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A black and white photograph of the interior of the Minnesota State Capitol building. The image shows a grand, multi-level atrium with ornate architectural details, including classical columns, decorative balustrades, and a large arched opening in the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures and depth of the space.

Minnesota Senate
**Capitol Press Corps
Directory 2004**

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Issued 2/2/04

Minnesota Senate
**Capitol Press Corps
Directory 2004**

Published by:

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Members of the press corps are accredited through:

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Senate Rule 16 Privilege of Reporters

16.1 The Secretary shall provide space for news reporters on the Senate floor in limited numbers, and in the Senate gallery. Because of limited space on the floor, permanent space is limited to those news agencies that regularly cover the legislature, namely: The Associated Press, St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul Legal Ledger, Star Tribune, Duluth News-Tribune, The Forum, Rochester Post-Bulletin, St. Cloud Times, WCCO radio, KSTP radio, and Minnesota Public Radio. The Secretary shall provide an additional two spaces to other reporters if space is available. One person from each named agency and one person from the Senate Publications Office may be present at the press table on the Senate floor at any time. Other news media personnel may occupy seats provided in the Senate gallery.

16.2 The Secretary shall compile and distribute to the public a directory of reporters accredited to report from the Senate floor. The directory must include each reporter's picture and news organization and a brief biography.

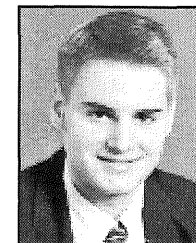
16.3 The Secretary must issue each accredited reporter an identification badge showing the reporter's name and news organization. The reporter must wear the badge when in the Senate Chamber.

—Temporary Senate Rules for the 83rd Legislative Session. Temporary Rules were adopted by the Senate, pursuant to Senate Resolution 4, Jan. 9, 2003.

Brian Bakst

Associated Press

Capitol: 651-222-4821
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Education: BA, political science/journalism, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Copy editor, Albuquerque Journal; legislative correspondent, Murphy McGinnis Media; legislative reporter, Associated Press, since 1999.

Ashley H. Grant

Associated Press

Capitol: 651-222-4821
Newsroom: 612-332-2727
Fax: 651-222-2208 / 612-342-5299 (Daybook)
E-mail: agrant@ap.org

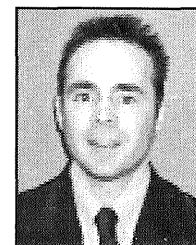


Education: Bachelor's degree in journalism and English, emphasis in business, University of Iowa.
Experience: Associated Press correspondent at the Minnesota Capitol since 2000; newswoman at the Capitol from 1998-2000; newswoman in Minneapolis and Indianapolis from 1996-1998. Previously a government and business reporter at a daily newspaper in the Indianapolis area.

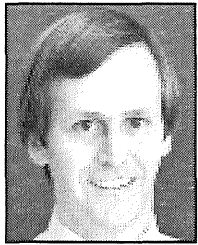
Patrick Howe

Associated Press

Capitol: 651-222-4821
Fax: 651-222-2208
E-mail: phowe@ap.org



Education: University of Minnesota, BA, journalism and political science.
Experience: Small Newspaper Group (1994-98), Washington, D.C., bureau correspondent; Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (1998-2000), Washington, D.C., newsman.

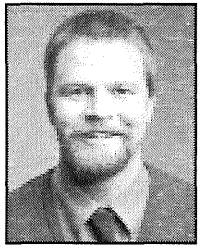


Mike O'Rourke

Brainerd Daily Dispatch

Newsroom: 218-855-5860
Fax: 218-829-7735
E-mail: morourke@brainerddispatch.com

Education: BA, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Reporter, Brainerd Daily Dispatch, 1978-81; city editor, Brainerd Daily Dispatch, 1981-99; associate editor, Brainerd Daily Dispatch, 1999-present.



