

2005 AAPHD President's Award: Dr. Steven Geiermann, DDS

Presented by Jane Weintraub, DDS, MPH



Left to right: Jane Weintraub, Steve Geiermann

One of the honors that I have as President is to recognize someone who has contributed, above and beyond, to the well-being of our Association. The recipient of the President's Award this year is Dr. Steven Patrick Geiermann, HRSA Regional Dental Consultant, Chicago Regional Office.

Steve won the President's Award from ASTDD in 2003 following his two years of intense effort planning the 2002 and 2003 National Oral Health Conferences. AAPHD has also benefited from Steve's planning efforts. Although not officially on the more recent planning committees, Steve has also contributed to the success of the 2004 and 2005 NOHC's. For the last two years, he has com-

pleted the opening ceremony photomontage. For those of you who were not at the 2004 Los Angeles meeting, you missed Steve's creative session titles and descriptions that appropriately and humorously reflected the Hollywood, "Lights, Camera, Call to Action" theme. In the photomontage, Steve paired pictures of dental public healthers with movie posters, and found some uncanny resemblances. It was laugh-out-loud funny. By now, you probably have already enjoyed Steve's creative work based on photos from last year's conference. He has continued to work behind the scenes providing guidance and wisdom to the Executive Council and to me throughout the year. Phone calls and e-mails from Steve have moti-

vated, and sometimes goaded me, to keep AAPHD efforts moving forward. Steve also serves as co-chair of our AAPHD Workforce Goal Committee and the Archives Editor of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*.

Steve received his DDS from the University of Michigan in 1983, and has been actively engaged in dental public health activities in a variety of settings.

For his first two appointments, he served as Dental Chief of the Rosebud Service Unit in Rosebud, South Dakota, and Kayenta Service Unit in Kayenta, Arizona. According to Steve, Indian Health Services laid the foundation for his appreciation of dental public health and community-based practice. He spent some temporary duty in Rockville with Dr. Mecklenburg and his crew (Collins, Corbin, Maas, etc.) in the mid-80's and reported that these folks were his role models. Steve recalls,

"My first real taste of the camaraderie found within dental public health was at an Indian Health Service Conference in Aberdeen, South Dakota when I was pressed into service to 'entertain'" Dr. Mecklenburg, who was our keynote speaker. Scott Presson and I were backup dancers to Mary Beth Kinney, Cathy Backinger, and Bonnie Bruerd. We were 'Oscar Meyer and the Weinerettes!'

After our show-stopping performance, I clearly remember Dr. Mecklenburg saying, 'If this is the future of public health dentistry, heaven help us!' Hard to tell whether his prayers were answered!"

Steve's reference to prayers may be more than conjectural. After his Indian Health Service experiences, in the middle of a seemingly stepwise dental public health career path, Steve earned 71 credit hours towards a Master of Divinity Degree from Aquinas Institute of Theology, in St. Louis, Missouri, where his GPA was almost perfect. His theology studies and pastoral education serve him

well in understanding group dynamics, and providing reassurance in stressful situations – attributes that come in handy when planning this conference.

After several other public health positions, Steve moved to Chicago in 1998 to start, concurrently, as the Act-

ing Dental Director for the City of Chicago, a brief, highly political sojourn, and his current HRSA position. Steve is very multi-talented. In addition to developing photomontages, he sings in the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus where he served on the Board of Directors for six years. Steve does not

like to sing solo, but enjoys being part of the choir. Steve, we are glad you are part of our choir as well as one of our stars. We appreciate your dental public health leadership and helpful contributions to AAPHD. I am pleased to present you with this award.

Remarks on Accepting the President's Award

Dr. Steven Geiermann, DDS

It is an honor to be recognized, but truly I simply do what needs to be done, in collaboration with a multitude of dedicated individuals who are willing to roll up their sleeves and work for what they believe in. I can think of no better organization to devote my time and energy towards ... unless it would be ASTDD! It is a pleasure to see and be part of the joint efforts of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors on behalf of those who yearn for increased oral health access that is both affordable and of the highest quality. Thank you for this award.

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