

CHICA-NORTHERN ALBERTA

Executive 2007:

President: Liz Werner RN
President Elect: Alan Hope
Secretary: Mary Kristel RN
Treasurer: Cindy Proskow RN BScN

Executive 2008:

President: Alan Hope
President Elect: Samantha Woolsey RN BScN CIC
Secretary: Melody Cordoviz RN BScN CIC
Treasurer: Cindy Proskow RN BScN

Number of Members: 83

Geographical Area served: Northern Alberta

Membership

CHICA-Northern Alberta increased its membership to 83 members. The membership includes representation across the continuum of care, industry, occupational health and safety, microbiology, and education. We have been excited to have had new people join our group, but do miss those who have retired from infection prevention and control, as well as those who have moved from the region.

Meetings

CHICA-Northern Alberta held eight meetings in 2007 as well as one joint meeting with CHICA-Southern Alberta. Meetings are hosted by a different member at a different facility each month. Education sessions for the first half of the year were dedicated to conference planning as the chapter was host for the 2007 CHICA-Canada National Education Conference in Edmonton, June 2007. The regular June luncheon meeting was replaced by a conference debriefing session and a celebration BBQ at the home of one of the members.

The annual meeting with our sister chapter, CHICA-Southern Alberta, was well attended with a key presentation from Mr. R. Mponda (guest from Malawi) and Gwenyth Meyers. They highlighted the Mphatso pure water project which involves bringing CAWST biofilter technology to Malawi. Other Infection Control projects in Malawi include mosquito net distribution and supplies for families who are caring for persons with HIV/AIDS.

CHICA NA education sessions resumed in October with presentations from three members:

Bernice Heinrichs – Development of Provincial MRSA IC Guidelines
Melody Cordoviz – Welcome to the Big Top - Piloting IC Guidelines in a Mobile Triage Centre
Janet Barclay – “PCR-The Quick Picker Upper: the use of PCR testing for MRSA to Improve Bed Management and Throughput in a Tertiary Care Hospital. “

In November, The Role of Environmental Health in Acute Care, Long Term Care and the Community” was presented by a chapter member who is an environmental health officer.

December remained as the annual Christmas luncheon with an opportunity to complete the business of the year, to network and to celebrate the year and the season.

Highlights 2007:

- ▶ The opportunity to host the CHICA-Canada National Education Conference in June was a wonderful experience and the highlight of the year. Many chapter members were able to participate in various aspects of planning and volunteering, give presentations, as well as attend the seven day event.
- ▶ The chapter continued with a formal Strategic Plan to assist in maintaining focus in order to move toward meeting annual objectives.
- ▶ Teleconferencing was provided at six of the nine meetings. From one to four members were able to take advantage of the service at those meetings, who otherwise would not have been able to participate.
- ▶ A Member Satisfaction Survey was distributed to the membership in October/November. Results and outcomes will be discussed early in 2008.

- ▶ Work has resumed towards posting a chapter web page on the CHICA-Canada website, with completion targeted for early in 2008.
- ▶ Work is in progress to complete a comprehensive list of past members of the Executive of this Chapter.
- ▶ The chapter continues to look for opportunities to increase awareness in the community.

*Liz Werner RN
Chapter President*