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

VICE PRESIDENT

Darlene B. Murdock, BSN, BA, RN, 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 absolutely love watching hummingbirds. I spend a lot of time mixing their food and watching them. I enjoy sitting outside in the early morning with my coffee and dogs, watching the hummingbirds zip through the air. About 15 years ago, I set out to attract hummingbirds in my yard. I was already feeding wild birds, blue jays, sparrows, pigeons, blackbirds, and my favorite red cardinals. I hung one hummingbird feeder. One afternoon while feeding the wild birds, I could hear the hummingbird coming from afar. I wondered whether it could really be true what I was hearing. I couldn’t see it, but I could hear it. In seconds it flew right up to my face. I fell in love immediately. When I moved into my present home, I prayed that the hummingbird would follow me. I believe he did, but I’m
optimistic. So, every year the same hummingbird arrives before all the others and claims his feeder. I can tell it is him by the markings on his neck. His name is Hummer. I now put six to eight feeders out, and I have had up to 10 to 15 hummingbirds. They are such a delight to watch.

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 I reflect on my journey as a perioperative nurse pursuing excellence and engaging in lifelong learning, many significant events have shaped me into the confident perioperative leader I am today. A few of those important events are earning my CNOR and CSSM credentials and receiving excellence awards as a perioperative clinician and innovator. These events were acknowledgments and recognition of my professional and personal growth. The most momentous day in the OR was when I became employed at a Level 1 trauma center. Working at a trauma center allowed me the opportunity to learn and work with some of the best nurses ever. I gained valuable experience and knowledge effectively working on high-performing multidisciplinary teams. Teamwork, accountability, communication, and professionalism were ingrained in me by my preceptors and mentors because it was our culture and optimal patient outcomes were our goal. The nurses there
encouraged me to join and be involved in AORN and obtain my CNOR credential early in my career. Through this work experience, my organizational, critical thinking, communication, leadership, clinical and technical skills excelled. The day I started working at a trauma center impacted the trajectory of my perioperative career—one of my best life decisions.

3. How does the role of Vice President impact the business of AORN and how do your skills contribute to that impact?

The Vice President has significant responsibilities facilitating the achievement of strategic goals, which impacts AORN’s business, direction, and success. The VP role is at the forefront of advancing our mission and vision while representing and supporting our membership and perioperative nursing. My prior board experience, serving as secretary, financial acumen, strategic and critical thinking, innovative mindset, and familiarity with AORN’s history, bylaws, policies, and parliamentary procedures have afforded me the skills and knowledge to contribute and impact AORN’s business positively. I am engaged in lifelong learning, including pursuing my master’s in nursing, to enhance my leadership skills and increase my nursing knowledge. A recent board development exercise that included a personal business assessment confirmed an optimistic, reflective leader who sees the big picture.
My business chemistry aligns with the pioneer pattern, defining traits listed as imaginative, intuitive, exploratory, driven, dutiful, and empathic. I have been involved in AORN’s strategic planning for the past four years, and my facilities nursing strategic planning and know that innovation is crucial to organizational growth and prosperity. As VP, I will courageously and strategically help lead our association with integrity and creativity, remaining connected to our members and focused on achieving our mission and vision.