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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Natalie B. Jones, DHA, MBA, BSN, RN, CNOR

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

As a candidate for the Nominating Committee, my focus is to serve our membership and use my professional skills and talents to advance our association. The Nominating Committee's distinctive role is to identify and prepare perioperative leaders for AORN candidacy. My professional experience as a perioperative nurse, executive, and recruiter has uniquely equipped me to serve successfully as a nominating committee member. I have excellent communication, collaboration, negotiating, and leadership skills. My experience as a nurse recruiter allowed me to perfect my skills at assessing personnel to identify successfully qualified candidates. My unique experience has allowed me to work in various healthcare organizations in the United States and Internationally. I have built a strong network of perioperative nurses. My experience will allow me to support, mentor, recruit and identify strong leadership, adhere to deadlines, and effectively collaborate with committee members to strategize for optimal outcomes supporting AORN leadership.

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?**

As the Director of Perioperative Services, I am accountable to patients, physicians, staff, and leadership. An initiative to increase first-case on-time starts was implemented to enhance customer satisfaction and improve efficiency in the operating room. Before this initiative, surgeon arrival times were often delayed creating a chain reaction that resulted in dissatisfied customers, disgruntled surgeons, and disruption in patient flow and throughput. The first case on-time start initiative required surgeons that arrived thirty- minutes to one hour late for their scheduled start time to move to a later time or seek permission to proceed with their case from the next surgeon. The delay in cases negatively influenced customer satisfaction, staff morale, productivity, and throughput. While this initiative was unpopular initially, the process gained momentum with the support of physician partners, staff, and leadership. As a result, this initiative improved first-case on-time starts significantly and enhanced customer satisfaction and patient throughput.

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

One of my favorite hobbies is horseback riding. This was not always the case as I was afraid of horses before gaining riding experience. Although very beautiful animals, horses are enormous in mass. I was always fascinated by their beauty and the magnificent stature that these animals have and dreamed of owning a horse one day. In the 1990s while attending a festival, a parade was held and included horses as part of the parade line-up. A gentleman standing next to me summoned one of the riders to the side-line for a friendly chat. I was dreadfully afraid of this massive animal standing close to me. The brief chat between the men seemed like hours. To alleviate my fear of horses I decided to take riding lessons. I completed a horseback riding program which consisted of western, english, and bareback training and I have since become a lover of horses.