**San Diego & Imperial County APIC Chapter 048 - Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 13, 2025 **Time:** 1:13 PM - 2:42 PM **Location:** Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

**I. Attendance**

**Board Members & Liaisons Present:** Frank Myers (President), Jessica (CAPIC President), Kristen (Treasurer), Kim Boynton Delahanty (Treasurer), Claudia Sanchez Goad (Nominating Chair), Lisa Mattia (Nominating Committee), Kai Bryant (Education Chair), Cheryl Karn (Legislative Chair), Latrice & Christian Andaya (Social Chairs), Janessa Esteban (Ambulatory Care Liaison), Grace Kang (County of San Diego HHSA Liaison).

**Members & Guests Present:** A total of 69 members and guests were in attendance, as recorded on the official attendance report.

**II. Call to Order & Welcome**

The business meeting was called to order at 1:13 PM by Chapter President Frank Myers.

**III. Sponsor Recognition**

Frank Myers thanked the meeting sponsors, **NuTrace** and **Watchdog AI**, for providing lunch for the in-person attendees.

**IV. Introductions & Certifications**

* **New Members & First-Time Attendees:**
  + A new Infection Preventionist (IP) from Kaiser Zion (4 weeks in the role).
  + Sriharsha, an IP from Hemet Global Medical Center.
  + Yesenia Olais from Onvida Health in Yuma, AZ.
  + Nikki Perillo, Reusable Medical Equipment Coordinator at Sharp Grossmont Hospital (First-time attendee).
* **Certifications:**
  + Brenda Rivera was congratulated for renewing her CIC certification.

**V. Approval of Previous Minutes**

* The minutes from the April/May meeting were presented for approval.
* **Motion to Approve:** A motion was made to approve the minutes.
* **Second:** Jessica.
* **Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Board & Committee Reports**

**A. President’s Report (Frank Myers)**

* **Chapter Conference:** The annual chapter conference will be held at Pala Mesa Resort in Fallbrook. Early bird registration ends September 12th. The keynote panel will feature a chronological review of IP challenges through the decades, with speakers including Frank Myers, Lito, Kim Boynton Delahanty, and Jessica. The National APIC President, Devin Jopf, will also speak on future challenges.
* **Biohazardous Waste:** Jessica provided an update on the letter sent by a California APIC (CAPIC) workgroup to CDPH, the California Hospital Association, and others regarding new, stricter interpretations of biohazardous waste regulations. District attorneys have been involved, leading to significant fines for hospitals. The goal is to open a dialogue and find a sensible middle ground.
* **Chapter Awards:** Frank announced new chapter awards to recognize outstanding IPs and projects within the chapter, including IP of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement award.

**B. Treasurer’s Report (Kristen)** A summary of the chapter's finances for May, June, and July 2025 was provided:

* **May:** Started with $1,894. Ended with $2,724.
* **June:** Started with $2,724. Received over $8,000 in conference registration. Major expenses included an education award and a deposit for the conference photo booth. Ended with $9,539.
* **July:** Started with $9,539. Major expense was $775 for the summer social. Ended with $12,564.
* **Mutual Funds:** The mutual fund account balance as of July 31, 2025, was $30,203.

**C. Membership Report**

* As of August 1, 2025, the chapter has 135 members (98 full active, 37 associate).
* 49 members hold the CIC certification, and 2 hold the LTC-CIC.
* The chapter has welcomed 7 new members since the last meeting in May.

**D. Nominating & Awards Committee Report (Claudia Sanchez Goad)**

* Nominations are open for the 2026 board, including the Education Chair and chairs for the Membership, Social, and Nominating committees.
* A Google Form will be sent out for members to nominate colleagues for the new chapter awards. Winners will be announced at the December holiday party.

**E. Education Committee Report (Kai Bryant)**

* **APIC Dental Settings Workshop:** In-person event in Denver, CO, on October 2nd.
* **Phigenics Webinar:** A virtual discussion on water management programs and ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 514.
* **County Communicable Disease Meeting:** In-person event hosted by San Diego County Public Health on September 3rd. Topics include vaccine-preventable diseases, Candida auris, and kissing bugs (Chagas disease).

