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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Megan K. Nolan, MSN, 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 am passionate about my family and my community. My boys are in their formative years, and I have instilled the idea that anyone can change the world, even in small ways. As a result, I have spent much of the last four years making the world a better place for my family and community. One of my favorite quotes is Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Many small changes can add up to more significant changes. My vision for perioperative nursing involves many small changes to improve the health of our work environment and the care for our patients.
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.

There have been many meaningful days in my 14 years of experience, and I am most proud of my leadership during the pandemic. These last few years have been difficult for us, personally and professionally. During this time, I focused my energy on supporting my team. Sometimes listening is all you can do to support someone struggling at home with social distancing and the dramatic changes in our lives. Certainly, it has been trying on my mental health, as I suspect it has been on everyone. But, if we can all meet one other where they are and support them, we will get through this pandemic. There is no way around the pandemic, only through it, onward!

3. What, in your opinion, are the key responsibilities for a member of the Board of Directors and what experience has prepared you for this role?

The board of directors' key responsibilities are managing the Association's affairs and developing the strategic plan to support members and build for the future. As a perioperative nurse leader, I run operating rooms, designed comprehensive onboarding programs, and developed innovative solutions to common perioperative challenges. The field of perioperative nursing is changing
and more rapidly since the pandemic has driven more registered nurses and surgical technologists out of the operating room. We will have to be innovative to continue providing high-quality care to a more complex patient population. While I do not believe robots will replace nurses, we will need to embrace technology to free nurses to practice at the top of their licenses. In addition, we will need out-of-the-box ideas like VR tours of operating room nursing designed for high school students to foster the love of the operating room early.