

Minnesota Senate

# Capitol Press Corps Directory 2005

PN 4739 .M6 S73 2005

Issued 1/12/05

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#### Minnesota Senate

## Capitol Press Corps Directory 2005

#### Published by:

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St Paul, Minnesota 55155
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#### Members of the press corps are accredited through:

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This publication was developed by the staff of the Senate Publications Office, Senate Media Services and the Office of the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. It was printed by the Senate Duplicating Office.

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## Table of Contents

Rule 16 — Privilege of Reporters4
Members of the Capitol Press Corps by organization
Associated Press
Duluth News Tribune 6
ECM Publishers, Inc. 6
Forum Communications6
KARE-TV 11
KLKS-FM
KMSP-TV 98
KNSI-AM8
KSTP-TV 58
Mankato Free Press
Minnesota Daily9
Minnesota News Network
Minnesota Public Radio
Red Wing Republican Eagle
Rochester Post-Bulletin
St. Cloud Times
St. Paul Legal Ledger
St. Paul Pioneer Press
Star Tribune
Twin Cities Public Television
WCCO Radio
WCCO-TV 4
WFTC-TV 2921

#### 2005 Capitol Press Corps Directory

## 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 Rules of the Senate, 84th Legislative Session. Adopted by the Senate, pursuant to Senate Resolution 2, Jan. 4, 2005.

### Brian Bakst

#### **Associated Press**

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

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



## Patrick Condon

#### Associated Press

Newsroom: 612-332-2727 Fax: 612-342-5299

E-mail: pcondon@ap.org

**Education:** University of St. Thomas.

**Experience:** Associated Press, 2003-present; The Olympian, 2001-03; Rochester Post-Bulletin, 2000; The (Fargo) Forum, 1996-99; Minot Daily

News, 1995-96.

## Martiga Lohn

#### **Associated Press**

 Capitol:
 651-222-4821

 Newsroom:
 612-332-2727

 Fax:
 651-222-2208

 E-mail:
 mlohn@ap.org

Education: BA, Macalester College; MS, Columbia University Graduate School of

Journalism.

Experience: Bloomberg News (Germany); Duluth News-Tribune; Southwest Journal

(Minneapolis).

Minnesota Senate





## Scott Thistle Duluth News-Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1265 Newsroom: 218-723-5312 Fax: 651-310-9709

rax: 031-310-9709

E-mail: sthistle@duluthnews.com

**Experience:** Covered the Minnesota Legislature for three years; 10 years experience in Maine and Minnesota.



## 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.



## 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.

## John Croman

Capitol: 651-292-8988 Newsroom: 763-797-7290 Fax: 651-227-1488

E-mail: jcroman@kare11.com

Education: BS, journalism, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan., May 1980. Experience: Radio reporter, 1979-85; television reporter, 1985-present. KARE-TV, 1997-present; KNXV-TV, Phoenix, 1994-97; KETV-TV, Omaha, 1989-94; Cable 6, Lawrence, 1985-89; KSAL-AM, Salina, Kan., 1984-85; Audio-Reader, Lawrence, 1982-84; KGGF-AM, Coffeyville, Kan., 1980-82.

## Aethan Hart

KARE-TV 11

 Capitol:
 651-292-8988

 Newsroom:
 763-797-7215

 Fax:
 651-227-1488

E-mail: ahart@kare11.com

Education: Duluth Central High School; University of Minnesota-Duluth;

College of St. Scholastica.

Experience: KDAL-TV; KSTP-TV; KTCA-TV; KARE-TV.

## David Allan Pundt

KLKS-FM 104.3 (Breezy Point)

Newsroom: 218-562-4884 / 800-450-5557

Fax: 218-562-4058

E-mail: klksnews@yahoo.com

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

Experience: Twenty-six years of various broadcasting, mostly radio. KLKS news

director, February 2001-present.







### Timothy Blotz KMSP-TV 9

Capitol: 651-228-1273 Newsroom: 952-946-5767 Cellular: 952-412-7677 952-942-0455 Fax: E-mail: tblotz@mnfox.com

Education: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; American University.

Experience: Over 20 years in television and radio.



## Dan Ochsner KNSI-AM 1450 (St. Cloud)

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 651-642-4409 Fax:

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.

#### 2005 Capitol Press Corps Directory

## Mark Fischenich

Mankato Free Press

Capitol: 651-290-0406 Newsroom: 507-344-6321 Fax: 651-224-4852

mfischenich@mankato-freepress.com E-mail:

Education: University of Minnesota, journalism.



