

Raymond T. Higgins



Employment History

Minnesota Timber Producers Association, Duluth

Executive Vice President, 2021 to Present

Vice President for Operations, 2005 to 2021

- Lobbying at state and federal levels. Includes testifying at legislative hearings, hearings of state bodies like the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, meeting with legislators and members of Congress, and with lobbyists of competing interests.
- Communicates regularly with county, state, and federal agencies on matters impacting TPA members, including Minnesota DNR, MnDOT, Minnesota Department of Revenue, MN Department of Labor and Industry, and county land departments.
- Staff organizations' committees, covering topics including PR, transportation, and government affairs.
- Represents TPA at DNR quarterly meetings, and as ex-officio member of MLEP Board of Directors. Also Chairs committee overseeing Workers Compensation self-insurance program.
- Leads the planning, organization, and coordination of TPA programs, including North Star Expo, State Fair booth, and MEA booth, remaining within budgetary constraints.
- Engages in all aspects of media relations, including writing news releases and speaking on behalf of TPA members
- Recruits and retains TPA members.
- Creates and delivers presentations to members and to stakeholder groups on a variety of topics pertaining to the forest products industry.
- Writer and editor of *The Timber Bulletin* magazine, overseeing entire production from start to finish, including planning, layout, etc.

WDIO-TV, Duluth

Managing Editor: 1998 – 2005

- Supervisor to news department with 30 full- and part-time employees
- Coordinator of news coverage, including long-term projects such as election and special event coverage.

Sales Account Representative: 1996 – 1998

- Provided continuous service and support to clients, including national accounts
- Prospected for new accounts through cold calling
- Assisted in developing sales opportunities for station-sponsored community events

Sports Anchor/Reporter: 1989 – 1996

- Covered all sports of local interest for local newscast for ABC affiliate

Community Involvement

- Never Surrender, Inc. & ALS Association, Minnesota Chapter: Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament and Black Woods Blizzard Tour, 1996-present
- Coach, Duluth Lake Park Baseball Association, 2005-2015
- Coach, Duluth Portman Youth Hockey Association, 2006-2010
- Board of Directors of ALS Association, MN (Never Surrender)—Northland Division, 1995 to 2000
- Selection Committee for John Baggs Memorial Scholarship Fund at College of St. Scholastica, Duluth
- Parish Council, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, Duluth, 1997 to 1998

Education

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus; Speech-Communications Major