



Candidates' responses to the Q&A are presented in their entirety without changes, edits, or corrections.

VICE PRESIDENT

Kristy P. Simmons, MSN, RN, CNOR

1. Describe what makes you the most qualified candidate for the office of Vice President.

My past experience serving as a volunteer for AORN has prepared me for the role of AORN Vice president. I had the unique opportunity to serve on our BOD during one of our organization's most challenging times in history. We had to pivot, innovate and essentially change every service our organization provided for our members. During this time, I proved my ability to be an innovative, creative, and a successful board member. My past leadership experience in AORN includes serving on our national BOD, national committees, specialty assemblies and my local and state chapter. I ask members questions and actively listen to their answers to understand what is essential to each board member to promote safe perioperative practice. This information helps our organization to have a true member vision of what our future goals and strategy need to be as we continue to advance our profession and our perioperative practice.

2. How do you plan to engage with our members and stakeholders to ensure their voices are represented in our organization's decision-making processes?

We need to continuously approach our members and stakeholders and give them the opportunity to weigh in on current issues of perioperative practice and our organization as a whole. Engagement with our members is essential to the success of our organization. I believe one of the major qualities of being a good leader is having the ability to engage with members and stakeholders by asking questions and listening to what they want from our organization. This engagement enables our members and stakeholders to have a voice in our organization with current issues, helps create solutions, improves our decision making in how our organization is run. I will continue to maintain and form new relationships within AORN that build trust, keep me informed and help promote safe perioperative practice so I can be a better leader. This is my pledge to you if I am elected.

3. What activities or interests outside of your professional life do you believe contribute to your overall well-being and your effectiveness as a leader?



Our family has just recently purchased a RV. The whole concept of traveling in a RV is new to us. We learned quickly that we don't know everything about RV travel. We have reached out to other RVers built relationships, engaged in conversations, and traveled together. These relationships with these new friends have helped us to get organized on items we need, what we don't need, how to set up camp and provided answers to many of our newbie questions. As a leader I think it is important to know when to ask for help from experienced leaders, be open to learn new things and build new relationships as needed for a successful progressive organization. As a nurse being in the outdoors feeds your soul and helps you maintain your mental health so you can continue to care for your own patients with the empathy and compassion our patients need.