Scott Thistle

Duluth News-Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1265
Cell: 651-260-7760
Newsroom: 218-723-5312
Fax: 651-310-9709 / 218-720-4120
E-mail: sthistle@duluthnews.com

Education: Oxford Hills High School, South Paris, Maine, 1985; US Air Force, 1985-1989.
Experience: Duluth News Tribune, January 2001-present; Sun Journal, Lewiston, Maine, 1998-2001; The Original Irregular, Kingfield, Maine, 1994-1998; The Advertiser-Democrat, Norway, Maine, 1989-1991.



Timothy Budig

ECM Publishers, Inc.

Capitol: 651-224-8143
Fax: 651-224-8143
E-mail: tim.budig@ecm-inc.com

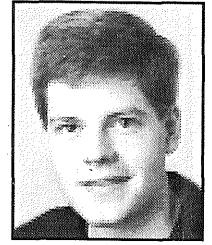
Education: BA, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Experience: Five years, ECM Capitol reporter. Previously, ABC Newspapers, Coon Rapids, now part of ECM.

Jeff Baird

Forum Communications

Capitol: 651-290-0707
Newsroom: 701-241-5535
Cell: 701-238-8674
Fax: 612-435-4966 (Capitol)
701-241-5559 (Moorhead)
E-mail: jbaird@forumcomm.com

Education: University of St. Thomas, 1998.
Experience: Forum Communications, 2000-present; Mesabi Daily News, Virginia, Minn., 1998-2000.



Don Davis

Forum Communications

Capitol: 651-290-0707
Fax: 612-435-4966
E-mail: ddavis@forumcomm.com

Education: News/editorial degree, Drake University, 1975.
Experience: Editor of daily newspapers in Iowa, Oklahoma and Wyoming before returning to reporting in 1990; covered North Dakota state government for the Bismarck Tribune before going to the Rochester Post-Bulletin in 1998; joined Forum Communications in 2001.

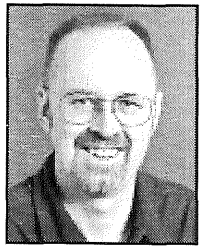


Aethan Hart

KARE-TV 11

Capitol: 651-292-8988
Newsroom: 763-797-7290
Fax: 651-227-1488
E-mail: ahart@kare11.com

Education: Duluth Central High School; University of Minnesota-Duluth, BA, art, minor: art history.
Experience: KDAL-TV, KSTP-TV, KTCA-TV, KARE-TV. Covering the Capitol for 17 years.





Kerri Miller

KARE-TV 11

Capitol: 651-292-8988
Newsroom: 763-797-7290
Fax: 651-227-1488
E-mail: kmiller@kare11.com

Education: BA, English literature/journalism, St. Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y.

Experience: Political reporter, KARE-TV; reporter, KSTP-TV; reporter, KTUL-TV.



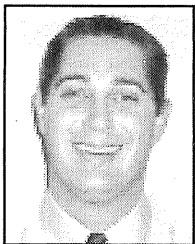
David Allan Pundt

KLKS Radio

Newsroom: 800-450-5557
Fax: 218-562-2058
E-mail: klksnews@yahoo.com

Education: BA, mass communication, St. Cloud State University; MA, mass communication, University of South Dakota.

Experience: Two years, KLKS news director; 4 years reporting for various stations; 12 years announcing for various stations.



Scott Wasserman

KMSP-TV Fox 9

Capitol: 952-210-9332
Newsroom: 952-946-5767
Fax: 952-942-0455
E-mail: swasserman@mnfox.com

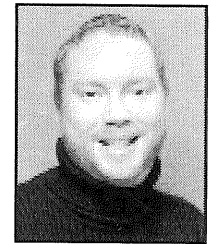
Education: Syracuse University, 1995.

Experience: KMSP-TV, Minneapolis; KNXV-TV, Phoenix; KOKH-TV, Oklahoma City.

Dan Ochsner

KNSI Radio

Newsroom: 320-493-6504
Fax: 320-251-8952
E-mail: ochsnews@yahoo.com



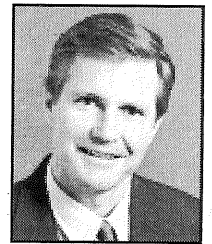
Education: AAS, broadcasting, Brown College.

