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

TREASURER

Laura Gayton, MHCA, BSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM

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 value of communication resonates and aligns with my personal values exemplifying respect, collaboration, transparency, and honesty. Communication is a cornerstone of human interaction and plays a vital role in personal, professional, and societal settings. Its value can be understood through many aspects. Building relationships by providing effective communication fosters trust, understanding, and emotional connections, which helps resolve conflicts and strengthen bonds. When members are clearly communicated, we can ensure that ideas, and bridge cultural, and perceptual differences, promote inclusivity. To drive successful and engaging members communication is essential for collaboration, leadership, and decision-making. My values align with communication by essentially ensuring that words and actions consistently reflect my core beliefs and principles creating a sense of authenticity and trust. I value collaboration and will use inclusive language and encourage open dialogue in staff or team meeting. Our organization thrives on transparent and open communication, which boosts morale and productivity.

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?**

Engaging members is crucial for fostering a motivated, productive, and aligned organization. The strategies to achieve effective engagement of our members is to build a strong organizational culture. Share the vision and values to ensure members understand and resonate with the organization’s mission and core values. Promote inclusion, diversity and inclusivity, making everyone feel valued and respected and encouraging open and transparent communication. I will support a robust mentorship program and build a strong network to support those seeking to work in perioperative services. Strong foundational mentorship program provides connections to future nurse professionals. As your treasurer I will ensure AORN advocates for legislation supporting safe and effective perioperative nursing practice. The voice of our members needs to be heard, and I will support re-establishing more open dialog at the forum.

1. **What financial experience makes you the best candidate for AORN Treasurer?**

A good Treasurer plays a critical role in ensuring the financial health and transparency of the organization. I possess the qualities, skills, and responsibilities that make an effective treasurer for AORN. I am currently the director of outpatient services at St Louis University. My responsibilities include a department budget of $100 million and monthly management of supplies, staffing, contractual and an annual capital budget. The key qualities to be your treasurer are integrity, ethics, honesty and a strong sense of accountability, transparency in financial reporting and decision-making. Being detail oriented I will pay close attention to numbers, budgets, and financial details to avoid errors. These involvements position me well to serve in the role of Treasurer. I have the financial strength, budget, and business acumen to serve as your Treasurer of AORN and its subsidiaries.