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

VICE PRESIDENT

Kristy P. Simmons, 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.

One of my passions is to find old vintage items and repurpose them for a new life. I love to go “treasure hunting”. This involves shopping at junk stores, going to estate sales and finding unique treasures on the side of the road. Each stop is like opening pandoras box you never know what you are going to find. I like using my imagination to figure out how I can use a vintage item a new way. I can’t help but wonder about the history of each treasure I bring home and always wonder what my treasure would tell me if it could speak. Sometimes I have to ask what is this and how do you use it? I love hearing the past stories of my treasures. I have even talked myself out of one sale as I asked about the history of a vintage hand crochet table cloth, I was interested in purchasing at
an estate sale. The family told me it was used by their grandmother for every holiday. I asked the family “Are you sure you want to sell this family treasure that is attached to so many family memories- you should keep it.” And they did.

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.**

One of the worst emergency cases I’ve been called out on involved a pregnant patient. I remember entering the operating room and it was chaotic. We had three teams of nurses running around and trying to get organized for three different procedures. My daughter was pregnant at the time and I remember thinking this could be her.

I took one look at the patient’s panicked face and, as she was drifting off to sleep, took the time out to hold her hand and tell her we would pray for her and her baby and would be with her the whole time during her surgery and take good care of both of them.

Fast forward six weeks later, my daughter, a NICU nurse, is caring for this patient and her premature infant. When the patient started talking about her experience in the OR, the only thing she remembered was someone holding her hand as she drifted off to sleep. Through Facebook I have
the opportunity to watch this miracle grow up. I now try to connect with each patient and take the time to hold each patient’s hands as they drift off to sleep. They will remember.

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 to be ready to step into the President’s role if needed, and therefore has to be just as involved and aware of all aspects of AORN’s business as the President. In this support role, the Vice President can bring a vital additional perspective to the decisions and duties of the President. I have served in many different capacities in my years at AORN, and my experience lends that additional diversity of thought required of any effective leadership team. In addition to my organizational and practical experience, my personality enables me to speak up and assess all sides of the important decisions we make, especially when those decisions are difficult. As a voting member of the Executive committee and member of the Finance & Audit and Compliance Committee I will use my vote and voice to make financially sound decisions to keep our organization relevant and in line with our strategic vision to promote safe patient care in the perioperative setting. We must always remember that we are a team, with leadership that
considers all aspects of our organization with our core values and mission always in mind, to better serve our most important resources – our members.