




**Wright-Hennepin**

Cooperative Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## News Release

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### VOGT RETIRES AS CEO OF WRIGHT-HENNEPIN

**Rockford, Minn. (September 25, 2015)** — Mark Vogt, President and CEO of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) and WH Holding Company (WHHC) announced his retirement today after 19 years as President and CEO and 35 total years as an employee of the Rockford-based cooperative.

Effective October 1, Timothy J. Sullivan assumes the title of President and CEO of WH, and Sonja L. Bogart will become President and CEO of WHHC.

Vogt jointly managed the companies since 1996, but rapid growth prompted the board of directors to provide full-time leadership for each of the companies.

“The board has determined that full-time leadership for both businesses will provide the best benefit for our members in the future,” said Erick Heinz, board chair for WH.

Vogt, of Annandale, and the board of directors have been planning for leadership succession for several years. Earlier this summer the board took the first major step in the process by appointing Sullivan and Bogart as Chief Operating Officers of their respective branches, where both assumed day-to-day management functions. Vogt agreed to stay on as president and CEO of both companies to direct an orderly transition.

“I am honored to have served the members of this organization for more than three decades and to serve as President and CEO for almost two decades,” Vogt said. “I am grateful for the incredible support from the board of directors over the years and the high achievement turned in by my management team and employees.”

Sullivan, of Plymouth, comes to WH from Touchstone Energy, the brand organization for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He worked there for 15 years, most recently as its senior director of strategy and business development. In that role, he worked with electric co-ops across the nation on implementing best practices to improve operational performance.

Prior to working for Touchstone Energy, Sullivan worked as director of public relations for an oil refinery from 1998 to 2000. He served as Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson’s chief spokesman and director of strategic planning for the governor’s office from 1994 and 1998. He started his career as press secretary to U.S. Representative Vin Weber (Minn) from 1986 to 1994.

Sullivan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism, Summa Cum Laude, from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

Bogart, of Elk River, has worked for WH since 1997, first as a marketing specialist, then energy and services manager and most recently as vice president of customer service, sales and marketing. In addition to her duties for the electric cooperative, Bogart has led several of the WHHC business units since 2002.

Prior to working for WH, Bogart was employed by United Power Association, Elk River, where she served as market research coordinator. She has also worked for Bankers Systems (now Wolters Kluwer Financial Systems) and EK Williams and Co. (now the Dwyer Group).

Bogart graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore., where she double majored in marketing and finance. In 2010, she earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, non-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves almost 50,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, MN.

WH Holding Company is the legal umbrella for seven diversified businesses, including WH Security, WH International Response Center, WH Solar, WH Generation, WH Services, WH Investments and HeatMyFloors.com. WH's ownership interests in Heartland Services, LLC, an operating company jointly owned with Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, Jordan, Minn., and Heartland Security LLC, a life, safety and property protection business owned with 14 other electric cooperatives in southern and western Minnesota and parts of Iowa, are held in WH Holding Company.



**Mark Vogt**



**Timothy J. Sullivan**



**Sonja L. Bogart**

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