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La Crosse’s Dr. Timothy Durtsche elected state dental association president

WEST ALLIS, WIS., Nov. 29, 2012 – Dr. Timothy Durtsche, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who lives and practices in La Crosse, Wis., was sworn in as president of the 3,145-member Wisconsin Dental Association at the organization’s 142nd House of Delegates on Nov. 17 at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee.

In his acceptance speech, Durtsche urged WDA members to focus on the profession’s core values, saying, “Prevention has always been a hallmark of dentistry and we need that to continue...We need to be the resource and authority for every aspect of oral health.”

“We need to be willing to step outside our comfort zone, to advocate for community water fluoridation, healthier lifestyles, healthy diet and oral health literacy and against tobacco use,” he stressed. “We, as dentists, need to be the leaders.”

A University of Minnesota School of Dentistry graduate, Durtsche earned his oral surgery certificate at University of Minnesota Hospitals. He is a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists and American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

In addition to private practice, Durtsche chairs the Mayo Clinic Healthcare Franciscan La Crosse dental staff and is an adjunct clinical faculty member with Gundersen-Lutheran Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency.

Durtsche served six years as a WDA trustee for the Southwest Region before being elected vice president in 2010 and president-elect in 2011. He is a past-president of the La Crosse District Dental Society and Wisconsin Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Durtsche and his wife, Susan, served as local co-chairs of the first WDA and WDA Foundation Mission of Mercy held in La Crosse in June 2009. He also is a Donated Dental Services volunteer and former co-chair of the La Crosse Fluoridation Initiative.

Other 2012 – 2013 WDA officers are:

- President-Elect Dr. Julio Rodriguez is a general dentist who lives and practices in Brodhead, Wis. Rodriguez joined the WDA board in 2005 as a Southwest Region trustee after serving in all the Green County Dental Society officer positions. He chairs the Green County Health Department Advisory Board and is dental director at Fowler Memorial Free Dental Clinic. Rodriguez also participates in Green County Seal A Smile, Give Kids A Smile® and the WDA Mission of Mercy.

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LA CROSSE’S DURTSCHE NEW WDA PRESIDENT – 2

- Vice President Dr. Paul Levine resides in River Hills, Wis. and has a general practice in Brown Deer, Wis. He most-recently served as a Greater Milwaukee Region trustee. Levine is also a Greater Milwaukee Dental Association past-president.

- Editor Dr. Robert Brennan is a general dentist who works and lives in Neenah, Wis. A former WDA Northeast Region trustee and Winnebago County Dental Society president, Brennan is entering the third year of a four-year term. A Tri-County Community Dental Clinic founder and past-president, he continues to volunteer there.

- Treasurer Dr. John R. Moser is a Milwaukee resident with a general dental practice in the Third Ward. He is also an associate professor in the Department of General Dentistry at Marquette University School of Dentistry. Moser is a Greater Milwaukee Dental Association past-president and former Greater Milwaukee Region trustee.

- Immediate Past-President Dr. Steve Stoll lives in Menasha, Wis., with a private general dental practice in Neenah, Wis. He joined the WDA board as a Northeast Region trustee in 2003 after working his way up the Winnebago County Dental Society officer ranks and chairing that group’s Business Liaison Committee.

- Speaker of the WDA House of Delegates Dr. Richard Lofthouse was re-elected to a fourth one-year term. Lofthouse is a general dentist who lives and practices in Fennimore, Wis. He is a former Southwest Region trustee and a Southwestern District Dental Society past-president.

Newly-elected WDA trustees include:

- Dr. Jennifer Peglow who has a general dental practice in Stevens Point, Wis. and resides in Waupaca, Wis. She will represent the Northwest Region.

- Dr. Lynn Lepak-McSorley who has a general dental practice in Milwaukee. A resident of New Berlin, Wis., she’ll represent the Greater Milwaukee Region.

- Derek Schmidt is a Milwaukee resident in his third-year at Marquette dental school. He will represent MUSOD students on the WDA board for one year.

Re-elected to the WDA board:

- Northeast Region Trustee Dr. Jeff Kraig is a general dentist living and working in Fond du Lac, Wis.

- Southwest Region Trustee Dr. L. Stanley Brysh resides in Middleton, Wis. and heads up the Meriter Hospital Max Pohle Dental Clinic in Madison, Wis.

The Wisconsin Dental Association was established in 1870. With more than 3,000 members statewide, the WDA represents 85 percent of all licensed dentists and a growing number of dental hygienists in Wisconsin. WDA members are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care. The WDA is headquartered in West Allis and has a legislative office in Madison. It is one of 53 constituent (state-territorial) dental societies of the American Dental Association - the largest and oldest national dental association in the world. For more information on the WDA, call 414-276-4520, visit our WDA.org website and find us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Flickr and YouTube.

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