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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Nakeisha M. Archer, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC, CNOR, CSSM

1. **Describe what makes you the most qualified candidate for the office of President-elect.**

Success in the office of president-elect requires serving as a visionary while developing a road map for advancing our profession and association. I have progressive experience consistently serving on AORN’s board of directors and as treasurer with vision and strategy; I am well prepared for this. In these roles, during the most challenging time in history, I have proven successful as a member and chair of the finance & audit committee, chair of the board DEI committee, and supporting the executive committee during these times. A thriving AORN is evidence of this. While others may also share similar experience, I possess other leadership imperatives that set me apart—my strong character models integrity in all I do. My character breeds trust and connection, allowing me to focus on what’s best for the members, the board, and AORN. I am laser-focused on association goals and priorities and have the courage to drive for achievement, especially during adversity. Lastly, a positive attitude and servanthood, intentionally focusing on others and demonstrating my unwavering support. I am committed to listening and learning what is essential and valuable to each board of director’s member and members at large, ultimately leading based on what I’ve learned.

1. **Describe a time when you had to make a difficult and unpopular decision that would affect your staff or colleagues. How did you handle the situation?**

My department did not have consistent staffing holidays and weekends; it was being staffed with call. The call team was called in more often than not. I decided to hire permanent staff to support the volume of our department and to ensure we had in-house staffing for emergencies rather than having an hour to come in from home. Essentially the team was working almost always when on call; this was a dissatisfier. During this process, I regularly met with the staff and leaders to have an open dialogue about what we were all seeing and experiencing with our volume and staffing. The team helped with solutions and voiced their concerns for me to consider during the process. Hiring into the weekend positions proved to be a challenge. I had to decide for existing staff to cover the weekend until the positions were filled. The team helped determine how they would best like to accomplish that. Even though this was not a popular decision, because of my consistent communication and collaboration with the team, they understood and helped develop solutions they felt they could live with in the interim. This strategy was successful while we worked to become fully staffed.

1. **Share one life experience, hobby, or fact about you that most people don't know and would be surprised to learn about you.**

One of my favorite things is whale watching with my best friend and travel partner/enthusiast, Nell. We have been on 5 whale-watching trips together, which never disappoint.

There is something magical about that time spent on the water with the expectation of the hunt and finally being blessed enough to see and interact with a majestic blue whale, sperm whale, pilot whale, or our favorite, or a pod of killer orca whales. Other whale species we have seen include Humpback whales, fin, minke, and gray whales during their whale migration. Aside from connecting with the whales and dolphins, simply being out on the open ocean with the fresh air and serenity that accompanies it is truly remarkable and life-changing. It’s worth you giving it a try; this experience rejuvenates my soul and spirit every time I go. One thing we need as nurses is to decompress, take care of our bodies, and souls while doing things we adore with those we love the most.