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

TREASURER

Karen Y. White-Edwards, BSN, RN, MBA, CNOR

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

I am a perioperative transformation leader who drives innovative solutions: in process improvements, patient throughput, and staff development. My experience has prepared me to serve as Treasure for AORN. Throughout my career, my decisions have resulted in the delivery of operational efficiency, which generated thousands of dollars in savings for operating rooms. I obtained an M.B.A.( in Healthcare) because I wanted to have a better understanding of the financial impact of cost to our patients, the influence on staff income, and the impact to the bottom line of our hospital. I will bring knowledge, experience, and compassion to the position of Treasurer. I have experience as Director, VP and President of the Competency and Credentialing Institute. Moreover, I served on the Finance committee for CCI. That experience gave me insight into the operations of high dollar budgets and investments. Currently, I serve on the Finance and Audit committee for AORN.

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?**

Patient satisfaction scores were not optimal due to the number of case cancellations. I decided to expand the hours of operation in the OR to prevent canceling cases mid-day that were already on the schedule. The staff had concerns about working cases that ran past their shift. The day shift was over staffed, and the evening shift was staffed with primarily agency nurses. The last one- two hours of the day shift was spent waiting to go home, unless there was an emergency case. I presented a temporary volunteered alternative shift to the day staff, to help provide evening coverage. I added more full-time employee positions to the 3-11 shift thus eliminating agency. The OR case volume increased from 600 cases a month to 11,000 cases per month! The 3-11 shift was fully staffed and had a 3-11 assistant manager. Patient and employee satisfaction scores increased exponentially!!

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

I adore my two adult children, granddaughter, and dog Lilly. Fact is there have been times I questioned how to choose between my career success and my authentic self. I want to be able to wear my hair and clothes in a manner that I feel is professionally authentic and honors my unique background and experiences as an African American woman, daughter, mother, sister, co-worker, and friend. I continue to uphold my integrity by being mindful of my decisions and how I lead. I also employ my influence to uplift others. Every day I start my morning off with gratefulness. That is the main source of fuel that keeps me going. I stay connected to my strong Faith in God and look at every invited and uninvited circumstance as character and Faith building. I know who holds my ultimate future. So, I have learned to trust and depend on God!