## Brady Averill

The Minnesota Daily

Newsroom: 612-627-4070 ext. 3217

Fax: 612-627-4159

baverill@mndaily.com E-mail:

Education: BA candidate, journalism, University of Minnesota.

Experience: The Minnesota Daily, 2004-present; Minnesota Monthly, 2005.

## Than Tibbetts

The Minnesota Daily

Newsroom: 612-627-4070 ext. 3214

Cellular: 651-295-0308 Fax: 612-627-4159

ntibbetts@mndaily.com E-mail:

Education: BA candidate, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Headlight Herald, June-August 2004; The Minnesota Daily.

September 2004-present.





## Bill Werner

#### Minnesota News Network

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

E-mail: bwerner@mnnradio.com

Education: BA, Macalester College, 1987.

Experience: Capitol reporter, MNN, 1993-present; reporter, MNN, 1992present; reporter/anchor, Radio City Network News, Minneapolis, 1991-92;

news director, KANO, Anoka, 1989-91.



### Michael Khoo

#### Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035 Newsroom: 651-290-1424 Fax: 651-227-5238 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

Capitol: 651-291-1035 Newsroom: 651-290-1478 651-227-5238 Fax: lmccallum@mpr.org E-mail:

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.

#### 2005 Capitol Press Corps Directory

## Tim Pugmire

#### Minnesota Public Radio

651-291-1035 Capitol: Newsroom: 651-290-1082 651-290-1295 Fax: E-mail: tpugmire@mpr.org

**Education:** BS, St. Cloud State University.

Experience: Minnesota Public Radio, 1990-present.



## Thomas Scheck

#### Minnesota Public Radio

651-291-1035 Capitol: Newsroom: 651-290-1424 Fax: 651-290-1295 E-mail: tscheck@mpr.org

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

Public Radio, 1996-2000.



#### Red Wing Republican Eagle

Capitol: 651-248-7197

Newsroom: 651-388-2914 ext. 122

Fax: 651-388-3404

E-mail: swente@republican-eagle.com

Education: BS, journalism, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Experience: Nineteen months as staff writer, Republican Eagle; five-month

internship at Eau Claire, Wis., newspaper.







Jay Johnson
Rochester Post-Bulletin

Newsroom: 507-285-7619 Fax: 507-285-7772

E-mail: jayjohnson@postbulletin.com

Education: BS, industrial technology, MS, communication, University of

North Dakota.

Experience: Editorial writer, Rochester Post-Bulletin.



## Lawrence Schumacher

St. Cloud Times

Capitol: 651-224-4937 Newsroom: 320-259-3680 Fax: 651-846-5139

E-mail: lschumacher@stcloudtimes.com

Education: BA, political science, Carleton College, 1993.

**Experience:** Community, government and politics reporter, St. Cloud Times, 1999-present; community, government and politics reporter, Fergus Falls Daily Journal, 1997-99.



12

## **Charley Shaw**

St. Paul Legal Ledger

Newsroom: 651-602-0578 Fax: 651-222-2640

E-mail: charley.shaw@legal-ledger.com

Education: BA, history, Lawrence University.

Experience: Ogle County (Ill.) Newspapers, 1999; Stevens Point (Wis.)

Journal, 1999-2001; St. Paul Legal Ledger, Oct. 2004-present.

## Toni Coleman

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5442 Fax: 651-228-5528

E-mail: tcoleman@pioneerpress.com



Education: BS, University of Illinois; MS, journalism, Marquette University. Experience: St. Paul neighborhoods reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, June 2000-present; previously covered transportation and worked at the Capitol during the 2003 Legislative Session. City hall reporter, Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Feb. 1999-May 2000; education reporter, Oak Leaves/Forest Leaves, Oak Park, Ill., Sept. 1997-Feb. 1999.

### Glenda Holste

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5478 Fax: 651-228-5564

E-mail: gholste@pioneerpress.com

**Education:** Bachelor of journalism, University of Missouri-Columbia; MA candidate (2005), Augsburg College.

**Experience:** Currently associate editor of the editorial page, Pioneer Press; previously reporter, copy editor, national/foreign editor, editorial writer, Pioneer Press; state capitol experience: Minnesota, California and Missouri.

