

# Stephanie Ayala, MSN, RN, CNOR



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE (THREE TO BE ELECTED)

**Stephanie Ayala, MSN, RN, CNOR**, is a staff RN at Orlando VA Medical Center. She is currently serving active duty as medical officer recruiter for the US Navy Reserves, Orlando, Florida. She earned an associate of science in nursing from Seminole State College, Maitland, Florida; a BSN and a BA in liberal studies (business, marketing, communications) from the University of Central Florida, Orlando; and an MSN in healthcare quality and safety from Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida.

Ayala has been a perioperative nurse for 12 years and a member of AORN for 12 years. She is a member of

- AORN of Greater Orlando (2016-present),
- the Florida Council of periOperative Registered Nurses (2016-present)

Ayala has attended AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo eight times in the past 10 years, seven times as a delegate.

Ayala has received

- an AORN Foundation Grant (2021)

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

- president-elect of AORN of Greater Orlando (2025-present)

She has been

- an Expo Hall ambassador, AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo (2024)
- a guest presenter, AORN Chart Notes Live virtual meeting (2024)
- education coordinator for AORN of Greater Orlando (2018-2021)

In other leadership roles, Ayala has been

- an assistant training officer, US Navy Reserves Medical Unit (2024)
- a Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt process improvement project lead, Orlando VA Medical Center (2021-2023)
- a nursing town hall presenter, Orlando VA Medical Center (2023)
- a specialty coordinator for robotic surgery, AdventHealth Altamonte Springs (2018-2020)
- a clinical faculty member and presenter, Orlando Colorectal Congress (2018-2019)

In her community, Ayala is

- a BSN student mentor, University of Central Florida (UCF; 2024-present)
- an instructor/medical officer, The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps (2022-present)
- a medical staff volunteer for RunDisney (2017-present)
- a military air show medical staff member, Central Florida Medical Disaster Coalition (2019-present)

She has been

- a guest presenter, UCF Student Nurses Association (2024)

## ELECTION STATEMENT

Throughout my career as a perioperative nurse, I have been dedicated to fostering growth, collaboration, and surgical excellence within our profession. AORN has been instrumental in shaping my professional journey by providing opportunities to connect with colleagues, strengthening my practice, and expanding my leadership capacity. I believe our greatest strength as an organization lies in creating a culture where members feel a true sense of belonging—where connection builds community, and through that community we learn, grow, and succeed together.

In my service as a US Navy Nurse Corps Officer and Medical Officer Recruiter, I have developed the ability to recognize and cultivate leadership potential. My role as a mentor for BSN students has reinforced the importance of guiding the next generation of nurses with encouragement and support. Having benefited from mentorship at pivotal moments in my career, I embrace the responsibility and privilege of mentoring others as they achieve their goals. These experiences have prepared me to thoughtfully evaluate qualities such as integrity, vision, and commitment—attributes that are essential for those who will serve as AORN's future leaders.

If elected, I will be committed to honoring AORN's legacy of mentorship, community, and surgical excellence by ensuring that the next generation of leaders are prepared to carry it forward. I am ready to embrace the responsibility of recognizing and supporting leadership talent. Through thoughtful deliberation, I will recommend candidates for the national ballot who will strengthen our community and advance perioperative nursing for years to come.