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.

One of my favorite pass times is going to baseball games. There is something so exhilarating about the energy and excitement of the ballpark that you can’t find anywhere else. There is a camaraderie that forms with the people around you while you chant and cheer; it’s always such a fun time. You can relax for a few hours, watch the teams play. Baseball has a way to take away your stress and it’s an opportunity to decompress from work and school.

I took my love of the sport one step further and visited all 30 US stadiums. This was a wonderful chance to travel the country, explore new cities and be able to appreciate everything that made those cities and stadiums unique. There are many “ballpark chasers” out there!
So, whether its baseball or other live sports, it is so much fun to experience everything from the history and vibe of the stadium to the food offerings, and the magic of the city. Whether it’s a new stadium or your hometown stadium, it’s a great way to spend a day or a weekend.

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 caring for a patient who was having a suprapubic catheter placement. On report, I was told she wasn’t A&O but spoke Cambodian and that her grandson was her proxy. She came to pre-op and there were consent problems. We couldn’t reach her grandson, so we decided to assess her mentation.

We tried to find an interpreter as she was born in Laos. First, we connected to a Cambodian interpreter. We were told they couldn’t understand her; we needed a Mien interpreter. When we successfully connected with the interpreter, we learned that she was A&O and she knew she was having surgery for her pelvic pain. She had felt like she was mute because no one spoke Mien or found someone who could.
The interpreter spoke with her for quite some time. He expressed how grateful she was to us for allowing her to feel included and how respected she felt in a situation where she had no control. It was so rewarding to know I had done something meaningful but more importantly, I took care of another human when she needed it most. It was a lesson for us all – we didn’t know about the Mien language.

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

The President-elect needs a vision for how to advance our association. And while envisioning where you want to lead AORN, it’s critical to know where we’ve come from and how we have gotten there. My tenure on the Board and the last 4 years as an officer have helped me prepare for this next step. I’ve learned the inner workings of our association and as Vice President, I’ve worked with our Presidents & PEs to navigate AORN thru the pandemic.

I’ve been engaged with some the most important aspects of AORN including the Finance & Audit committee, Executive committee and advocated for what’s best for our members. These are critical items that the PE must be well versed in to be able to assume the Presidency.
We are now poised for continued success. I’ll focus on tangible goals with a clear plan of how to achieve our mission and vision. I’ve never forgotten the essence of AORN and what my priority always is- our members. I intend to take the momentum of the past several years and continue to lead us to sustainability for years to come.