



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carole "Gert" Mayes, PhD, NPD-BC, RN, CNOR

1. Describe what makes you the most qualified candidate for the office of Board of Directors.

My passion for perioperative nursing, ability to connect within and outside of AORN, and drive to support AORN make me qualified for the Board of Directors. As a rural perioperative nurse, I committed to the profession in 1990 and became a lifetime AORN member 17+ years ago. To share our voice, I serve as a delegate at each attended Expo.

Because connections within and beyond AORN are paramount, I have honed my networking skills. I facilitate monthly interdisciplinary virtual education events; author a quarterly research column for the ANA-VT; sponsor activities for a Sigma Theta Tau Omega chapter; and speak at international virtual events. With each interaction, I incorporate perioperative nursing to keep our goals at the forefront. I listen and act to promote AORN and your needs. I listened to and acted upon requests that resulted



in the AORN Guiding Principles for the Surgical Services Director Role.

2. How do you plan to engage with our members and stakeholders to ensure their voices are represented in our organization's decision-making processes?

I will continue engaging with AORN members and stakeholders using multiple methods. I plan to attend live and virtual events on the local, regional, national, and international levels and to continue interacting on social media sites. My new goal is to use feedback from our members to create avenues like quarterly open forums where members, future members, and stakeholders can directly share their thoughts, concerns, and solutions with a variety of AORN leaders. These various engagement activities will provide opportunities for more members/potential members outside of chapter and state assembly meetings to interact with our organization's leadership. Using these engagement methods, I and the rest of AORN will be able to identify patterns developing regarding concerns or questions, determine the next steps, and identify the best processes supporting activity transparency. As a large organization with a global impact, we must provide multiple venues for connecting the leadership and member voices.

3. What activities or interests outside of your professional life do you believe contribute to your overall well-being and your effectiveness as a leader?

My life outside of work and AORN activities support my well-being and leadership effectiveness. The time I spend exercising, cooking, baking, and gardening reduces my stress levels and allows me to put a smile on my “cookie monster’s” (aka my husband's) face. Volunteering for various events like the Whoopie Pie Festival and at a local free clinic recharges my batteries. While all these activities require planning, the satisfaction achieved whether by accomplishing a physical feat, watching a seed grow, or providing a unique meal allows me to express my creativity and provide for family, friends, community, and colleagues. The hour I take at the day’s end to relax with my husband and dog simply by watching a television show and snuggling re-centers me and supports that all-important sleep cycle. Overall, these activities recharge my batteries and keep my mind flexible. This energy and creativity are key factors to successful leadership.