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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Crystal A. Bricker, MSN, RN, CNOR

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.

My local Humane Society is an amazing organization that does so much for animals in our community. My family found our sweet Bruno there several years ago. When considering where to volunteer my time, I decided the place that provided great care for my sweet boy was where I wanted to spend my time. A couple days a week I head straight there when I get off work to help walk the dogs. When I arrive the excited barking is deafening. They love getting to go outside even though it is only for a few minutes. I also get a few hugs and kisses out of the deal. It does not matter what kind of day I have had up until that point, I always walk away feeling good. Volunteering is one way I say thank you to the staff for all the care they give these animals.
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.

As an educator my most meaningful day in the OR is seeing my team members grow in their perioperative career. In my role, I am responsible for facilitating the orientation process. It is exciting to watch someone come in with no perioperative experience and become more confident in their knowledge and skill. I get a front row seat to help support them on their journey. From learning the basics to hospital specific practices, I enjoy guiding them through what they need to know to be successful. That support has a positive impact on the care our patients receive. It always brings a smile to my face to see the evolution from the first day on the unit to the final day of orientation. Knowing that I play a key role as the department educator is fulfilling and provides me a reminder of why I do what I do every day.

3. Identify the two most important things you feel need to be a part of the candidate selection process.

The first thing I feel important in the candidate selection process is the screening of applicants. Narrowing the pool of qualified candidates to the number needed to fill the ballot is not an easy task. But one that needs to be
thorough to make sure those selected for the ballot are matched to the best position based on individual qualities and ability. Having good screening tools for committee members to use in the process is helpful to keep everyone on the same page.

A spirit of collaboration is the second most important thing. Considering other perspectives during the deliberation process is helpful to make sure the final product is one we all can come to consensus on. We all have the common goal of creating the best ballot of potential future leaders of AORN. And at the end of the day presenting a ballot that we all are proud of.