

Bryanne Harrington
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?

The emerging trend of leveraging technology to support easier workflows will impact perioperative nursing practice in the near future. AORN leaders will need to engage with frontline workers to better understand which technologies are worth investing in. Many other disciplines, such as surgeons, are leveraging AI for documentation and clinical resources for their practice; perioperative nurses should not be left behind. Members need access to credible information, such as the AORN guidelines, that can be integrated into comprehensive electronic medical systems, so that it is readily available. This ability exists, but needs to be expanded. As an elected leader, I would consider all suggestions and views on how this technology or AI could be leveraged.

- 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?

Every operating room has been focused on metrics such as "first case on time starts" at some point. I was part of an interprofessional group that implemented changes to improve the on-time start percentage. It was important for all groups to be heard and understand how their work is interdependent. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work. It cannot be implemented because each perioperative suite is different and has different resources. Bringing a group together to understand barriers builds trust so that the group supports each other rather than becomes a punitive endeavor. Making a resilient change takes teamwork and listening to those who know the problem best.

As healthcare becomes more integrated, so are the systems within which hospitals and ambulatory centers function. A shift towards outpatient and ambulatory settings has changed the perioperative nurse experience. Nurses are often required to use more technology, care for more acutely ill patients, and work with multiple teams. This takes support, which AORN can provide. This shift impacts staffing models and requires leaders to be more flexible and adaptive than we already are. Using teamwork can help us learn from one another and develop solutions that work for everyone in these rapidly changing systems.

- 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?

I am running for this elected position because perioperative nursing has shaped who I am—both as a professional and as a person—and I feel a deep responsibility to give back to the local and national AORN community. I have been the grateful recipient of professional support, mentorship, and opportunities supported through AORN. This has been such a meaningful part of my own professional growth. Throughout my career, I've seen firsthand how powerful our specialty can be when perioperative nurses are supported, educated, and empowered. I've also seen the challenges we face: workforce shortages, increasing demands, and rapid technological change. What inspires me most is the opportunity to contribute to AORN's mission in a meaningful, forward-looking way. AORN has always been the standard-setter for safe patient care and I believe strongly in its commitment to evidence-based practice and professional growth. I want to support our workforce and elevate our voice in each operating room.