

J.D. Buchert
Candidate: Vice President

1. Emerging Trends & AORN Readiness

Artificial intelligence will reshape perioperative nursing—just as robotic surgery once did. Nurses must be equipped to lead AI integration ethically and effectively. AORN should develop strategic competencies that demystify AI and prepare nurses to enhance patient outcomes.

Legislation also plays a critical role. I've testified and lobbied for workplace violence prevention, surgical smoke evacuation, and safe staffing. I led Texas's first SB 240 implementation—before it became law—protecting over 14,000 workers.

As Vice President, I'll champion three priorities: AI readiness, legislative advocacy, and support for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). ASCs are the fastest-growing healthcare segment, yet often operate under different standards. AORN must ensure tailored resources and representation.

By anticipating change and shaping policy, AORN can lead boldly and ethically

2. Collaboration & Leadership

Collaboration is the foundation of sustainable leadership. I led Texas's first SB 240-compliant workplace violence prevention program by uniting interdisciplinary teams and building committee infrastructure.

I also revitalized my local AORN chapter—modernizing bylaws, rebranding, and creating inclusive leadership pathways. This sparked renewed engagement and membership growth. As state president, I replicated the model statewide with similar success.

I believe leadership should never be confined to a few voices. When every member sees themselves as a stakeholder, we build not just chapters—but communities of purpose.

True collaboration means listening deeply, honoring diverse perspectives, and creating systems where all voices shape the path forward. That's the leadership I bring—and the kind I'll champion as Vice President.

3. Motivation & Mission Alignment

My nursing journey began as a combat medic and Army nurse, instilling discipline and ethical responsibility. In civilian healthcare, I built businesses and founded two nonprofits—one now housing 186 individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, and another raising over \$500 million for local charities.

Leadership, to me, is about impact—not titles. Running for Vice President is a natural extension of my lifelong advocacy for nurses, patients, and communities.

I want every perioperative nurse to understand the power of their voice. Whether testifying before legislators or restructuring organizations, I've seen how one voice can spark change—and how many voices, united, can transform a profession.

My mission is to lay a pathway where every nurse feels heard, valued, and empowered to shape the future of perioperative care. That's the legacy I hope to leave through AORN.