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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

David Reinhart, DNP, MBA, RN, CNOR, FAAN

1. **What AORN value is the most meaningful to you, and how do your values align with the mission, vision, and values of AORN?**

AORN was founded in 1949 to establish a national community of operating room nurses who sought to share best practices for patients undergoing surgery. Seeking best practices for our patient’s undergoing surgery has been my priority for 37 years of clinical practice in Perioperative Services. To choose an AORN value that is most meaningful to me is difficult because innovation, communication, quality, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusions (DEI), and achievement are all foundational to our patient population and our members. The healthcare environment is at a pivotal point and AORN finds itself adjusting to unknown challenges. Given the current uncertainty in the healthcare landscape, innovation has become a top priority for me. AORN must embrace bold and courageous actions to ensure growth and sustainability. Our members are encountering the latest technological advancements in the operating room. Collaborating with them to evaluate the impact of these innovations will help validate their necessity and enhance nursing interventions for all perioperative patients. Evaluating our current business model and refining our goals while safeguarding our safe patient care ethics is essential. Preserving these values is not only a measure of our success but also a cornerstone of our future.

1. **What potential challenges or threats do you see that could impact perioperative nursing in the future, and how do you suggest we plan and prepare to meet the challenges?**

Staffing gaps, increased demand for OR efficiency, lack of surgical supplies, maneuvering computer software upgrades, orienting new employees and embracing continued competencies in innovative technology i.e., robotics and Artificial Intelligence are all challenges and threats to our perioperative nurses. At morning huddles, I hear daily IT upgrades putting more barriers between nurses and patient care. These upgrades are important to healthcare efficiencies, however, at what point do we ask ourselves which added task improves or impedes care to the patient on the operating room table? Adding periop curriculum to schools of nursing, welcoming them in our environment and exposing them to AORN while offering clinical rotations must continue. Daily updates with supply deficiencies or supply change options can be challenging to our daily patient flow. Participating on new product evaluation committees can put the nurse at the table to assess best supplies needed for our surgical patients. Perioperative nurses must keep an open mind to prepare for the changing world with as much knowledge as possible. Perioperative nurses must be in the design and decision-making seat with innovative technology and operations that helps workflow and improves patient safety. Involvement, training, and education will move our members forward with new innovations.

1. **From your perspective, what are the key areas where AORN could better support our members in addressing the evolving challenges of perioperative practice, and how would you contribute to these improvements?**

Surgical smoke legislation continues to move in a positive direction across the country, however, strong leadership and dedication to improving safety standards for healthcare workers and patients must continue to be a priority. The dangers of surgical smoke, backed by data from OSHA and the compelling evidence of its carcinogenic and mutagenic risks, makes a powerful case for comprehensive legislative action. Eighteen states to date have enacted surgical smoke evacuation legislation that underscores the growing recognition of this issue, however, inconsistency in policies across facilities further reinforces the need for uniform standards. I will support budgeting resources to advance this initiative as part of AORN's legislative agenda as a critical step in ensuring nationwide protection.