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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Richard Dorritie, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, CNE, 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?**

Without question, equity in healthcare is the AORN value that sustains and encourages my continued involvement in our organization. I can remember as a child going to county health offices, and then later, when my single mom got an HMO, how different our family was treated. I have watched and witnessed poverty, racism and bigotry influence how some folks delivered and received care, and it has been a focal point for me to be a responsible and ethically grounded healthcare worker. In this way I can see being aligned with a professional organization, together, seeking to deliver just care for all is critically important to my professional identity, and in my opinion, what makes AORN special.

1. **What motivates you to continue advancing your engagement in perioperative nursing, and how do you use this passion to inspire others in the profession?**

Starting as an associate’s nurse I just wanted to be a good nurse. Growing up poor gave me my first window into noticing disparities early in my career, that later became a trained eye. Later, working and schooling during my BS nursing program, I was lucky enough to connect with a mentor that fueled my own concern and curiosity about safety, quality and health systems. Events I lived through and with, from sentinel events, to every day occurrences inspired me to do more. It didn’t start that way, but, with skilled support, my mentor helped me to see what was possible and now, I try to be that mentor for others. As a clinical nurse, professor and researcher, I want to improve care, and I use the many opportunities I have to open doors for nurses, sponsoring, sharing, supporting, mentoring, and encouraging them to find and follow their passion.

1. **What ideas do you have on how the NC can increase member participation in the nomination and voting process?**

Our local chapter is where we live and thrive. We can impact member engagement with solid chapter support and candidate meet and greet. Finding ways to bring nominations and candidates to the people, not just at the expo or virtually, we would feel more connected. I have talked with so many expo attendees that had no idea they could vote, or what the elected positions actually did for the organization, didn’t know if there was any real difference in the candidates, and couldn’t detail the difference between employed AORN roles and elected roles. We deserve candidates that represent, connect and inspire our members, we need to have a nominating committee bring exciting and engaging candidates to the people and the chapters. We need candidates that are not just another slice from the same pie, but instead, reflect the incredible and powerful diversity of our profession, especially clinical nurses.