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Candidate: Nominating Committee

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?

We are entering an exciting and dynamic era of digital health where volumes of medical data are analyzed to reveal patterns that enhance safety, efficiency, and clinical decision-making. Smart technologies and predictive analytics will allow perioperative teams to quickly identify risk, improve overall readiness and strengthen patient outcomes. Instead of relying on a primarily reactive approach, advanced digital tools can proactively guide interventions and support high-reliability surgical care.

As an elected leader, I would help AORN close the knowledge gaps that exist within our workforce by promoting education in perioperative informatics, the importance of data quality, and competency with digital health platforms. By preparing nurses to confidently integrate technology into practice, we ensure that innovation enhances—not replaces—our clinical expertise and patient advocacy.

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?

One of my most meaningful collaborative initiatives has been the creation of the Ninja Squirrels perioperative community to support first-time AORN National Conference attendees. My journey in AORN began when an experienced conference attendee took me under their wing and helped me navigate the national conference with confidence. That single act of support ultimately shaped my professional growth and led me to opportunities like being on the national ballot today. I wanted to recreate that experience for others, so I partnered with passionate members from diverse roles to welcome newcomers, introduce them to leaders, and connect them with opportunities aligned with their goals. We've seen this initiative thrive especially during the national conference, where our social media community comes alive with nurses supporting one another, sharing resources, and engaging in conversation. By removing barriers and fostering early mentorship and belonging, we are helping members see themselves as valued contributors and future leaders in AORN.

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?

To strengthen member voice in shaping AORN's future, I would continue promoting a culture where every perioperative nurse feels seen, supported, and empowered to contribute. Engagement begins with connection—welcoming members and helping them understand that their unique insights matter. I would expand the use of voting ambassadors who can support members, answer questions, and encourage participation with a positive, relatable approach. We can also leverage positive peer influence by making voting visible and celebrated through digital badges in the Expo app or badge ribbons only accessible once a vote or nomination has been submitted. When a member earns a badge, they are joining the group that takes action—showing they are a leader who is engaged and invested in our shared purpose. When members are supported, informed, and inspired by those around them, voting becomes a natural and meaningful step toward shaping AORN's future leadership.