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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nikki Washington, MSN, MBA-HCM, 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?**

Communication is incredibly valuable to me, and my values align with the mission and values of AORN. I firmly believe that effective communication forms the foundation of all these values. Being able to articulate clearly, actively listen, and disseminate relevant information is essential for maintaining the integrity of our esteemed organization. We are at a crucial point in nursing, particularly in our specialty, where strategic efforts are necessary to advocate for our patients and perioperative nurses. As healthcare continues to evolve, traditional methods in the operating room have expanded beyond the OR and into procedural areas. Effective communication is essential in addressing the concerns of OR nurses and the voices of procedural nurses, who may lack the resources to provide optimal care for perioperative patients. Effective, respectful, and authentic communication is the cornerstone of building relationships, coordinating care, and navigating challenges and change.

1. **What trends or changes in perioperative practice do you believe are most important for perioperative nurses and how should the BOD address these?**

The most impactful current trends in perioperative practices include the advancement of hybrid procedures and artificial intelligence (AI). Change is inevitable, and innovation is the future. Perioperative nurses, including procedural nurses, must be adequately equipped to navigate blended environments and the use of AI in clinical practice.

Historically, many specialty areas, such as the cath lab or interventional radiology, have not operated solely under AORN guidelines but have followed the guidelines of their respective specialty organizations. The Board of Directors may utilize their expertise to make a meaningful impact by focusing on best practices and ensuring the safety of ongoing changes. A clear blueprint is necessary to support the sustainability of new initiatives, technology, and collaborations, particularly with other organizations. This will provide valuable insights and tools to improve the care and safety of perioperative patients, whether in the operating room or procedural areas, with or without AI.

1. **What motivates you to serve as a member of the AORN BOD? What personal or professional qualities and attributes do you possess that would make you an effective member?**

My sincere passion for our profession and admiration for AORN inspire me to serve on the AORN Board of Directors. I have a deep connection to and enthusiasm for the OR community. With nearly thirty years of experience in various perioperative roles, I have had the opportunity to view the perioperative environment from different perspectives. As a cath lab director and an interventional radiology travel nurse, I have gained insight into two critical areas. This experience allows me to effectively address the challenges faced by OR and procedural RNs.

As a board member, I can share my personal experiences and successful initiatives that have addressed some of these challenges. My passion is a compelling tool to engage key stakeholders and drive meaningful change. Programmatically, my P.A.R.T. (Passion, Authenticity, Resilience, Tenacity) is to serve as an effective change agent as a member of AORN Board of Directors.