Milwaukee – The Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards presented the 2014 Board of Health Member of the Year Award to Douglas Nelson, DDS, at the 2014 Annual Conference. Dr. Nelson is the current Chair of the City of Appleton Board of Health, having first been elected to that position by his peers in 2003. He has held consecutive appointments to the Board since April 1997.

Dr. Nelson has been a champion of public health and has taken an active role in several policy related issues. He supported the 100% clean indoor air policy Appleton implemented in 2005. This issue, contentious at the time, had strong support from the Board of Health and Dr. Nelson’s leadership in the community was evident.

Under his tenure the department has also passed ordinance language to ban wood boilers, a leading contributor to air pollution and a trigger for those who suffer from asthma. In addition, the Appleton Department has updated its animal ordinance and noise and nuisance policies which required Board and Common Council approval.

Dr. Nelson has often gone above and beyond to recognize staff and is a strong supporter of quality improvement projects that occur within the department.

Dr. Nelson supports the mission of WALHDAB and actively supports board and staff involvement. He is also a member of NALBOH (National Association of Local Boards of Health) and is aware of the challenges local health departments face with increased workloads and reduced resources.

For supporting WALHDAB and serving on a local health department Board for more than 17 years, Dr. Nelson is recognized for his dedication and commitment to improving the health and quality of life for the residents and guests of the greater Appleton area.

The Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) is the statewide leader and voice for local governmental public health.