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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James W. Bowers, BSN, RN, CNOR, TNCC

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

My AORN passion and perioperative nursing started 30 years ago.  Since that time, I have served on many professional nursing committees and task forces demonstrating leadership attributes.  I have shown in-depth knowledge of AORN’s Board responsibilities, its mission, vision, operations, strategic planning, and governance principles. Through my actions, one sees my conservation of the most valuable organizational asset, its membership. I will continue to seek understanding of membership needs and act accordingly. I will execute direction with a clear vision, courage, and focus.  As a past AORN Board member,  you have experienced my integrity, accountability, professional networking, and negotiation skills.  You have my commitment that I will continue to collaboratively soar AORN into new service arenas to support the development of a sustainable perioperative workforce and unified patient advocacy voice.

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?**

Part of my daily responsibilities involves the conduction of departmental practice audits. Auditing of professional practice can be challenging staff may have developed comfort with routines that do not demonstrate best practice or promotion of patient safety.  Connecting the why of audits to positive patient outcomes helps staff understand why compliance in areas of surgical hand antisepsis, dress code, and specimen handling are utilized in staff evaluations. Providing real time mentoring feedback helps staff focus on evidenced based nursing evidence and the promotion of national patient care standards. I hold all staff and myself accountable to standards and policies. Looking for staff examples of exemplary practice in addition to teachable moments, reinforces the hardwiring of work practices.  While practice opportunities at times lead to unpopular staff responses, my auditing efforts are known to be trustworthy and solidify my role as an expert practice resource.

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

Passion for life enriching activities fuels and rejuvenations this off-duty perioperative nurse. Traveling, reading, and college football are my developed passions to expand my knowledge of international, national, and regional affairs. Most notably, community volunteerism such as Camp Kno-Koma, West Virginia’s Diabetic Camp, is the passion that I am most proud of because it allows me to incorporate professional nursing and teamwork into the creation of fond pediatric memories. I see firsthand childhood dreams become fulfilled as registered nurses serve as camp counselors. Stressed parents appreciate how this camp provides the opportunity for children to learn about diabetic self-care. From the campers’ perspective, it is nice to just be able to focus on just being a kid while in a medical supervised environment. For adolescents, I am honored to be able to help staff an annual fall weekend so that teenagers can learn diabetic survival skills.