

APIC

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

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Dear Members:

It is hard to believe the summer is ending and the fall will soon be here. Our last meeting was in July at Brookfield Zoo. Dr. Houff and Dr. Meehan's presentations on zoonosis and infection control highlighted the need for continued surveillance for the West Nile Virus and other wasting diseases like CJD. Hope you took the time to visit the zoo and its many attractions.

In our last newsletter I mentioned the many members who presented at our national meeting. I inadvertently forgot to mention one member Adrienne Fisher. Please join me in congratulating her on her presentation.

National News:

The draft Flu Pandemic Response Plan, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services is available for review. APIC members are urged to review the draft and comment on the plan. The plan is available on line at www.dhhs.gov/pandemicplan/.

As reported in the news, Chiron a flu vaccine manufacturer has announced that there was a problem in their processing of this years flu vaccine. While not every lot was affected they had to stop production to correct the issue. Chiron has about half of the market share for flu vaccine and anticipates that there will be a delay in the delivery of the vaccine. The CDC is working with vaccine manufacturers to ensure that the vaccine demand is met. For more information on the flu vaccine visit the CDC web site.

APIC has a Flu tool kit available on their web site. The tool kit contains a vaccine plan, a power point presentation and education information. For more Flu information visit the APIC web site at <http://www.apic.org/>.

The CDC is looking for public comments on their Vaccine Safety Program. To review the program, visit the CDC web site <http://www.cdc.gov/od/vaccsafe/>.

The new APIC Text is available. The text has been updated and includes new resources. The text also addresses patient safety, biofilms, West Nile and body piercings. The reorganization of the text makes it more user friendly. The text can be ordered on line and will be shipped out sometime this fall.

Jennifer Thomas reported that a bill delaying the enforcement of the TB Standard by OSHA will be coming to the House of Representatives for a vote in the future. When the bill comes up for a vote the Government Affairs Committee of APIC will contact members for their support and assistance. After the bill goes to the House of Representatives it will move on to the Senate.

Kathy Wayre, APIC executive director announced that APIC continues to evaluate opportunities to work with manufacturers. The board is also in the process of interviewing a new Chief Financial Officer for the organization.

The new national APIC web site is up and going. Many sites on the web page are still under construction. The national office continues to work on the site. Take the time to go on line and check it out www.apic.org.

Have you visited our chapter web site? Our chapter web site is up and running. We too have some areas still under construction. Please take the time to check out our page at www.apicchicago.com. If you have any suggestions for the web site please inform Mary Alice Lavin or any board member.

As reported in our last newsletter, APIC national dues are increasing to \$150.00. There will be a detailed explanation of the increase from National with the membership letter in November.

A number of national membership awards, grants and scholarships are available to members. Chicago APIC sponsors scholarships for CBIC certification\recertification and for registration to the annual conference. If you are interested please contact a member of the board.

Willingness to Serve:

Are you interested in serve as a board member or on one of the chapter committees? Working on the Board can be a great challenge and a lot of fun. If you are interested please contact any of the board members for more information.

Programs being offered:

Chicago Chapter Annual Education Program, October 15, 2004. The program is at Aarmark. The program features presentations on VAP, the Norovirus, Monkey Pox, an update on the Hospital Report card Act and JCAHO. You will be receiving information on the program soon. If you have questions contact Robin Larson(rlarson@uic.edu)

Positions Available:

There are open Infection Control Positions at Swedish Covenant hospital, University of Chicago hospital and Weiss hospital

Opportunities for Infection Control - Contact Jim Brown (jbrown@galileosearch.com) and Erin Caruso has more opportunities (erincarus@verizon.net).

Mark your Calendar: December 1, 2004, the Chicago APIC Business Meeting at Maggianos in Oakbrook.

Sincerely:
Carol Schultz