

From: Varner, Kirk
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 10:30 AM
To: NR News Dept **Cc:** [KSTP-TV Mgrs Meeting](#)
Subject: More Personnel News In The Newsroom

Everyone,

Please forgive the delivering of this message via email, but it is just logistically impossible to share quickly with over a hundred people--who all work various days and shifts—in any other way. I wanted you to know that I announced during this morning's daily meeting that I am retiring from my position of News Director for KSTP-TV at the end of January in 2025.

With that headline, let me try to answer a couple of obvious questions:

Why now? Well, I have had an incredible run of over 5 and half years leading this legendary newsroom and working with each of you, the amazing group of journalists who make this place truly special. It has been the high point of my 50 years of working in television. But now with the 2024 election behind us, and the Presidential inauguration ahead in January, it seemed like a good moment right after that to transition to the next generation of leadership for 5 Eyewitness News. And to that end, the station will begin conducting the proverbial “nationwide search” for my replacement.

What’s Next for me? Even though I am stepping away from this position, I am not stopping being involved with the local TV news business. My plans include taking on some work next year as a newsroom coach and mentor to journalists. I’ll have more details about those plans closer to my departure. Plus, my wife and I plan to stay in Minnesota for at least the next few years—so I will continue to be a viewer and fan of all of your work here.

But my departure is some twelve weeks away, so you’re not getting rid of me and my bad jokes right away. This isn’t goodbye yet, so I’ll save the speech for another time in the future.

Though let me just close this message by saying that the joy of working with all of you made this a very difficult decision.

For now, let’s all keep aiming upward and moving onward--while working to produce what I still believe is the best television news in the Twin Cities.

Thanks,
-Kirk

Kirk Varner | News Director
5 EYEWITNESS NEWS | 45TV | [KSTP.COM](#)
3415 University Ave. St. Paul, MN 55114