

Stephanie Battiste  
Candidate: Board of Directors

- 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?

The most imminent emerging trend I see impacting perioperative nursing is the continued advent and adaptation of AI in the clinical space. Advancements in AI, whether it be automation of tasks, verification of tasks, EHR applications, education, or quality oversight, are already impacting perioperative practice and will continue to do so. As a leader, I support a collaborative approach with nursing experts guiding the industry development of augmentative technologies. Nurses must be involved in developing AI technology, machines, and software that are clinically significant, thoughtful, human-centered, and ethical. As a Board member, I will work to ensure that the perioperative nursing expertise is a key driver in developing these technologies. We must also ensure that perioperative nurses are considered essential, without exception or replacement. As an elected leader, I will work to ensure our members have the resources, education, and access to understand and safely use AI in practice.

- 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 professional passions is fostering collaboration in all aspects of my work. As a leader, it is essential to approach every encounter with a collaborative mindset and ensure that collaboration is equitable across diverse groups. I have fostered collaboration in various capacities, including implementing a perioperative pediatric pressure injury EBP bundle, providing emergency scenario simulations and interprofessional education, and empowering an NPDS team to collaborate on educational initiatives. To address a knowledge and practice gap in an ambulatory surgery center, I partnered with an anesthesia tech educator and Pre-op/Post-op NPDS to develop a multidisciplinary education plan and competency simulation. The team worked with all roles at the surgery center, including anesthesiologists, scrub techs, anesthesia techs, hospital techs, and perioperative RNs, to increase comfort, knowledge, and competency in airway emergencies. The outcome of the interdisciplinary education was an increase in the team's readiness for collaborative airway emergency practice.

- What inspired you to run for this elected position, and how does serving in this role align with your passion for advancing perioperative nursing and AORN's mission?

My participation at the local level, as a Board member and Chapter President, was the motivation for running for the National Board of Directors. I love meeting members, listening to their needs, and providing professional support to perioperative colleagues. Being immersed in local Chapter activities is professionally invigorating for me, and I plan to bring that passion to the National level and be the voice of membership. Given that I am deeply connected with clinical perioperative nurses and local members, it gives me the opportunity to truly represent membership at the National level. As a National Board member, I also have the responsibility to uphold AORN's mission and ensure all perioperative nurses benefit from easily accessible evidence-based guidelines, continuing education, and clinical practice resources. I will support advancing perioperative nursing as a bridge between membership and the national association, ensuring the Board is in touch with the needs of members.