Experience: News director, KDCM Radio, Detroit Lakes, 1998-2001; news/talk show host, KNSI Radio, St. Cloud, 2001-present; program director, KNSI Radio; president, Minnesota Associated Press Broadcasters.

Tom Hauser

KSTP-TV 5

Capitol: 651-642-4327
Newsroom: 651-642-4455
Fax: 651-642-4409



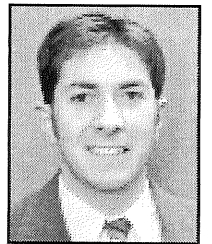
Education: BA, University of St. Thomas, journalism and political science; MA, Drake University, journalism and mass communications.

Experience: KAAL-TV, Austin, Minn.; WINK-TV, Fort Myers, Fla.; WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa; KSTP-TV, Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Mathias Baden

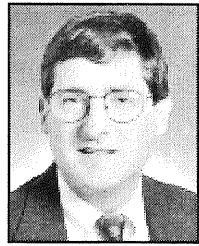
Mankato Free Press

Capitol: 651-290-0406
Newsroom: 507-344-6355
Fax: 507-388-4355
E-mail: mbaden@mankato-freepress.com



Education: Bachelor's degree, journalism and Bible, Northwestern College.

Experience: Legislative, county and city reporter for Free Press, 2002-present. City reporter, South Washington County Bulletin, 2001-2002. Features reporter, Prior Lake American and Savage Pacer, 2000-2001. Politics reporter, Press Publications, 2000.



Mark Fischenich

Mankato Free Press

Capitol: 651-290-0406
Newsroom: 507-344-6321
Fax: 651-224-4852
E-mail: mfischenich@mankato-freepress.com

Education: University of Minnesota, journalism.



Stephanie Kudrle

The Minnesota Daily

Newsroom: 612-627-4070 ext. 3226
Fax: 612-627-4159
E-mail: skudrle@mndaily.edu

Education: Current student, University of Minnesota School of Journalism, BA program.

Experience: Lakeshore Weekly News, Minnetonka; The Minnesota Daily, Minneapolis.



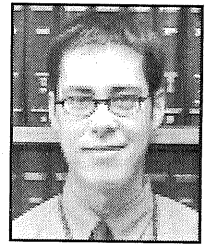
Bill Werner

Minnesota News Network

Capitol: 651-224-0355
Newsroom: 612-321-7211
Fax: 612-321-7222

Education: BA, Macalester College, 1987.

Experience: Reporter/anchor at MNN since 1993; reporter/anchor Radio City Network News, Minneapolis; news director, KANO, Anoka.



Michael Khoo

Minnesota Public Radio

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E-mail: mkhoo@mpr.org

Education: BA, economics, University of Chicago, 1994; MS, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, 1998.

Experience: Minnesota Public Radio, reporter, 1998-present.



Laura McCallum

Minnesota Public Radio

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Education: BA, University of North Dakota.

Experience: Reporter, MPR, 1993-present; news director, KDSU-FM, Fargo, N.D., 1990-1993; reporter/anchor, Prairie Public Radio, Bismarck, N.D., 1989-1990.



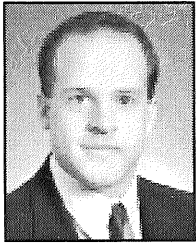
Tim Pugmire

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035
Newsroom: 651-290-1082
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Education: BS, St. Cloud State University.

Experience: Minnesota Public Radio, 1990-present.



Thomas C. Scheck

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Education: BA, broadcast journalism, BA, English, Syracuse University.
Experience: Reporter/producer, MPR, 2000-present; reporter/producer, Indiana Public Radio, 1996-2000.

David Knutson

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E-mail: david.knutson@legal-ledger.com

Education: BA, University of Minnesota, 1992.
Experience: St. Paul Legal Ledger; Grand Forks Herald, 6 years; International Falls Daily Journal, 2 years.



