

Candidate Questions for 2026 – 2027 National Ballot

- **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?**

Technology, whether through AI or more autonomous means of surgery – to name a few, will continue to grow and expand in surgery. I see three ways of helping meet the challenges technology can bring. First, by encouraging education and training. We fear things we don't understand. Education can help members understand each piece of technology and its idiosyncrasies while alleviating the unknowns. Second, by showing how technology can be a help and not a hinderance to the work we do. Technology is not out to replace individuals. Rather, it is a tool to help make surgery safer and our actions more precise and focused. Third, by finding the technologies that work for the perioperative environment, not just what is the flashiest or most cost efficient. Does it improve what we do, or does it create more problems than it solves. The integrated technology should help solve problems not create more.

- **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?**

Leading medical clinics internationally multiple times a year requires teamwork and collaboration across a diverse group. It combines multiple cultures, multiple languages, multiple ways of completing tasks, and individual personalities. As the clinic leader, it is my job to make sure that everyone has a voice and that their voice is heard. For instance, in making our pharmacy both effective and cost conscious, I gathered a couple of national doctors (both older and young practitioners), a few of the US providers, and myself to come up with a base list of medications that would satisfy all prescribing needs while keeping the formulary small, the medications low in cost, and each type of medication class represented. Each provider had their wants and by working together with some give and take, they were able to come to a consensus that took the pharmacy from 156 medications to 72 medications that satisfied all.

- **As an AORN leader, what innovative strategies would you use to inspire and engage members to actively participate in the nominating and voting process, helping to strengthen member voice in shaping the future of our organization?**

It is imperative for members to know that they can nominate anyone. It can appear as though a nominee has to have been a perioperative nurse for a long time or have a shining resume. To be nominated is an honor – an honor that any AORN member can have. Highlighting the process and making it simple/attainable no matter how long one has been a perioperative nurse is vital to engaging membership.

Voting is always a challenge whether it's a local city or state election or a specialty election like AORN. People need to feel that their vote matters and voting must be easy. AORN has done a great job of making voting easy by making it a simple process from our phones. I would like to see the voting booths come back to Expo as well as encouraging Chapter Voting Parties and/or Competitions for those who can't attend Expo.

Submitted with joy by Jaimeson Hatch, MSN RN CNOR