## Aron Kahn

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5569 Fax: 651-228-5527

E-mail: akahn@pioneerpress.com

**Education:** BA, University of Minnesota.

 $\textbf{Experience:} \ \ \textbf{Reporter, Pioneer Press; assignment editor, Pioneer Press; adjunct}$ 

instructor, University of Minnesota.



13



Tammy Oseid St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-2171 651-228-2191 Fax:

E-mail: toseid@pioneerpress.com

Education: Bachelor's degree, political science, communication and psychology, College of St. Benedict; journalism, University of Minnesota. Experience: Pioneer Press, reporter, December 1999-present, education reporter, 2002-present; previously at Minnesota Daily and St. Cloud Times.



### Jim Ragsdale St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5529 Newsroom: 651-228-5491 Fax: 651-228-5528

jragsdale@pioneerpress.com E-mail:

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: 651-228-5500

E-mail: rrosario@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Fordham University.

Experience: New York Daily News, staff writer, 1980-1991; St. Paul Pioneer

Press, city editor, 1992-1996, columnist, 1997-present.

#### ❖ 2005 Capitol Press Corps Directory

## Bill Salisbury

St. Paul Pioneer Press

651-228-5538 Capitol: Newsroom: 651-228-5491 Fax: 651-228-5528

E-mail: bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, history, University of Minnesota-Morris.

Experience: Reporter, Fairmont Sentinel, 1971-72; reporter, Rochester Post-

Bulletin, 1972-77; reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1977-present.



St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5445 Home: 612-721-2127 Fax: 651-228-5528

E-mail: rstassen-berger@pioneerpress.com



## Jack Sullivan

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Cellular: 651-470-9303 Newsroom: 651-228-5558 Fax: 651-228-2179

E-mail: jsullivan@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, journalism, University of St. Thomas.

Experience: Transportation reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 2004-present; high plains regional reporter, Associated Press, Washington, D.C., 2002-04; correspondent, Associated Press, Fargo, N.D., 2000-02; reporter, The (Fargo-

Moorhead) Forum, 1994-2000.



15





## Patrick Sweeney

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5253
Fax: 651-228-5528

E-mail: psweeney@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Marquette University.



## David Brewster

Star Tribune

**Capitol:** 651-222-1095 **Newsroom:** 612-673-7071

E-mail: dbrewster@startribune.com

Education: University of Minnesota, photojournalism specialization program.

Experience: Star Tribune, 1980-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; Associated Press,

Cincinnati and Helena, Mont.

### Conrad deFiebre

Star Tribune

 Capitol:
 651-222-1673

 Newsroom:
 612-673-4791

 Cellular:
 612-719-9087

 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, 32 years.

## Pat Doyle

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 612-673-4504

E-mail: pdoyle@startribune.com

Education: BA, Marquette University.

Experience: Star Tribune, 1984-present; Daily Herald, suburban Chicago,

1977-84; Freeport Journal Standard, 1975-76.



Star Tribune

Cellular: 612-418-1230 Newsroom: 612-673-4547 Fax: 612-673-4359

E-mail: ndraper@startribune.com

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

1974-78 and 1980-81.







### 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: Social policy reporter and social issues reporter, Star Tribune, 15 years; Capitol correspondent, The Milwaukee Journal, 1985-86; Central America correspondent for national newspapers, 1980-1984; press aide, Wisconsin's Governor's Office.



## Patricia Lopez Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1288 Newsroom: 612-673-4414 Fax: 651-222-0101

E-mail: plopez@startribune.com

Education: California State University, Los Angeles.

Experience: Star Tribune, City Hall reporter, 1992-94, politics and government reporter, 1994-present; Cincinnati Enquirer, education reporter; Roanoke Times and World News, education reporter; Orange County Register, immigration and projects reporter; Los Angeles Times, cities reporter.



## Dane Smith

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-292-0164 Newsroom: 612-673-4791 Cellular: 612-518-1845 Fax: 651-222-0101

E-mail: rdsmith@startribune.com

**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.

#### 2005 Capitol Press Corps Directory

### Lori Sturdevant

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-6126 Newsroom: 612-673-4505 Fax: 612-673-4359

E-mail: lsturdevant@startribune.com

**Education:** BA, summa cum laude, Coe College.

Experience: Star Tribune, 1976-present: Capitol reporter, 1979-86; assistant city editor, 1986-92; editorial writer and columnist, 1992-present. Author/ editor of four books.

Jay Weiner

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-0989 Newsroom: 612-718-8109 (cell)

Fax: 651-222-0101

E-mail: iweiner@startribune.com

Education: Oberlin College; BA, Temple University, 1975; fellow, sports business, Knight School of Journalism, University of Maryland, 1994; policy fellow, Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, 2004-05.

