

The AORN Nurse Scientist Specialty Assembly is pleased to introduce our 2025-2026 slate of candidates for the Specialty Assembly leadership ballot. We appreciate our volunteers!

Position: Chair Elect

Candidates:

- Maria Hazel Garcia

Position: Education Coordinator

Candidates:

- Ashley Anderson
- Kristopher Kavanaugh
- Sandra Myers

Position: Professional Practice Coordinator

Candidates:

- Juliann Altman
- Susan Lynch
- Yusuf Muhammad

Please review the attached biographies and election statements for the candidates provided below and then cast your vote using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vMC6zyKvUb>

Education Coordinator Highlights:

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY



Ashley L. Anderson MSN-Ed, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR, is a Nursing Professional Development Specialist Lead at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, California. At CHLA, Ashley supports peri-operative services by executing and delivering Peri-operative Enterprise Strategic Outcomes that align with education, competencies, and pipeline development. As a Johns Hopkins University graduate, she began her operating room career as a new graduate nurse and advanced to leadership roles within her tenure: Neurosurgery Coordinator, Surgery Coordinator, Clinical Educator, Education Manager, and in 2020 transitioned to a Nursing Professional Development Specialist (NPDS). Ashley utilizes AORN Guidelines, industry standards, and change management theories to enhance peri-operative performance in safe quality care through educational opportunities. She also serves as a professional growth

mentor to Transition to Practice OR Nurses enrolled in Peri-op 101 and experienced Peri-operative Nurses and Surgical Technologist; especially those working on evidence-based practice projects and quality improvement projects, as well as those pursuing certification and professional clinical ladder advancement. Ashley is dual-certified as an operating room nurse and a board certified nursing professional development practitioner. She is a member of the Association of Peri-operative Nurses, the Association of Nursing Professional Development, and is a CCI CNOR Coach.

ELECTION STATEMENT

Scholarly inquiry is deeply threaded into our day-to-day practices as Peri-operative Nurses. My goals if selected for the NSSA Education Chair position would two-fold. First, continue to offer educational opportunities. Secondly, begin the develop a yearlong track-based mentored program entitled the "Scholar Academy" to support peri-operative nurses that desire to actively apply their knowledge and skills in developing an evidence-based practice or quality improvement project, or research. Upon successful completion of the "Scholar Academy" participants work would be professional disseminated in future AORN Surgical Conferences.

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY



Sandra Myers, DNP, APRN, CNS-CP, CSSM, CNOR, NPD-BC, CCNS, CPHQ is a dedicated Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Curriculum Developer with extensive experience in shaping nursing education. She specializes in designing innovative curricula that enhance clinical competency and evidence-based practice. Sandra has delivered national presentations on perioperative nursing topics, clinical best practices, and professional development, contributing to the advancement of healthcare education and patient outcomes.

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am honored to be placed on the NSSA Ballot for the Education Chair position. With a robust background as a Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Curriculum Developer, I have consistently championed innovative educational strategies to enhance nursing practice. My experience delivering local, state and national presentations has equipped me with the skills to disseminate best practices effectively. If elected, I will dedicate myself to advancing our educational initiatives, fostering professional development, and ensuring our programs meet the evolving needs of our profession.

Professional Practice Coordinator Highlights:

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY



Juliann is an Advanced Practice RN with 17 years of nursing experience who is a trailblazer in the field of perioperative nursing, leaving an indelible mark through her innovative contributions to education, safety, patient care and professional development. She demonstrates outstanding interprofessional communication, team leadership, implementation of best practices from evidence-based care and advanced leadership skills. Juliann is a highly accomplished nurse leader who transforms perioperative practice through innovative education and mentorship. Her comprehensive orientation program has significantly improved nurse retention and competency. She champions evidence-based practice, leading quality improvement projects focused on critical safety issues like air quality and

surgical positioning. Her leadership within her department and pursuit of facility grants to improve patient safety demonstrate her commitment to creating a culture of safety. | Juliann's dedication, innovation, and leadership make her an invaluable asset to the perioperative community

ELECTION STATEMENT

As chair, I will prioritize addressing practice issues identified by SA members. My focus will be on diligent research and information sharing regarding relevant field developments, fostering collaborative discussions and solutions. Furthermore, I will actively engage with the AORN National Legislative Forum and AORN staff to advance our legislative priorities at both the state and federal levels, serving as a dedicated legislative resource for our members.