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

SECRETARY

Jamie Ridout, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, CASC, NEA-BC

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.

The thing to know about me is that I am incredibly ordinary. There is no one great passion or talent that I have. I go to work each day and give 100%. I crave solitude—because there is so little of it these days. I like going to the beach as I find it one of the only places I am truly able to relax. I like to read (when I can find the time), and I have a love/hate relationship with exercise. I play singles tennis because I like the workout more than I love tennis itself. I find kickboxing incredibly effective at reducing my stress level. I run, simply because I can. I challenge myself to strive for excellence in just about everything I do. Raising two boys into intelligent, law-abiding, beautiful young men is my greatest accomplishment. I am grateful and incredibly fortunate.
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 often reflect back on my days, in my mid-twenties, when I worked on the cardiac surgery team at a very large academic medical center. Many long nights were spent, in the operating room, performing heart and/or lung transplants. The work was exhausting. Yet, somehow, even as a young professional, I was able to appreciate the impact of those challenging nights. The gift of transplantation extends far beyond the walls of the OR and touches so many lives, in so many ways. At that young age, I was acutely aware that I was a part of something much larger than myself. Those memories impact me, to this day, as I am grateful for that gift of awareness and thankful, I was able to be a part of something so rigorous and yet so rewarding.

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

The Secretary assists in the management of the affairs of the Association, has the power/authority to collaboratively make decisions regarding the strategic direction of the Association, and prioritizes issues related to the long-range effects of those decisions. The Secretary accurately
records the proceedings of business meetings and assists the President with moving the agenda along. During my career in Perioperative Services, I’ve sat on countless committees, carrying a variety of roles and responsibilities, including the recording, and distributing of minutes. I’ve participated on many Boards, in a meaningful way, and fully appreciate that serving on a Board extends far beyond your own personal agenda/opinion to one of the best decisions for the collective whole. Serving on a Board is a part of something much larger than yourself. To me, serving is a selfless quest to give back to the profession I have given my life to.