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WisconsinEye President to Retire at Year's End

After two decades of State Capitol programming, WisconsinEye president leaves a lasting legacy of public service, independent coverage and civic access

Madison -- WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network today announced that Jon Henkes will retire at the end of this year, concluding a tenure marked by two decades of programming that brought Wisconsin's public affairs and State Capitol proceedings to viewers across the state.

Under his leadership, WisconsinEye has helped make the work of state government more visible and accessible. Its programming has included comprehensive coverage of legislative floor sessions, committee hearings and other public proceedings, alongside conversations and programs exploring the issues shaping Wisconsin.

"WisconsinEye exists to serve the public – not a party, an interest group or a point of view," said Henkes. "I'm proud of the work our team has done to make the proceedings of state government available to the people of Wisconsin, and deeply grateful to everyone who has helped make that work possible."

Throughout its history, WisconsinEye has been guided by an unshakeable commitment to balance, complete coverage and bipartisanship. The network's mission is to present public proceedings fairly and in context, allowing viewers to see and hear the work of government for themselves.

That work has depended on the generosity of WisconsinEye's many donors, supporters and community partners. Their contributions have helped sustain independent public affairs programming and preserve an important record of Wisconsin's civic life.

"On behalf of WisconsinEye, we thank Jon for his leadership and years of service," said Mark O'Connell, chair of the WisconsinEye board. "We are also grateful to the donors and supporters whose generosity has helped make this public service possible. The commitment to balanced, complete and bipartisan coverage remains central to WisconsinEye's mission."

Henkes thanked elected officials past and present. "Their vision and steadfast commitment to unfettered transparency has allowed WisconsinEye to operate independent of state control, as a model for the nation."

Henkes will remain in the role through December 31. The organization will share information about leadership transition plans at a later date.

“Finally, I would be remiss to not offer heartfelt thanks for the incredible financial support of philanthropist Diane Hendricks from the very beginning of WisconsinEye, and the amazing leadership of our long-time board chairperson Margaret Farrow,” Henkes concluded. “Both gave generously and continually, never once exerting pressure or influence on programming or coverage decisions.”

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WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network: WisconsinEye is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public affairs network dedicated to making Wisconsin government and civic life accessible to the public through independent coverage and programming. Live and archived coverage is available free of charge at wiseye.org