**F. Legislative Report (Cheryl Karn)**

* Members were encouraged to sign up for APIC’s VoterVoice to stay informed on public policy and take action on legislative issues affecting infection prevention.

**G. California APIC (CAPIC) Report (Jessica)**

* CAPIC is planning a Legislative Day in Sacramento for early February 2026.
* Openings are available for CAPIC Director and Vendor Liaison positions.
* A statewide mentorship program has been launched with 54 participants.

**H. Social Committee Report (Latrice & Christian Andaya)**

* The summer social at Liberty Station was a great success, with food, games, and networking.
* Planning for the winter holiday party is underway, with the likely venue being El Torito.

**VII. Liaison Reports**

* **IDAC (Infectious Diseases Association of California):** The IDAC conference is scheduled for November 14th in San Francisco. Efforts are being made to improve coordination with APIC chapters to avoid scheduling conflicts.
* **Germ Commission:** The commission is focused on reducing the unnecessary treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria in elderly patients transferred from skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to prevent C. difficile. They are also reviewing lessons learned from the recent measles case.
* **Ambulatory Care (Janessa Esteban):** Emphasized the importance of robust training, competency validation, and IP involvement when introducing new equipment and workflows in ambulatory settings.
* **County of San Diego HHSA (Grace Kang):**
  + **Measles Update:** The county confirmed its first measles case of 2025 in an unimmunized teenager with recent overseas travel. Two healthcare facilities had exposures, but no secondary cases have been identified to date. The national case count is 1,356.
  + **HAI Report:** The latest Acute Care Hospital HAI Report has been released to participating hospitals.

**VIII. Vendor Presentation: New Trace & Watchdog AI**

* **Joel Fairbanks (New Trace):** Presented the "Mole," a durable, non-fiber optic borescope designed for inspecting instrument lumens. Its key advantage is its toughness and significantly lower replacement cost ($599) compared to traditional fiber optic scopes.
* **Salmaan Hameed (Watchdog AI):** Demonstrated the Watchdog AI software, which integrates with borescopes to automatically detect, count, and document debris, stains, and other potential contamination inside lumens. The AI-driven system helps standardize inspections, provides objective data for quality improvement, and creates an audit-ready trail.

**IX. Educational Roundtable: Hot Topics in Infection Prevention**

**1. Candida auris (C. auris) Screening:**

* Members shared their screening criteria, which commonly include prior stays in SNFs/LTACs, international hospitalization, and history of carbapenem-resistant organisms (CROs).
* Swab sites typically include bilateral axilla and groin. UCSD has also incorporated hand-web swabbing.
* Most facilities are using PCR for testing.

**2. Products That Made a Difference with HAIs:**

* **VA:** The Nexiva PIV system, used with the Pivo device for blood draws, has allowed for the removal of long-term central lines in veterans, contributing to a reduction in CLABSIs.
* **UCSD:** Clearguard caps on dialysis lines were noted as a successful intervention.

**3. CLABSI Interventions:**

* A variety of successful strategies were shared:
  + **Rounding & Audits:** Daily rounding on all lines, unit-based audits, and point prevalence surveys (VA).
  + **Standardized Dressings:** Switching to CHG-impregnated dressings for both central and peripheral lines (Kaiser).
  + **Vascular Access Teams:** Utilizing dedicated IV teams to own central line dressing changes (Sharp, Kaiser).
  + **Technology & Prompts:** Using an AI-driven messaging system ("Mission Control") to prompt clinicians to review the necessity of and remove unnecessary lines (UCSD).

**4. CAUTI Root Cause Analysis (RCAs):**

* Most facilities conduct RCAs or "huddles" for all identified CAUTIs.
* Key questions investigated include:
  + Was the catheter indicated?
  + Was bundle compliance documented?
  + Was the catheter changed before the culture was collected? (Kaiser)
  + What was the time from specimen collection to lab processing? (Palomar)
  + Was the patient incontinent, and was a barrier cream or device like PureWick in use? (Children's, UCSD)
  + Was the culture part of a "pan-culture," and was it truly necessary? (UCSD)

**X. Adjournment**

Frank Myers clarified that the next meeting will be in **September 2025**. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:42 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Gemini.*