

Rebecca Vortman, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC



SECRETARY (ONE TO BE ELECTED)

Rebecca Vortman, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing, Chicago; associate editor for AORN's The Stitch; and a perioperative education consultant for AORN (CNOR Virtual Live Review Course). She earned a BA in sociology from Illinois College, Jacksonville; an ADN from Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Illinois; a BSN and an MSN from Benedictine University, Lisle, Illinois; and a DNP in nursing administration from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Vortman has been a perioperative nurse for 14 years and a member of AORN for 13 years. She is a member of

- AORN of Central Illinois (2016-present)
- eChapter (2021-present)
- the Illinois Council of periOperative Registered Nurses (2019-present)
- the Leadership Specialty Assembly (2016-present)
- the Clinical Nurse Educator Specialty Assembly (2017-present)
- the Ambulatory Surgery Specialty Assembly (2017-present)

- the Perioperative Nursing Informatics Specialty Assembly (2018-present)

Vortman has attended AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo 9 times in the past 10 years, each time as a delegate.

Vortman has received

- DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educators, University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing (2025)
- Young Professional Voice Award, American Organization for Nursing Leadership (2022)
- AORN Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Education Award (2021)
- AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo Clinical Innovation poster award (2019)
- AORN Forty Under 40 Award (2017)

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

- a member of the AORN Board of Directors (2022-present)
- Board member liaison, *AORN Journal* Editorial Board (2024-present)

- Board member liaison, Artificial Intelligence Taskforce (2025-present)
- state legislative co-coordinator, Illinois Council of periOperative Registered Nurses (2021-present)

She has been

- Board liaison to the AORN National Research Committee (2022-2025)
- a member of the eChapter Board of Directors (2022-2024)
- chair of the Leadership Specialty Assembly Education Council (2019-2021)
- Board liaison to the AORN Continuing Education Approval Committee (2024-2025)
- a member of the Taskforce to Define the Role of the DNP in Perioperative Services (2020-2021)
- president of AORN of Central Illinois (2016-2017)

In other leadership roles, Vortman is

- associate department head, Department of Population Health Nursing Science, University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing (2022-present)
- DNP program director for Health Systems Leadership (2024-present)

- co-leader for Domain 8 Workgroup, Big Ten Academic Alliance Nursing Informatics Collaborative (2024-present)

She has been

- co-leader of Illinois-based grassroots coalition for passage of surgical smoke plume evacuation legislation (2020-2021)
- Executive Committee member, Canadian Standards Association Perioperative Safety Technical Committee (2023-2024)

In her community, Vortman is

- an athletic event volunteer for Junior High/High School Girls Volleyball Tournaments (2022-present)

She has been

- a volunteer for COVID-19 symptom screening, Our Savior's Lutheran School, Springfield, Illinois (2020-2021)
- a volunteer for "Hands on Healthcare" Perioperative Nursing Career Day for high school students, Springfield, Illinois (2017-2018)
- a member of Our Savior's Lutheran School Sports Boosters Board of Directors, Springfield, Illinois (2021-2022)

ELECTION STATEMENT

At the height of the pandemic, I co-led 77 Illinois perioperative nurses, as we turned advocacy into action. Within months, we passed one of the fastest surgical smoke plume evacuation laws in the country and ensured regulatory oversight. That experience grounded my belief that perioperative nurses belong at the table as leaders who drive safer practice and lasting policy.

I bring four years of continuous Board service and a leadership record rooted in transparency, operational rigor, and strategic growth. When AORN selected a new Executive Director in 2024–2025, I supported governance continuity and helped initiate a turnaround plan. I also backed a member dues reduction strategy grounded in data and feedback.

In parallel, I've grown *The Stitch*, AORN's digital platform for novice perioperative nurses. We published 151 evidence-based articles and mentored 40 first-time contributors, many of them chapter leaders. It became a model for how inclusive publishing drives engagement and keeps members connected to the mission.

When members see their fingerprints on outcomes, they stay. As Secretary, I'll ensure AORN's records reflect your values, decisions follow data and the members remain central to national strategy. I'll champion tools and communication strategies that help members shape national priorities and feel their voices reflected in Board action. I know the role. I've lived the responsibility, and I'm committed to carrying it forward with clarity and collaboration.

Members shape AORN's direction, sustain its purpose, and strengthen its future. I humbly ask for your vote and look forward to continuing to serve you.