The 2024 AORN Congress was invigorating as usual. The Expo not only offered the opportunity to explore new technology and surgical supplies, but to also give to the community by donating blood, assembling diaper packages and first aid kits, and tie-dying washcloths for the mobile bathrooms for the homeless.

The education sessions were interesting, and the keynote speakers were so inspiring. My favorite was Princess Sarah Culberson. Her journey from being adopted and the only African in her family in a small town in Virginia, to finding her birth family and discovering she is royalty in Sierra Leone was so uplifting. During her visit to her ancestral country, she uncovered a war-torn nation that showed her so much love. She co-founded a non-profit organization that raises funds to improve education, sustainable living, and create opportunities for the economy. Her story is so inspiring, her memoir is being made into a Disney movie.

Despite all of the positives at the conference, it was disappointing to hear how few members voted for the National Board during Congress. Additionally, for the first time in all of the years I have attended Congress, the delegates didn't vote on anything. I left the conference hoping more OR nurses get involved and help mold the future of AORN, and use their voices to help drive change in our profession.