

Michael Kane returns to Rochester as publisher of 'Democrat and Chronicle'

Matthew Daneman – Staff writer

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KRIS J. MURANTE staff photograph

Michael Kane talks to the *Democrat and Chronicle* staff after it was announced that he was returning as publisher to the area he calls home.

Michael G. Kane is returning to Rochester as president and publisher of the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

Kane was president and publisher of the newspaper from 2005 to 2008, when he left to take the same positions with *The Indianapolis Star*, also a Gannett Co. Inc. media property.

He replaces Ali M. Zoibi at the *Democrat and Chronicle*. Zoibi also had come to Rochester from Indianapolis.

Kane was recently named head of the East Group of Gannett's U.S. Community Publishing division. That group's headquarters will now be in Rochester. The group accounts for about 45 percent of the division's revenues.

"It's obviously an honor to be a group headquarters" because numerous other Gannett papers will look to Rochester as a benchmark, said Robert Dickey, president of U.S. Community Publishing. "We look to our group headquarters for rollout of new programs and investment."

“I want Bob to look at our group where things get done well and customers come back for more and more,” said Kane, 51.

Kane is a graduate of Virginia Tech University and has spent much of his career working for Gannett. In addition to Rochester and Indianapolis, he has worked at Gannett papers in Wilmington, Del.; Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; and White Plains, Westchester County.

“It’s prestigious for the Rochester area and Rochester newspaper that they’re bringing him back here,” said Sandy Parker, president of the Rochester Business Alliance. When Kane was on the RBA board, “he was always challenging us,” Parker said. “He’s a pretty high-powered, energetic guy.”

Zoibi will become publisher of *The Daily Advertiser*, a Gannett property in Lafayette, La.

“It’s a great opportunity for him,” Dickey said of Zoibi.

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