

Member of the Month

Dottie Borton

*Interviewed and written by
Hillary Hei*

Dottie, center, with other APIC members at the President's Reception, 1977 APIC National Convention in Miami



Role: IP Consultant at ECRI

Years of IP service: 49! After 1 year of bedside nursing, Gigi Dash, Nurse Epidemiologist at Einstein, convinced Dottie to take a temporary position while Gigi was away obtaining her master's degree. No nights, no weekends? Dottie was all in. Unfortunately for her, she became a quick learner with a Salmonella outbreak within the first month on the job. [To briefly give historical context, this was before the time of Hepatitis B and smoke-free hospitals, and employees in medical supply would still sharpen needles for reusable glass syringes needed to draw blood gases.]

What is her proudest professional accomplishment? When Dottie's presence reminded employees to perform proper infection control practices and spurred them to ask questions

What professional advice does she have for other IPs? When providing constructive feedback, it's always a give and take. Avoid approaching a person with preconceived ideas of the person or situation and be ready to actively listen if they engage in conversation. Lastly, avoid public confrontation, especially if feedback should be given to a key person in charge.

After all of these years, what continues to draw her to this field? The variety—Dottie says that she never gets bored with the diversity of subjects to learn and people to interact with.

What was the hardest challenge she has had to face? Learning how to be comfortable and still lead by influence in an unfamiliar group or environment, especially for a person who doesn't like confrontation

What advice does she have for new(er) IPs? Always make the time to leave your workplace and network at local APIC meetings— this is how you invest in yourself. For any new IPs, know that you always have something to offer whether it be a new vision, enthusiasm, etc. Take opportunities and explore all areas of your facility. Lastly, know that you're making a difference in keeping all patients and employees safe.

Any specialties that others can reach out to Dottie for assistance? Local APIC history or absolutely anything. If she doesn't know, she can help you find the answer. Make sure to reach out!

Dottie can be reached at: dborton@ECRI.org

*“What can I say? I’ve
been around forever,
but it’s been fun.”*

Other fun facts about Dottie:

Best vacation location: Muir Woods in Sausalito, CA

Hobbies: Reading, knitting, sewing, crocheting, gardening (she gets back to her farm roots)

Pets: One cat – Vinnie, name after Vincent Van Gough because the tip of his left ear was clipped.

Favorite food/meal: She likes it all, but enjoys seafood and crab boils.