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News Release

TOM MACH RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS ON WRIGHT-HENNEPIN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rockford, Minn. (August 10, 2015) — After 25 years of serving on the Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) Board of Directors and chairing the WH Holding Company, Tom Mach, Maple Grove, has announced his retirement as director of District 6 and chair of WH Holding Company.

Mach retired from his full-time professional career a few years back and recently purchased a second home in another state. “It was getting hard to come back to Minnesota,” Mach said. “That told me it was time (to also retire from the electric cooperative board).”

Taking his place as chairman of WH Holding is Tim Young, who most recently served as vice chair under Mach until his announcement of retirement in mid-July. Mach’s position as director of District 6 on WH’s board of directors will be filled with a candidate from the Maple Grove area, whom the board will appoint.

With Mach onboard, WH and WH Holding Company flourished. Under his chairmanship, WH Holding Company grew from two diversified businesses to seven, including WH Security, WH International Response Center, WH Solar, WH Generation, WH Services, WH Investments and HeatMyFloors.com. In addition, partnership enterprises known as Heartland Services and Heartland Security Services were also started and operate successfully today.

Electric cooperative membership increased by 86 percent in the 25 years Mach served on the board. Annual revenue increased by \$65 million over his tenure, and total assets of WH grew by an astounding 311 percent. However, the accomplishment Mach chooses to hang his hat on is that the board has kept electricity rates for members competitive.

“We set a goal to be lower than our largest competitor, and we exceeded that,” Mach said of WH’s residential rates compared to Xcel Energy. “It hasn’t been easy, but that’s a goal that sets you aside from everyone else. Xcel is regarded as an excellent utility, so it’s a high achievement for WH.”

Mach acknowledged that he’ll miss most the challenges of guiding a nationally respected electric cooperative like WH.

Though he'll no longer represent District 6, Mach wanted to reassure those members that they're in "good hands."

"The board and management teams work really well together," Mach said. "They take pride providing the best service and lowest rates. I feel confident the members are in good hands."

To apply for the position of director of District 6, print out, complete and sign the forms found on WH's website at <http://goo.gl/7ThfyN>, or call (763) 477-3027 to request the forms. Mail the forms along with a resume to: Wright-Hennepin, Attn: Dale Jans, Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 330, Rockford, MN 55373. Application deadline is September 4.

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.



WH Board Chair Erick Heinz (left) presented Tom Mach a certificate of appreciation and an engraved meter recognizing Mach's 25 years of service on WH's Board of Directors.

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