

2001 President's Award: James W. Toothaker, DDS, MPH

Presented by Rebecca S. King, DDS, MPH

The President's Award is presented at the president's discretion to a person who has provided special assistance to the president during her or his term. Today, I would like to present my President's Award to a person who provided special assistance throughout my entire officer's track.

Jim Toothaker got his DDS and MPH degrees from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He completed his dental public health residency with the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. He held a variety of positions during his 22 years with the Indian Health Service, and retired in 1998.

Dr. Jim Toothaker and his wife, Jill Mason, accepted the offer to run the AAPHD National Office shortly after I was elected to the position of vice-president. However, following the original negotiations for the office, after AAPHD had relieved them of their obligation to wait while AAPHD tried to figure out how we would run the National Office, Jill accepted an offer to go from a part-time to full-time faculty position at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Dentistry. So, when we came back with our offer for the position, Jim ended up with a little more than he had bargained for in his original proposal for the National Office.

At that time, the vice-president served as program chair for the annual



Dr. King, Dr. Toothaker, and Dr. Mason.

meeting, so I knew that I had my work cut out for me. Jim was new in the National Office and I was new in the officer track, and we learned our way together. Jim and I have worked very closely for the last three and a half years, rather than three years, since during that time we also modified our schedule to join our annual meeting on a pilot basis with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors.

Jim is a computer whiz, and has helped AAPHD move forward tremendously in developing databases and efficiencies from using technology to handle our affairs. He is meticulous with attention to detail and has been a tremendous asset to our organization.

Jim is an outdoor person, and likes camping, backpacking, rafting. He also likes to visit museums, the zoo,

and watch his two girls play soccer, basketball, softball, and swim. Jim and Jill are usually running two to three sports teams per season from their home. In the spring, while Jill coaches softball, Jim makes sure there are meals squeezed in between school, Jill's work, and the evening's athletic events. He enjoys volunteering with the technology group at the girls' school to keep the computers updated and running correctly.

I believe that you are all aware that Jim and Jill have decided that they will not renew their three-year contract with the association to run the National Office. It's hard to say what Jim will do "post-AAPHD," but he talks of doing more computer consulting and some clinical dentistry for the Indian Health Service. He has promised to serve as an active AAPHD volunteer, and continue to help us with our databases and other computer needs. But shortly, he will be able to select which activities he would most enjoy doing, and will not have to track down lost copies of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*!

Jim, please join me at the podium as I read the inscription on the award: "The American Association of Public Health Dentistry President's Award, presented to James W. Toothaker, DDS, MPH, May 2001, in sincere appreciation of three years of service, and untiring efforts on behalf of the organization."