



Contact:
Josh Randt
Phone: (763) 477-3111
Email: jrandt@whe.org

News Release

YOUNG TAKES REINS AS WH HOLDING BOARD CHAIR

Rockford, Minn. (August 4, 2015) — Tim Young, Annandale, is the new face of Board leadership for WH Holding Company. Young was elected by the Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) board of directors as Board Chair for WH Holding when Tom Mach, the previous chair, retired after the July board meeting.

Young will apply his 37 years of legal and business experience to a company that holds the seven subsidiary businesses of WH, a structure that firmly sets the cooperative apart from other electric cooperatives in the state and nation, because contributions from these companies go back to WH members in the form of lower electric rates.

An attorney for Young & Brown, LLP, in Annandale since 1978, a former member of the Annandale School Board and a participant in multiple forms of small government, Young's "graduate degree in how boards work," provides invaluable experience to navigate the waters of competitive businesses – an area where a lot of utilities remain in the shallow end. But not WH. It owns WH Security, WH International Response, WH Solar, WH Services, WH Generation, WH Holding Investments and HeatMyFloors.com. WH Holding has grown so much that it is about as large by revenue as 40 percent of the electric cooperative utilities in Minnesota. By customers, it is larger than almost 90 percent of the electric cooperative utilities in Minnesota.

In order to keep WH Holding evolving, Young envisions WH Holding similar to Lockheed Martin's famous "Skunk Works" program – an innovative research and development wing of the company – that developed famous and groundbreaking aircraft, such as the U-2 and SR71 Blackbird.

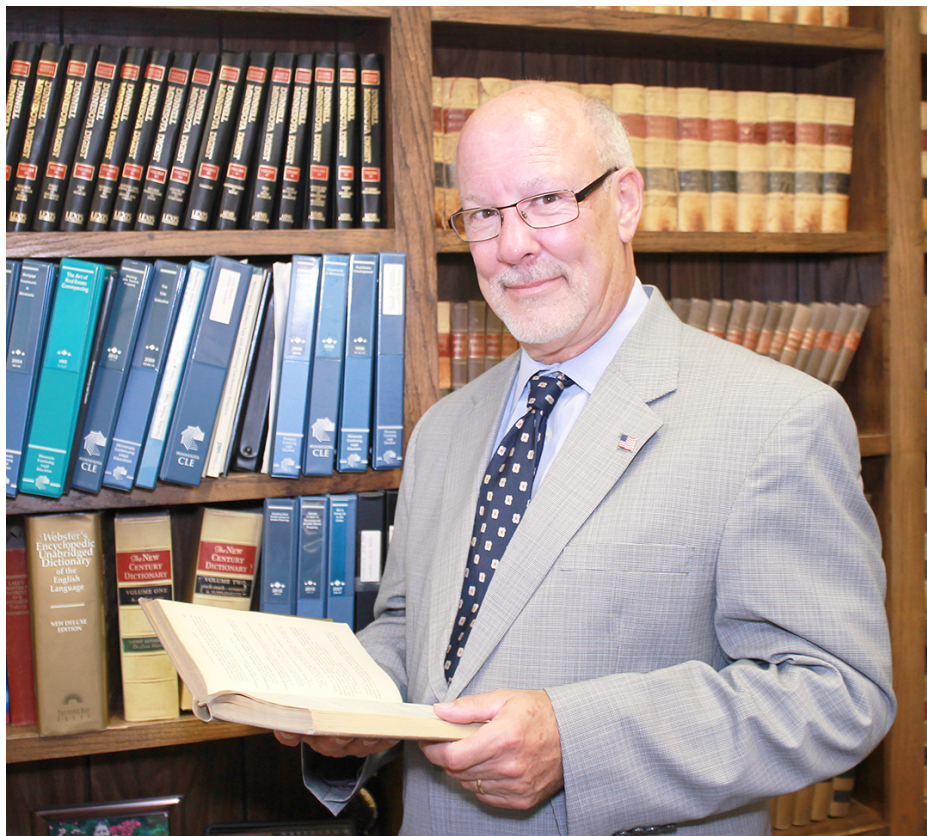
"I see WH Holding as a source of innovation that's unafraid of competitive challenges," Young said, "so that we can be a fast-moving, quick decision-making, nimble organization." Young may now chair WH Holding Company, but said the important thing is "not so much the person as the mission perceived by the group," and that his job is to figure out how to accomplish objectives quickly, smoothly and effectively.

“I’m a grinder” Young smiled. “I go to work every day and try to do the best job I can do that day. That’s my approach; ‘perspiration is better than inspiration.’ I measure achievement by the level of sustained effort you put into something.”

It comes as no surprise that the new chair appreciates the opportunity to sit in the driver’s seat. He praised Mach, whom he referred to as a financially savvy chair who will be tough measuring up to.

“The Holding Company will be on the cutting edge of whatever changes there are,” said Young. “I think that’s the excitement of this position – changing circumstances and the opportunity to challenge ourselves to be better than we were before. That’s the spice of life, I think.”

WH is a member-owned non-profit electric utility that provides electric power to Wright County and the western part of Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen in this area since 1937 and currently serves more than 46,000 electric accounts. The utility started its security division in 1989 that provides local home security solutions as well as monitors alarm systems for almost 60,000 customers in 32 states and three Canadian provinces.



Newly elected Board Chair of WH Holding Company Tim Young brings 37 years of legal and business experience to the company, and a “graduate degree in how boards work.”

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