



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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Darlene B. Murdock, MSN, BBA, RN, CNOR, CSSM

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

Based on my 5+ years of current consecutive board service, including 1.5 years as Vice President, I am the most qualified candidate for the office of President-elect. My experience as an officer over the last 3+ years has been instrumental in shaping my abilities to take on this role. As Secretary, I was always prepared to take on the responsibilities of the Vice President, and now as Vice President, I am ready to take on the responsibilities of the President.

As a board member, I have contributed to effectively managing our association's affairs through some of the most challenging times and engaged in our strategic planning process. As Secretary, I have gained a thorough understanding of AORN's bylaws, policies, parliamentary procedures, and history while expediting our bimonthly board agenda. Currently, as Vice President, I have



established an executive presence serving on the executive, compliance, and finance and audit committees. I work closely with the President to advance our mission and vision while providing strategic direction for our association. My experience has also allowed me to represent AORN on both national and international platforms. My progressive years of board service gives me confidence in my ability to lead our association successfully.

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 understand the importance of keeping our members and stakeholders involved in the decision-making process. I believe that our members are the core of AORN's existence and to ensure that your voices are heard and represented, I will take several measures because I am committed to remaining connected and in communication with you.

I will prioritize being actively present in our new online community, Periop Corner, to stay connected and easily communicate with you. Along with our board members, I will continue to complete chapter visits and attend chapter leader town halls, legislative calls, regional



conferences, and other AORN events to stay abreast of members' challenges, concerns, and celebrations. During Expo, we will ensure ample time during the open forum for you to express your ideas and concerns, and I promise to listen intently. At all AORN events that I attend, I will take the time to speak with our stakeholders and vendor partners one-on-one to thank them for their support and to hear their feedback.

Engaging members and stakeholders has been of utmost importance in many board discussions, and I am open to exploring new and innovative options such as routine virtual town halls and podcasts.

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?

I engage in many activities outside of work that contribute to my overall well-being, but being a dog owner contributes the most. As a dog owner, I receive unconditional love and reciprocate that love. Walking my dogs, Boots & Buster, at least once daily provides me with regular exercise and time to reflect. We all know the importance of exercise for our mental and physical health. Research has shown that reflection boosts productivity, and I have found that to be true. Reflection also allows me



to consciously consider and analyze my daily actions to make self-improvements and ensure that my actions and values remain aligned.

I believe in continuous learning and growth and participate in various activities outside of work to help me maintain and improve my leadership skills. Last year, I completed my Masters in Nursing, and this year, I joined a Toastmasters club to sharpen my leadership skills further. Joining the club helps expand my network and provides me with new perspectives and knowledge about life and business. I have also taken on a leadership role as club secretary. I demonstrate my unwavering commitment to lifelong learning and self-improvement through these activities.