Jay R. Johnson

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E-mail: jayjohnson@postbulletin.com

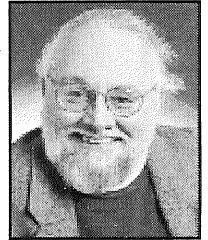
Education: BS, industrial technology, MA, communication, University of North Dakota.
Experience: Six years as editorial writer for Minot Daily News, Minot, N.D.; one year as editorial writer for Post-Bulletin.

John Doman

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5534
Fax: 651-228-5500

Education: BA, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.
Experience: Staff photographer: Willoughby Ohio New-Herald, 1972-1977; Miami Herald, Miami, Florida, 1977-1981; St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1981-present.



Kirsti Marohn

St. Cloud Times

Capitol: 651-224-4937
Newsroom: 320-255-8746
Fax: 651-224-4852 (Capitol);
320-255-8775 (Newsroom)
E-mail: kmarohn@stcloudtimes.com

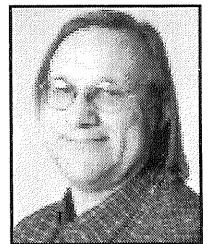
Education: Bachelor's degrees, journalism and history, University of Minnesota, 1995.
Experience: Legislative reporter, St. Cloud Times, 2002-present; county government reporter, St. Cloud Times, 1998-2002; reporter and editor, Pine River Journal, 1996-1998.

David Hanners

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5551
Fax: 651-222-6129
E-mail: dhanners@pioneerpress.com

Education: BS, Indiana State University, 1977; MJE, University of Michigan Law School, 1992.
Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1994-present; The Dallas Morning News, 1982-1994; The Brownsville (Texas) Herald, 1980-1982; Amarillo Globe News, 1977-1980.



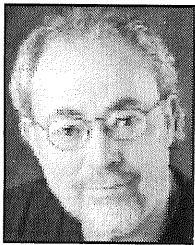


Holly A. Heyser

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5463
Fax: 651-228-5500
E-mail: hheyser@pioneerpress.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, journalism, California State University, Sacramento, 1989.
Experience: State government editor, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 2002-present; Humphrey Institute Policy Fellow, 2002-2003; president, Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors (national), 2001-present; Virginia statehouse reporter, (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot, 1997-2002; Adjunct instructor of journalism, University of Richmond, fall 2001; reporter, San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, 1993-1997; city editor, (Palo Alto, Calif.) Peninsula Times Tribune, 1992-1993; reporter, Peninsula Times Tribune, 1990-1992; reporter, Sacramento Bee, 1989-1990.

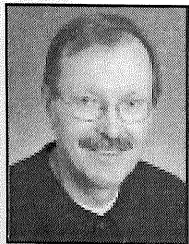


Aron Kahn

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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E-mail: akahn@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Reporter, Pioneer Press; assignment editor, Pioneer Press; adjunct instructor, University of Minnesota.



Tom Majeski

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Fax: 651-228-5500
E-mail: tmajeski@pioneerpress.com

Education: BS, technical journalism, Iowa State University.
Experience: Pioneer Press, August 1970-present, as copy editor, editorial writer and medical reporter.



Jim Ragsdale

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Newsroom: 651-228-5491
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: jragsdale@pioneerpress.com

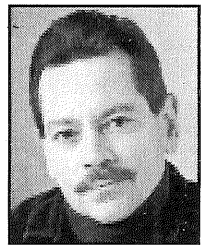
Education: BA, University of California-Santa Barbara, 1972.
Experience: Pioneer Press, 1984-present; MPR, 1982-1984; Star Tribune, 1981-1982; Charleston (W.V.) Gazette, 1977-1981; United Press International, Los Angeles and San Francisco, 1972-1976.

Rubén Rosario

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5454
Fax: 651-228-2159
E-mail: rrosario@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Fordham University.
Experience: Staff writer, 1980-1991, special correspondent, 1990-1991, New York Daily News; city editor, 1992-1997, columnist, 1991-present, St. Paul Pioneer Press.

