Dennis Welsh, Senior Vice President and General Manager of the FOX-owned duopoly in Chicago (WFLD FOX32 and WPWR MY50) has just announced he will retire at the end of June. Welsh has been in this role since January 2013 and with the FOX Television Stations for 26 years. An internal and external search will take place for his successor.

“After 40 years in television, it is time for my next journey, which will include lots of travelling with my wife, Kellie. Spending the last 26-years in five different leadership roles at FOX Television Stations (FTS) has been the thrill of a lifetime. I’m thankful to Jack Abernethy who offered me the amazing opportunity to lead two different FOX TV Stations and for all his support over the years. Spending the last ten years working with such a passionate and talented group focused on serving the Chicago community has been a true privilege. Although I look forward to the road ahead, I will sincerely miss all of the incredible relationships formed over a wonderful 26-year career with FTS.”

Quote from Jack Abernethy, Chief Executive Officer of FOX Television Stations:

“We would like to thank Dennis for his hard work and dedication to FOX Television Stations over the past 26 years. His extensive knowledge of the broadcast industry and strategic approach to our business made him a valuable asset to FTS and he will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement. “

DENNIS WELSH BIO AND HIGHLIGHTS:

After a stint with Branham Newspaper Sales in NYC, Welsh began his broadcast television career as a Sales Account Executive for KDKA-TV (Westinghouse) in Pittsburgh followed by National Sales Representative position at MMT Sales in Philadelphia. He then held various Sales Management roles at WPGH-TV/WPTT-TV (Sinclair) in Pittsburgh, WLWT-TV (Multimedia) in Cincinnati, WPRI-TV (Clear Channel) in Providence. His 26-year career at Fox Television Stations began as VP General Sales Manager at WJW-TV in Cleveland, as well as Director of Sales for FOX Sports Net Pittsburgh. Next came his role as VP Director of Sales for the newly created FTS National Sales Organization, Fox Stations Sales (FSS), in New York City. He then took on the role as VP Director of Sales for KDFW-TV/KDFI-TV in Dallas, as well as Director of Sales for FOX Sports Net Southwest which was the largest Sports Net in the country. He was then promoted to VP and General Manager of WOFL-TV/WRBW-TV in Orlando. Welsh is now retiring after serving for more than a decade as the SVP General Manager for WFLD-TV/WPWR-TV in Chicago.

During his tenure at FOX 32 Chicago, the station expanded local news from 37 to 56 hours per week, as well as developed two locally produced shows, “Flannery Fired Up,” and “Later with Leon.” He wrote and presented dozens of local Editorials in his “That’s How I See It” segments and led the station’s renovation after 38 years. Understanding the importance of sports coverage to viewers, Welsh developed and renewed the Chicago Bears/FOX32 “Exclusive Broadcast TV” Partnership and championed the production of dozens of hours of local specials and coverage of the Cubs World Series victory on FOX. Other notable accomplishments throughout his 26-year FOX career include helping start up the FOX Stations Sales department in 37 business days as the Director of Sales and leading numerous sales teams that generated hundreds of millions of FOX Sports and local sports advertising dollars. Welsh successfully grew the FOX station revenue share in each of the four local markets he served.