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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Heidi Nanavati, MSN, CRNP, CNOR

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

The mission, vision and values of AORN are the guiding light of the organization. These three pieces are what makes it the premier perioperative association in the world. Working to provide safe, evidence-based exemplary care to all patients in all continuums of perioperative care. The values of innovation, communication, achievement and DEI are all a vital part of the organization, but quality is integral to its success. Without quality products we would not have the support of our members. Quality scientific based education to train staff to work confidently to their fullest potential, quality tools for members to utilize in and out of the operating room, as well as quality AORN staff and resources to help members along the way. Having strong values and a strong work ethic is a must in life to be successful. To be the best there must be effort, of a high quality as well. One gets out of life what they put in and that should always be 110% in all aspects. Being innovative and having high quality, creative ideas, will help push the organization forward allowing it to be a successful business as well as supporting the needs of the members.

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?**

Since the pandemic we have seen a shift in many members’ priorities, having a shortage of healthcare workers certainly has not helped but pushed them to look for more of a work life balance. This is only going to continue. How can AORN help? One way would be to focus on products that help our members at the bedside in the operating room, making it easier on them while dealing with staff shortages. Having tools at their disposal that help with communication between areas (sterile processing, pre op, the operating room, and recovery room) is one idea to help ease the workflow as well as enhance the quality of the continuum of care. With the use of AI and technology we can help make their workflow smoother and more efficient. Matching the needs of the individuals will help engage and retain those on the fence about their membership by adding value, it may also engage new members or facilities to join. There needs to be a strong presence of Periop 101 in the facilities struggling the most to hire as well. Having that to help with the onboarding of any new hires, especially those without experience, is crucial.

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?**

It is apparent that many chapters are struggling, and the needs of our members is changing. Though the socialization during meetings is nice, members are reprioritizing their use of time. They no longer need to attend monthly meetings for continuing education as they get it free from AORN. AORN needs to strengthen our relationships and engage our industry partners to work with us to build tools nurses can use in their daily work environment. For example, QR codes with product information to be scanned at the bedside to trouble shoot machines and instruments, and easy hand off tools for better workflow from admission to discharge. With the staff shortage AORN can work to restructure Periop 101 slightly to cater to those educating new hires that may or may not have some experience and they need to get them accounted for as an FTE quickly. A fast-track program for the changing needs of facilities as they fill their available positions. AORN is a member organization, but it is also a business. Being able to provide more high-end quality products to our members and facilities will help the organization grow and be able to support the members needs as well.