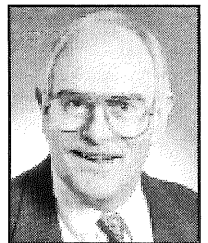


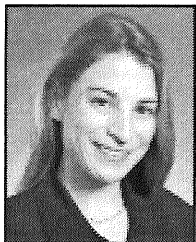
Bill Salisbury

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5538
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Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, history, University of Minnesota-Morris.
Experience: Reporter, Fairmont Sentinel, 1971-1972; reporter, Rochester Post-Bulletin, 1972-1977; reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1977-present.

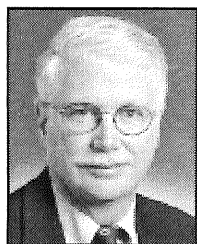




Rachel Stassen-Berger

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5445
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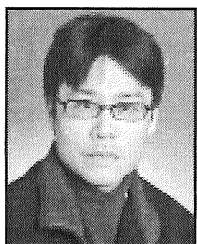


Patrick Sweeney

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5253
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: psweeney@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Marquette University.



Scott Takushi

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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E-mail: cstakushi@hotmail.com

Education: BA, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., 1980; Graduate School of Journalism, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1983-85.

Experience: Pioneer Press, staff photographer, 1987-present; Seattle Times, Seattle, Wash., staff photographer, 1985-87..

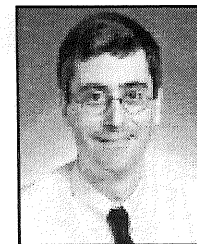
John Welsh

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5432
Fax: 651-228-5500
E-mail: jwelsh@pioneerpress.com

Education: BS, St. John's University.

Experience: St. Cloud Times, 1990-96; Wisconsin State Journal, 1996-98; St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1998-Present.



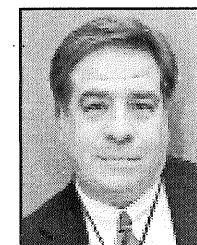
Mark Brunswick

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1636
Newsroom: 612-673-4434
Fax: 651-222-0101
E-mail: mbrunswick@startribune.com

Education: BSJ, Ohio University.

Experience: Star Tribune, 1986-present; Dayton Daily News, 1978-1986; Associated Press, 1986.



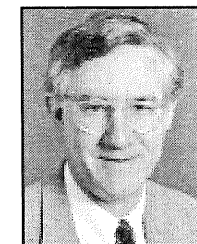
Conrad deFiebre

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1673
Newsroom: 612-673-4791
Fax: 651-222-0101
E-mail: cdefiebre@startribune.com

Education: BA, College of St. Thomas; MS, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University.

Experience: Star Tribune, editor and reporter, 29 years.



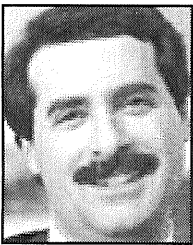


Norman Draper

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1210
Newsroom: 612-673-4547
Fax: 612-673-4359
E-mail: ndraper@startribune.com

Education: BA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Experience: Reporter, Star Tribune, 1986-present; reporter, (Denver) Rocky Mountain News, 1981-85; reporter, (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion Ledger, 1978-79; reporter, (Colorado Springs) Sun, 1974-78 and 1980-81.



Kevin Duchschere

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1210
Newsroom: 612-673-4434
Fax: 651-222-0101
E-mail: kduschschere@startribune.com

Education: BA, history and political science, College of St. Thomas; MA, mass communication, University of Minnesota; MA, history, University of Virginia.
Experience: General assignment reporter, Star Tribune, 1989-96; St. Paul City Hall reporter, Star Tribune, 1997-2003; Washington County and western Wisconsin reporter, Star Tribune, 2003-present.



