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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gerry Yosores Asuncion, MS, RN, CPHQ, CNOR, CSSM

1. **Describe what makes you the most qualified candidate for the office of Board of Directors.**

The office of the Board of Directors has the responsibility to manage the affairs of the association. This position requires great acumen for strategic planning, able to prioritize issues that would greatly impact the organization, and perioperative nursing. This also calls for a strong skill in interprofessional collaboration among different offices and stake holders.

My 20 years in Perioperative Nursing and with the different leadership position I hold currently and before gives me the confidence and qualities I need to effectively execute my duties for the association as member of the Board of Directors.

My different exposures to the different group, cultures and ethnicity of various perioperative nurses, here and abroad, has given me broader understanding on what we can still do to best support our diverse perioperative nursing population, to promote career satisfaction and patient safety, and most especially to plan for the future of perioperative nursing.

1. **Describe a time when you had to make a difficult and unpopular decision that would affect your staff or colleagues. How did you handle the situation?**

Sometimes, introducing change in a workplace is hard especially when an organization is deeply rooted on the cultures and traditions on how they do it in the past. As a nurse leader, I needed to introduce change to create a safe perioperative environment for our patient, nurses, and other stakeholders.

I was the Acting Manager of an Operating Room which includes Endoscopy and Sterile Processing services. Our Nurses does it all, circulate, scrub and washes endoscopes. I needed to free our Nurses from non-nursing tasks to provide them time they need to deliver high quality perioperative nursing care to our patients. Senior nursing members doesn’t want to let go of what they used to do before (endoscope reprocessing), and our Sterile Processing staff doesn’t want to take additional task of reprocessing the endoscopes. But overtime, this change has leaded to an increased patient and staff satisfactions and decreased safety issues.

1. **Share one life experience, hobby, or fact about you that most people don't know and would be surprised to learn about you.**

Perioperative Nursing was once my dreaded nursing career. I remember, when I was in second year in college, I needed to have a 2-week rotation in the OR to circulate and scrub a case. I was 17 years old then. I was so anxious and nervous that I can’t sleep the night before my first day rotation. I was trembling and shaking as I walk from the hospital gate to the OR.

Years later, after working in Saudi Arabia as an ER/ICU Nurse, I came back to my home country, Philippines. I was able get job in one of the hospitals there, unfortunately, they only have OR available for me. My college classmates who were already working there, has helped me transition smoothly. Since then, I never went far from Perioperative Nursing. I always engaged myself in helping to better Perioperative Nursing Profession in whatever platform available, wherever I am.