

SPECIAL REPORT

A Fond Farewell: Report of the AAPHD Historian

Joseph M. Doherty

AAPHD Executive Council Midyear Meeting

October 23, 2003, San Francisco, CA

I must admit, it is with mixed feelings that I called Candace and told her of my decision to resign as AAPHD historian, thus ending 23 years of elective or appointed office on the Executive Council. You may remember that I was 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 the Executive Council approval, to take over the day-to-day management. That arrangement lasted for 14 years. During that time, she handled the day-to-day affairs and I, in cooperation with the secretary-treasurer, handled the 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 initiating, 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 difference in people's lives.

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

I firmly believe it is necessary for any association to have an individual with a history and protective interest in the association serve as historian. This office should provide the continuity so vital to a volunteer organization. While we cannot dwell in the past, we should not forget the lessons taught or the many members who made this association the dominant presence that it is in dental public health. I was pleased to know you have appointed Joe Alderman to succeed me. Joe has had a long and distinguished career in the military and dental public health. He has held all of the elective offices in the association and served in Desert Storm. He served as dental director of Georgia until his retirement this year and was very active in the American Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors during those years. Joe has attended just

about every AAPHD meeting and probably has more photographs of the association in action than anyone I know. Joe will make an excellent historian!

I could not close without mentioning the AAPHD Foundation. Helen and I were so pleased that we, with the support of the Executive Council, were able to suggest, initiate, and be the first donors to the Foundation. As monies pledged to the Foundation are paid, I am confident it will allow us to do some things that will make a difference in people's lives. It is already making a difference. As you know, we have a separate fund in honor of Stan Lotzkar, the former executive secretary of the American Board of Dental Public Health, which 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 the oral health of the people of this country. We are thankful to Linda Niessen and the Foundation Board for providing the leadership to move it forward.

It has often been said that you receive more than you give and it has certainly been true for us! Thank you for the opportunity to serve! It has been a great ride.