policies and presentations on sharps safety. By bringing together nurses, students, and legislative partners, I have built multidisciplinary teams focused on advancing education, safety, and professional development. These collaborative efforts ensure our profession evolves and thrives, ultimately improving patient care and the work environment for all perioperative nurses.

What inspired you to run for this elected position, and how does serving in this role align with your passion for advancing perioperative nursing and AORN's mission?

My decision to run for this elected position is driven by a deep commitment to advancing perioperative nursing and fulfilling AORN's mission. Throughout my career, I have passionately advocated for patients, and I believe this advocacy extends beyond the clinical environment into organizational leadership. Serving in this role provides an opportunity to represent and support AORN members, ensuring their voices are heard at every level. I am dedicated to actively listening to member concerns, addressing the challenges they encounter, and collaborating to find impactful solutions that enhance both patient care and the professional experience of perioperative nurses. By focusing on resource allocation, guideline development, and the promotion of best practices, I aim to foster a supportive environment that empowers our members. My goal is to contribute strategically to AORN's vision, building a foundation that strengthens our profession and ensures continued excellence in perioperative nursing.