Jean Hopfensperger

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 612-673-4511
Fax: 651-673-4359
E-mail: hopfen@startribune.com

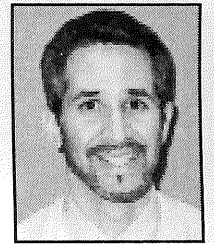
Education: BA, journalism, University of Wisconsin-Madison; MA, political science, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Star Tribune, 1986-present; Milwaukee Journal, 1980-85; Wisconsin Governor's Office, 1978.

Anthony Lonetree

Star Tribune

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Education: BA, University of Minnesota, journalism, 1981.
Experience: 1997-present, education reporter; 1989-97, St. Paul City Hall reporter; 1987-89, Washington County reporter (Star Tribune); 1986-87, general assignment reporter, Traverse City, Michigan, Record Eagle.



Patricia Lopez

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1288
Newsroom: 612-673-7193
Fax: 651-222-0101
E-mail: plopez@startribune.com

Education: California State University, Los Angeles.
Experience: Los Angeles Times, cities reporter; Orange County Register, immigration and special projects; Cincinnati Enquirer, education; Star Tribune, City Hall, Legislature.

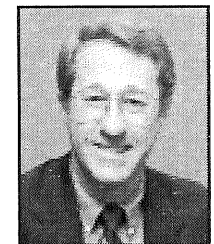


David Phelps

Star Tribune

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Education: BA, journalism, Mankato State University, 1972.
Experience: Staff writer, Star Tribune, 1977-present. Legislative reporter, 1978-1982; Washington bureau, 1983-1988; legal affairs reporter, 1988-present.





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Education: BA, journalism, University of St. Thomas; Cordova High School, Cordova, Alaska.

Experience: Star Tribune Capitol bureau, 1986-present; St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1980-1986; Minneapolis Star, 1977-1980; Catholic Bulletin, 1975-1977; US Navy, 1969-1973.



Lori Sturdevant

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Education: BA, summa cum laude, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Experience: Star Tribune, 1975-present.



Jay Weiner

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Education: Oberlin College; BA, Temple University.

Experience: Star Tribune, 1980-present; covered Legislature during 1996 and 1997 sessions. Previously worked at Long Island Newsday. Primary area of reporting is sports business.

Richard Bowring II

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Education: BA, University of Wisconsin; journalism, radio/television/film, University of Florida; Hernando High School, Tampa, Fla.

Experience: Photojournalist, WHA-TV, Madison, Wis., 1985-1988; WTMJ, Milwaukee, Wis., 1988-1990; KTCA-TV, 1990-present. Covering the Capitol for 11 years.

Mary Lahammer

TPT-TV 2/17

Almanac/Almanac at the Capitol

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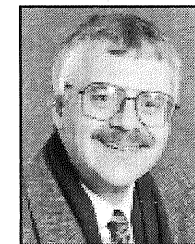
Education: BA, University of Minnesota; major: journalism and mass communications; minor: constitutional law and history; honors: summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Experience: Anchor/reporter WQOW-TV (ABC), Eau Claire, Wis.; anchor/reporter KUMV-TV (NBC), Williston, N.D.; freelance reporter AP and Sun-Sailor Publications; awards for Best Newscast, Use of Medium and Photography.

Eric Eskola

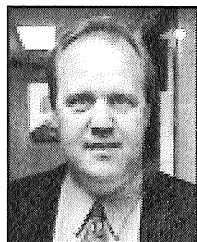
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Education: BA, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Duluth East High School.

Experience: KDAL Radio/TV, Duluth, 1971-1980; WCCO Radio, 1980-present; Capitol correspondent, 1985-present. Co-host of Almanac on public television since 1986.



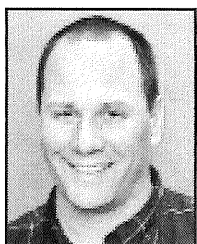
Pat Kessler

WCCO-TV 4

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Experience: WCCO-TV; Minnesota Public Radio.

Additional Capitol Reporters



Shawn Towle

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Education: BA, political science, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Publisher of Checks & Balances since 1995. Previously lobbied for the Minnesota Community College Student Association, the University of Minnesota and PPG.

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