Experience: Star Tribune, reporter, 1980-present, primary coverage for stadium issue, 1994-present. Author, Stadium Games, Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2000.

Richard Bowring II

Twin Cities Public Television

Capitol: 651-221-1937 Newsroom: 651-229-1421

E-mail: bbowring@tpt.org

Education: BA, journalism (radio/televison/film), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1985.

Experience: Photojournalist: WHA-TV, Madison, Wis., 1985-88; WTMJ, Milwaukee, Wis., 1988-90; TPT-TV, 1990-present. Primary photojournalist

covering the Capitol since 1992.





## Mary Lahammer

Twin Cities Public Television

Almanac/Almanac at the Capitol

 Capitol:
 651-221-1937

 Newsroom:
 651-229-1388

 Cellular:
 651-402-8848

 E-mail:
 mlahammer@tpt.org

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

Experience: Host, Almanac at the Capitol; reporter, Almanac; anchor/reporter, WQOW-TV, Eau Claire, Wis.; anchor/reporter, KUMV-TV, Williston, N.D.; winner of several Emmys and other awards for hosting, reporting, producing and photography.



## Eric Eskola WCCO Radio

Capitol: 651-222-7806 Newsroom: 612-370-0691 Fax: 651-290-0913

E-mail: eeskola@cbs.com, eeskola@aol.com

**Education:** BA, University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Experience: KDAL Radio, Duluth, 1971-1980; WCCO Radio, 1980-present, Capitol correspondent, 1985-present. Co-host, Almanac, Twin Cities Public Television, 1986-present.



## Pat Kessler WCCO-TV 4

Capitol: 651-224-7051
Newsroom: 612-330-2509
Fax: 651-224-8072

E-mail: pjkessler@wcco.cbs.com

Education: Macalester College, English/journalism. Experience: WCCO-TV; Minnesota Public Radio.

2005 Capitol Press Corps Directory



## Gordy Leach WCCO-TV 4

Capitol: 651-224-7051

Education: BA, broadcast journalism, University of Minnesota.

**Experience:** TV news photographer, 30 years; TV news producer, 15 years.



## Tom Halden WFTC-TV 29 / KMSP-TV 9

Newsroom: 952-946-5767 -

**Education:** BS, political science and mass communication (TV journalism), St. Cloud State University; graduate, Poynter Institute, 2001.

Experience: Reporter/photographer/anchor, KSAX-TV, Alexandria, 1995-96; reporter/anchor/producer, KAAL-TV, Austin, 1996-97; anchor/consumer reporter, WSBT-TV, South Bend, Ind., 1997-2003.

## Additional Capitol Reporters



## Shawn Towle

#### www.checksandbalances.com

**Cellular:** 651-270-6698 **Newsroom:** 651-330-3033

Fax: 651-330-3034

E-mail: publisher@checksandbalances.com

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.

## Index of Accredited Press

Averill, Brady9	Lahammer, Mary	20
	Leach, Gordy	
Bakst, Brian5	Lohn, Martiga	
Blotz, Timothy 8	Lopez, Patricia	
Bowring, Richard 19		
Brewster, David16	McCallum, Laura	10
Brunswick, Mark16		
Budig, Timothy 6	Ochsner, Dan	8
	Oseid, Tammy	14
Coleman, Toni 13		
Condon, Patrick 5	Pugmire, Tim	11
Croman, John7	Pundt, David Allan	7
Davis, Don 6	Ragsdale, Jim	14
leFiebre, Conrad17	Rosario, Rubén	14
Doyle, Pat		
Oraper, Norman 17	Salisbury, Bill	15
	Scheck, Thomas	
Eskola, Eric	Schumacher, Lawrence	12
	Shaw, Charley	12
Fischenich, Mark9	Smith, Dane	
	Stassen-Berger, Rachel	15
Halden, Tom 21	Sturdevant, Lori	19
Hart, Aethan 7	Sullivan, Jack	15
Hauser, Tom 8	Sweeney, Patrick	16
Holste, Glenda		
Hopfensperger, Jean 18	Thistle, Scott	
	Tibbetts, Than	9
ohnson, Jay 12	Towle, Shawn	22
Kahn, Aron13	Weiner, Jay	19
Kessler, Pat20	Wente, Scott	11
Khoo, Michael 10	Werner, Bill	10