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

TREASURER

Heidi L. Nanavati, MSN, CRNP, CNOR

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

There are three things to consider when looking at a candidate for office. Commitment, communication, and knowledge. Through my tenure on the Board of Directors I have shown a steadfast commitment to our membership with open communication and being an advocate for them in the board room. Serving has also brought great insight into the business of the organization. A key role of the treasurer is knowing what is best for our members, and advocating for them, when it comes to the finances, and decisions about spending. Serving as COO in a private orthopedic practice, as well as once running my own medical distributorship, gives me insight into the finance and money management of a company. AORN is a large organization, but the principles of allocating funds appropriately, as well as saving, and spending wisely are the same.

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?**

While working as an OR nurse I was the team lead for the ENT team at a large academic facility. I oversaw staffing, room assignments, and arranging the order of the cases. We would run 7 rooms of ENT a day. With staff assignments there were many times I was handling generational differences, and at the time I was part of the younger generation myself. I worked to gain the respect of all employees, no matter what generation they were. I also worked to show all staff that each generation brought something valuable to the role. Mixing them together in the rooms led to a very smooth day once their knowledge was combined. At the end of the week, I asked everyone to write down one thing they learned new from someone of a different generation. Soon they realized they were all valuable to each other in different ways.

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

Who wouldn’t love to scuba dive the Great Barrier Reef! I was a collegiate swimmer so I thought that would be so much fun, and easy. Not so much at first. While scuba diving you breathe continuously. While swimming you hold your breath. On our first dive I repelled down the rope from the boat. The instructor motioned for me to swim with him, and I panicked. I was holding my breath and physically could not exhale and inhale underwater. It was not natural to me. I wanted to go back up. He looked me in the eye said no- he knew I could do it. I continued to motion up, he continued to motion no. And then a school of large, beautiful angel fish swam by. I released the rope and floated after them. With some distraction I learned you can overcome panic and fear.