

APIC Chicago

Association for Professionals in
Infection Control and Epidemiology

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Dear Colleagues,

The chapter business meeting held in December was filled with details of a very successful year under the leadership of Michael Vernon. The Legislative Affairs Committee presented a report on its activities of the past year. Michael then introduced Sean McDermott, a special guest who supported the committee's lobbying efforts. He educated many members on the *ins-and-outs* of lobbying our state legislators. His energy was boundless and appreciated. The committee faces new challenges in 2008 and Mary Alice Lavin, Chairperson, will lead our attempt to modify the language in the MRSA legislation passed in 2007. A budget for the committee was approved and this should allow greater flexibility in dealing with legislative issues. We wish the committee success in the coming year.

As the New Year begins, I hope members will take the time to visit our website, www.apicchicago.org. Kathy Aureden coordinates the website information for the chapter. If you have updates or wish to add information, you may e-mail her at: kathy.aureden@shermanhospital.org or, you may use the contact tab on the website. Please stay in touch with the chapter.

The Public Policy Committee of National APIC has sent a recent update on legislation introduced by Senator Robert Menendez known as the "Worker Infection Prevention Act". This legislation would direct Secretaries of Labor and HHS to jointly develop and issue workplace standards, recommendations, and plans to protect healthcare workers, first responders, police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and other workers from risks in the workplace of exposure to infectious agents including MRSA and pandemic influenza. The crucial and sensitive nature of this new federal bill highlights the importance of our need to be informed and to communicate with our legislators. The committee is currently working on putting together a key message to assist you with this communication. Please be involved and active in our chapter committees and meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Marie Ogle