

## Deb Lien receives 2021 Shepard Award



The MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award was created in 1987 to honor Dr. Shepard and recognize those orthodontists who perform service to mankind in a combination of service to orthodontics and service in other areas of dentistry and/or their state or local community. The Board of Directors of the MSO unanimously selected Dr. **Deborah J. Lien** of Rochester, Minnesota as the 2021 MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Deb has been involved in organized dentistry and orthodontics as well as community organizations for all of her adult life. She attended Mankato State University where she earned a BS in Biology and Public Health as well as an Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene degree. She entered dental school at the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1983 Summa Cum Laude with High Distinction and was immediately accepted into the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine where she received her Masters in Biological Science (Orthodontics) in 1986.

Before setting up her own practice in Blooming Prairie in 2000, Deb practiced orthodontics as an associate and partner and continues to serve her patients from rural southeastern Minnesota. During her career, Deb provided Locum Tenens for many colleagues needing to take medical or personal leave. Proud to have grown up on a grain and hog farm, she witnessed the need for improving healthcare in rural communities.

Deb's volunteer efforts are very broad and extremely extensive. In addition, when you get Deb to volunteer for your organization, you'll get someone who will contribute for years to come.

For the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists, Deb has served on several committees – many as chair; and as its president in 2002-2003. She was the director to the MSO from Minnesota from 2006-2012 and continues to serve on the MAO Board today. She has served many positions in the MSO and as its president in 2015. For the AAO, she has served as a delegate to the AAO

House of Delegates numerous times as well as participated on several committees, task forces and as a member of the Council on Governmental Affairs. Deb currently serves on the AAO Political Action Committee and has been involved in fundraising for members of Congress – on both sides of the aisle! Advancing bills in Congress to assist patients, staff and fellow orthodontists has been a lifelong mission for Deb.

Not to limit herself to just orthodontics, Deb has been involved in the dental world in Minnesota. In her area of the state, she has served through all chairs culminating as President of the Zumbro Valley Dental Society as well as serving the Southeastern District Dental Society and the Minnesota Dental Association. She has served on several committees and leadership positions and continues to serve in dentistry at all levels.

Deb has been involved in her community in an eclectic array of organizations from figure skating, youth and high school hockey, Zumbro Lutheran Church, Good Earth Bible Camp, Aldrich Memorial Nursery School, Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Rochester Area Science Fair, Ronald McDonald House, Dorothy Day House Homeless Shelter, the Mayo Clinic and many more. In addition, she served as a Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Flight Guardian on multiple trips to Washington D.C., allowing WW II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans the ability to stand witness to the memorials and dedications made in their honor.

Dr. Lien also has been a generous provider and volunteer for Smiles Change Lives, Donated Orthodontic Services, the Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota Mission of Mercy, and Give Kids a Smile.

She received numerous awards while in dental school, including from the American Association of Periodontists and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Delta Sigma Delta Theta Fraternity presented Deb with their Chapter Award for Recognition of Highest Academic Achievement in Dentistry. In addition to being inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon, Deb recently was inducted into the American College of Dentists. In 2013 she received the Roger J. Fredsall Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists.

Deb is married to Dale Norell, a mechanical engineer. They have two children Dr. Ana Norell, a family physician, and Aaron Norell, a chemist. He and his wife Sara's two children, Henry (3) and Theodore (1) are providing Deb her favorite role yet as grandmother.

Our most sincere congratulations to Dr. Deborah Lien for all that she has accomplished and continues to do each and every day. She is most deserving as the recipient of the 2021 MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award.