

Minnesota Senate
**Capitol Press Corps
Directory 2006**

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Minnesota Senate
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Directory 2006**

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Patrick E. Flahaven
Secretary of the Senate
231 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-2344

Members of the press corps are accredited through:
Sven Lindquist
Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate
Room G-1 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-1119

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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, Minnesota Public Radio and Minnesota News Network. 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.

—Permanent Rules of the Senate, 84th Legislative Session.

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).



Scott Thistle

Duluth News-Tribune

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

KARE-TV 11

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; BA, art/art history, 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
Fax: 952-942-0455
E-mail: tblotz@mnfox.com

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

Experience: Over 20 years in television and radio.



Cory Kampschroer

KNSI-AM 1450 (Leighton
Broadcasting, St. Cloud)

Newsroom: 320-203-4853
Fax: 320-251-8952
E-mail: news@1450knsi.com

Education: Attended St. Cloud State University before earning a degree from Brown College.

Experience: News director, Leighton Broadcasting, St. Cloud; news director and program director, three stations in Red Wing; Baraboo, Wisconsin.



Dan "Ox" Ochsner

KNSI-AM 1450 (Leighton
Broadcasting, 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; past president, Minnesota Associated Press Broadcasters (2000-01).

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.

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.

John Hendrickson

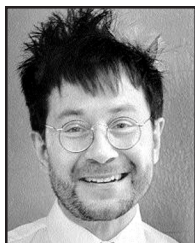
Mesabi Daily News

Capitol: 651-221-0114

Education: BA, history, University of North Dakota; MA, history, University of North Dakota, expected May 2006.

Experience: Mesabi Daily News, legislative correspondent.





Bill Werner

Minnesota News Network

Capitol: 651-224-0355
Newsroom: 612-321-7211
Fax: 612-321-7222
E-mail: bwerner@mnnradio.com

Education: BA, Macalester College, 1987.

Experience: Capitol reporter, MNN, 1993-present; reporter, MNN, 1992-present; reporter/anchor, Radio City Network News, Minneapolis, 1991-92; news director, KANO, Anoka, 1989-91.



Laura McCallum

Minnesota Public Radio

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

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
Fax: 651-290-1295
E-mail: tpugmire@mpr.org

Education: BS, St. Cloud State University.

Experience: Minnesota Public Radio, 1990-present.

Thomas Scheck

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035
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.

Scott N. Wente

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.



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.



Megan Boldt

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5495
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: mboldt@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, journalism, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Pioneer Press, 2003-present; Associated Press, Bismarck, N.D., 2002-03; Murphy-McGinnis Newspapers, legislative correspondent, 2001-02.

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.

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

Chuck Laszewski

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5458

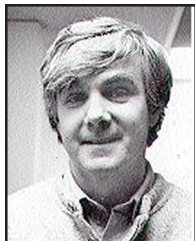
Fax: 651-228-5500

E-mail: claszewski@pioneerpress.com



Education: BA, journalism, University of Minnesota.

Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press, November 1980-present; St. Cloud Daily Times, June-November 1980; Little Falls Daily Transcript, July 1979-June 1980.



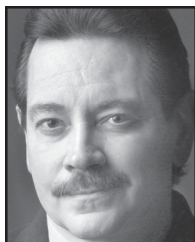
Jim Ragsdale

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5529
Newsroom: 651-228-5491
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: jragdale@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: 651-228-5500
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.



Bill Salisbury

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5538
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.

Rachel Stassen-Berger

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5445
Home: 612-378-7570
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: rstassen-berger@pioneerpress.com



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.

Norman Draper

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.

Stormi L. Greener

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 612-673-4517
E-mail: sgreener@startribune.com



Education: College graduate.
Experience: Star Tribune, 30 years.

Jean Hopfensperger

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 612-673-4511
Fax: 612-673-4359
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.



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: jweiner@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: rbowring@tpt.org



Education: BA, journalism (radio/television/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.



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
Fax: 952-942-0455
E-mail: thalden@upn29.com



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.

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