



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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leslie A. Petruzzelli, DNP, MBA, RN, CNOR, NE-BC

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

A board member must fully understand the mission of AORN. The purpose of AORN is to provide evidence-based recommendations to deliver safe perioperative care and workplace safety. This purpose is accomplished through perioperative continuing education and research for evidence-based practice. The education of the membership takes a strategic plan from the board of directors with a financial plan that collaborates with the executive team at AORN. I am a collaborative leader with a strong business background in leading perioperative teams clinically and financially. When I decide or support an idea, I can tell you the “why” behind my decision. My decisions are well informed, and it is not about me but what is best for us, the members of AORN. I have the education to prepare me to serve as a great board member but my 35 years of “real world” experience is what will serve you best.

**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 am seeing current board practices that members are really enjoying, and I would like to perpetuate those practices. What I have seen lately are board members who travel to chapter meetings giving chapter members an opportunity for discussion. I have understood that members are so complimentary and grateful. Nurses are highly creative people that continue to impress me with their innovation. Learning what is important to the membership in person would be extremely valuable. I want to continue this travel as much as possible by communicating and coordinating with the AORN president and chapter presidents to along with other board members to maximize our efforts. Board members have offered CE programs to chapters upon their visit. These are all great practices that I want to follow to collaborate with other members of the board. Providing contact information available for the future, email and cell phone would also be helpful.

**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?**



As a Flight Nurse in the Air Force for 30 years I donned my O2 mask first before I could assist others! I make my health a priority by exercising and trying to eat right which is a daily conscious event. Physical health allows me to enjoy and care for my husband, family, and friends who I am committed to every day. Friends are the family we have chosen, and I take those relationships seriously. Humor is also important; I try not to take myself too seriously as I have found myself in stressful situations throughout my personal life and career. People do not want a robot leader they need someone who will listen and empathize and help them with a plan. If you prioritize your physical health, your mental health follows, and the world is a brighter, more enjoyable place.