

Kristy Gottschalk, MSN, RN, CNOR, PHN



NOMINATING COMMITTEE (THREE TO BE ELECTED)

Kristy Gottschalk, MSN, RN, CNOR, PHN, is an educator at Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Crosby, Minnesota. She earned a BA in nursing from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota; and an MSN from Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gottschalk has been a perioperative nurse for 10 years and a member of AORN for 10 years. She is a member of

- AORN of the Heartland (2022-present)
- the Clinical Nurse Educator Specialty Assembly (2023-present)

Gottschalk has attended AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo four times in the past 10 years, three times as a delegate.

Highlights of Gottschalk's service to AORN include that she is

- president-elect of AORN of the Heartland (2022-2023; 2025-present)

She has been

- a member of the AORN of the Heartland Nominating Committee (2024-2025)
- president of AORN of the Heartland (2023-2024)

In other leadership roles, Gottschalk is

- a certification coach for the Competency & Credentialing Institute Inc (2024-present)
- a member of the Central Lakes College Surgical Technologist Advisory Board (2024-present)
- a member of the Central Lakes College Nursing Advisory Board (2022-present)

In her community, Gottschalk is

- a volunteer health care expert for surgical services careers, Bridges Career Exploration Day (2023-present)
- president of the Precious Years Learning Center Board of Directors (2024-present)

She has been

- vice president of the Precious Years Learning Center Board of Directors (2023-2024)

ELECTION STATEMENT

With 18 years of nursing experience, 10 of those dedicated to perioperative nursing and OR education, I bring a well-rounded perspective shaped by both the fast-paced environment of an urban Level 1 trauma center and the unique challenges of a remote critical access hospital. This range of experience allows me to understand and advocate for the diverse realities of our current perioperative community. My local chapter leadership roles have strengthened my ability to collaborate with other local professional organizations and surgical leaders to underscore the importance of outreach and collaboration.

I am deeply passionate about perioperative education that truly engages nurses, preserves valuable resources, and addresses the unique needs of our multigenerational profession. Equally important to me is advancing safe patient care and ensuring knowledge is shared with future generations. I actively introduce secondary and postsecondary learners to the perioperative environment. By doing so, I hope to break down the barriers of this often undiscovered profession and give students the chance to make informed career decisions.

As technology and artificial intelligence rapidly reshape health care, perioperative nurses must continue to be adaptable, forward-thinking change agents. If given the opportunity to serve, I will collaborate with integrity and vision to advocate for future leaders who reflect our diverse membership, understand our varied needs, and inspire active engagement. Together, we can ensure that perioperative nursing not only thrives but also evolves with purpose and strength for the future.