

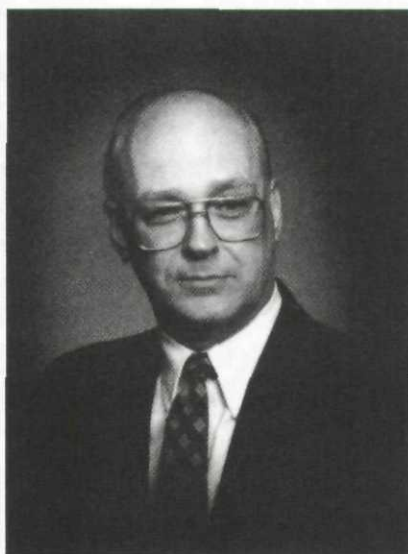
2004 AAPHD President's Award: Joseph M. Doherty, DDS, MPH

Presented by Candace Jones, RDH, MPH

The AAPHD President's Award is presented at the discretion of the president to an individual for significant contributions to the welfare of the association. This year it is my distinct pleasure to present this award to Dr. Joe Doherty. Unfortunately, Joe and Helen were unable to attend the National Oral Health Conference this year and their presence is sorely missed.

Joe received his dental degree from the University of Detroit and his MPH from the University of Minnesota. He is a diplomate of the Board of Dental Public Health. A fact that most of you may not be aware of is that Joe received the Bronze Star for his service in the Korean Conflict.

Joe has been the consummate dental public health professional. He worked as a public health dentist in Detroit, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin. He then served as the state dental director for Wisconsin before moving to Virginia and serving as the director of the Division of Public Health for 17 years. He has been equally active in ASTDD, as well as the Wisconsin and Virginia state and local dental associations.



Dr. Joseph Doherty

Joe has been invaluable to AAPHD. He has served on the Executive Council as secretary-treasurer, president, publisher of the newsletter *Communiqué*, historian, and as a special consultant to the president. As you all are aware, Joe and Helen served as executive directors of the AAPHD for 14 years. Joe liked to say that "We doze,

but never close"—they always tried to put officers and members of the organization first. Joe recently resigned as our historian, ending 23 years of service of elected or appointed office on the Executive Council.

Joe and Helen are the first people to have received every award this organization offers except for the Public Service Award!

Joe and Helen received the Distinguished Service Award in 1997 and donated the cash to start the AAPHD Foundation and you have all heard how it has grown under Joe's leadership. Their hope is that it will make a difference in people's lives and I believe that it will.

Joe holds a special place in my heart, as he has served as a mentor and supporter for me for the past 18 years I have been a member of this organization.

Accepting the award today for Dr. Doherty is the first recipient of the President's Award—which was presented to him by Joe! Dr. Mecklenburg, please accept this award for Joe.

In addition to this beautiful plaque, we are pleased to present this gift certificate for \$1,000 to Dr. Joe Doherty.

Remarks on Accepting the 2004 AAPHD President's Award on Behalf of Joseph M. Doherty, DDS, MPH

Robert Mecklenburg, DDS, MPH

President Jones, you have chosen well. Dr. Joseph Doherty is a most appropriate individual to be honored at this time and in this way.

I first met Joe in the mid-1960s when we attended a Regional Dental Conference in the Black Hills of South Dakota. At the time he was working with Mike Arra, the Wisconsin State dental director. Joe was as astute, gracious,

and effective then as he has been ever since.

Last week, right after President Jones contacted me to ask that I accept this award on Joe's behalf, I called him. Fortunately, he was out, giving me a chance to chat with Helen. She sounded as wonderful and cheerful as ever, not at all reflecting in her voice or attitude that she is in fragile health. Joe

called back soon after. After speaking about a few things close to his heart, he said, "Bob, what I would want to say is in my final report to the Executive Council. Just draw from that." Thus, with Candace's permission, I will read portions of his report so that you can hear Joe's own words.

"I must admit it is with mixed feelings that I end 23 years of elective and

appointed office on the Executive Council. I became secretary-treasurer just about the time the association decided to end its management contract because of financial difficulties. Luckily, I was able to persuade Helen, with Executive Council approval, to take over daily management services. That arrangement lasted 14 years. During that time she handled day-to-day affairs while I, in cooperation with the secretary-treasurer, handled financial affairs. Helen and I are proud that we were able to bring stable and effective management to the association to allow it to grow and prosper, as it continues to do today. We like to think that our motto, 'We doze, but never close,' and our efforts to put officers and members first, paid dividends.

"Helen and I were fortunate to be involved in starting, organizing, or managing in some way just about every project initiated by the association during that time. Helen often noted, and I agreed, how wonderful it was to work with individuals who were so dedicated to making a positive difference in people's lives.

"It takes many people to make a volunteer organization like the AAPHD work. This association has been blessed with excellent officers, members, and leaders, and Helen and I appreciate the opportunity we had over the years to serve with so many of them. The leadership provided by officers and Executive Council members, supported by so many individuals who were willing to work, has made the association today's leader in dental public health.

"I firmly believe that it is necessary for any association to have a historian who possesses a sense of history and



Dr. Joseph Doherty and his custom license plate

protective interest in the organization's well-being and future. The office provides vital continuity. While AAPHD members should not dwell on the past, we should not forget the lessons our past has taught or the many members who made it a dominant presence in dental public health.

"Helen and I were so pleased that we, with support of the Executive Council, were able to suggest, initiate, and be the first donors to the AAPHD Foundation. As monies pledged are paid, I am confident that it will allow the association to do things that will make a difference in people's lives. It is already making a difference. It has one fund in honor of Stan Lotzkar, the former executive director of the American Board of Dental Public Health, that will be used to support board activities. In addition, Alice

Horowitz has established a scholarship in honor of Herschel Horowitz, who did so much to improve oral health in this country and abroad. We are thankful to Linda Niessen and the foundation board for providing the leadership to move the foundation forward.

"It has been said that by performing voluntary work, one receives more than one gives. This certainly has been true for Helen and me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve! It has been a great ride."

Joe would love to have been present today to accept this award personally, with Helen standing by his side. Although Joe feels deeply honored and most appreciative, he has chosen wisely because at this moment he is at her side.

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