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

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE

Brenda G. Larkin, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CNS-CP, CNOR, CSSM

1. Surveys of members indicate the most common reason they don’t vote is that they feel that they “don’t know the candidates.” To help the members get to know you better describe something you are passionate about or enjoy doing in your free time.

I have always loved being outdoors and enjoying nature. As a child I was blessed by being able to go to camp in southeastern Michigan for several years. There I learned to horseback ride, swim, hike, canoe there. When I was 13, I went to another camp in Wisconsin near the famous Wisconsin Dells. I opted to take a week-long canoe trip down the Wisconsin river to the Mississippi River. One afternoon, a storm blew up and tornado warnings were issued. We barely made it to the inlet that we were heading to for camping overnight. We set up our tents in a hurry while it began to storm. The tents were unable to keep us dry and all our possessions were drenched. Luckily the local fire department responded to our calls for assistance after the tornado passed. The next morning, we
headed back out to the river to complete our trip. We made it to the confluence of the rivers and headed back to camp the next day. I learned, that even through the roughest times, if we all pull together as a team and allow others to help us, we could get through anything!

2. **Describe your most meaningful day in the OR, or in the office, and how it has impacted your current practice, or work, as a nurse.**

I was scrubbed in for a liver transplant one Good Friday evening. The patient coded during the surgery as the surgeons were making the anastomoses of the new liver. Despite the heroic attempts to save him, the patient died. I felt devastated for the family as I watched from the Mayo stand. Their father/brother/uncle/son would no longer be coming home. This wasn’t going to be a good Friday for them for many years. This was the first patient who died during surgery while my patient. Most of my orthopedic patients left the OR better than when they had come in. This memory has stayed with me and now I always consider the entire family as my patient because of this case.

There have been many cases that have impacted me like this case, not because they passed during surgery, but instead, have left the operating room in a condition that will have long-lasting effects on their daily lives and ability
to regain the life that they had prior to surgery. As I look forward to my own procedure, I know that I can trust the whole perioperative team to care for me, as I have cared for others.

3. **Describe what makes you the most qualified candidate for the office of President-elect.**

Every AORN president brings their unique perspectives and talents to serve the membership. As an experienced Board of Directors Member during some of the most difficult times of our association, I have helped guide the association by ensuring that our members' interests are forefront to any decision. I have been able to listen to my fellow board members and officers to create synergistic problem-solving tactics to both economic and programmatic decisions. I believe that our members deserve to be heard and that their opinions matter and should be acted upon by the board.

As your next President, I will continue to demonstrate these leadership qualities and build upon the work of recent presidents to ensure that their efforts are maintained and/or shaped to meet our current needs.

My experience as a Staff Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Interim OR Manager has equipped me to be the leader of the entire association. I easily establish
relationships with people and actively listen and respond to needs or concerns. I have solid relationships with the current board members and can continue to build on the strategies of our current President-Elect, while introducing new ideas and programs to meet future needs.