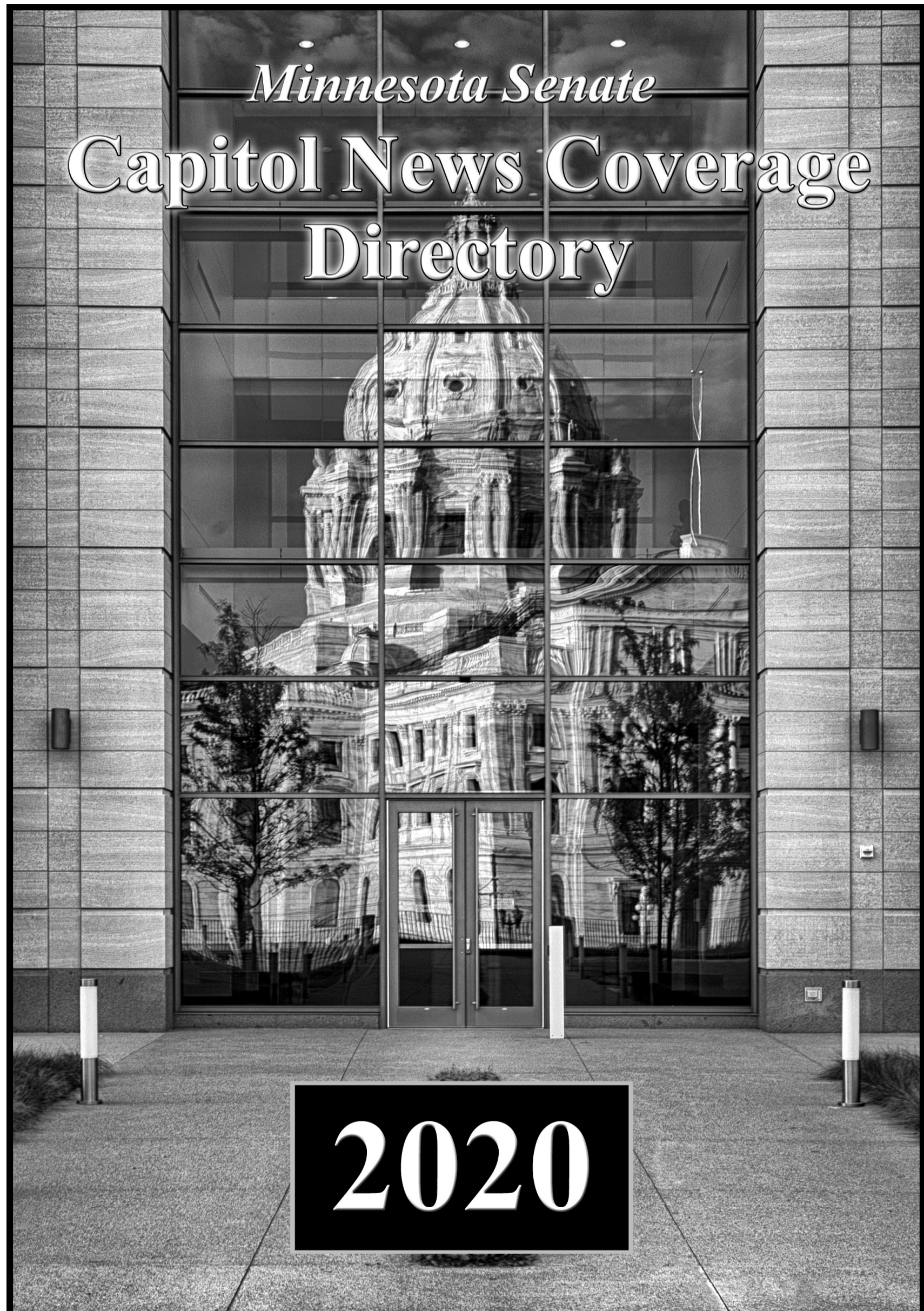


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January 25, 2021

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[Directory 2020](#)

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## Senate Rule 16

### CREDENTIALS FOR NEWS COVERAGE

#### 16. Credentials for News Coverage

16.1 (a) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide a reasonable number of spaces on the Senate floor and in the Senate gallery for individuals and organizations with credentials and passes issued under this rule.

(b) The Sergeant at Arms may not issue credentials or day passes under this rule to political organizations or to individuals affiliated with a political organization. For the purposes of this rule, "political organization" means an organization owned or controlled by a registered lobbyist, a political caucus, a political party, or any party organization and "individuals affiliated with a political organization" means an individual who, during the preceding 24 months, has been employed by or received any compensation from a political organization.

(c) Due to the limited space available for organizations or individuals providing news coverage of the Senate, the Senate finds that there is a compelling public interest in limiting credentials issued under this rule to organizations or individuals who demonstrate that they provide regular news coverage of the legislature. For session credentials, an organization or individual must submit an application to the Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms must review the application and approve or reject it within 14 days after receipt. Upon the request of the Sergeant at Arms, an applicant for credentials must provide evidence of the applicant's activities in providing regular news coverage of the legislature. Evidence of regular news coverage must include examples of news coverage of legislative matters produced by the applicant. The examples must include written, video, or audio coverage written or recorded in the past year, and a description of how they were publicly distributed. Any opinion expressed in the examples is not subject to review under this rule at any time.

(d) If an application is rejected, the Sergeant at Arms must state the reason for the rejection in writing and notify the applicant, the Secretary of the Senate, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader in writing.

(e) An appeal of a denial of credentials must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader. The Committee on Rules and Administration shall review and decide the appeal within 14 days after receiving a letter of appeal.

16.2 The Sergeant at Arms may grant a day pass for access authorized under Rule 16.1, paragraph (a) The day pass may be issued for a single day to an individual or organization who has not applied for credentials and who is not prohibited from receiving credentials under Rule 16.1, paragraph (b). The pass may be granted upon the request of a member or the organization or individual, and may be renewed from day to day upon request.

16.3 The Secretary shall compile and distribute to the public a directory of individuals and organizations who have been issued credentials under Rule 16.1 to provide news coverage from the Senate floor. The directory must include each individual's picture and organization and a brief biography.

16.4 The Secretary must issue each individual or organization with credentials an identification badge showing the individual's name and organization. The individual must wear the badge when in the Senate Chamber.

16.5 (a) A credential shall be revoked by the Sergeant at Arms if the Sergeant has received credible information indicating that the individual or organization either was not qualified to receive the credential when it was given, or no longer qualifies for a credential.

(b) An appeal of a revocation of credentials must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader. The Committee on Rules and Administration shall review and decide the appeal within 14 days after receiving a letter of appeal.

adopted January 06, 2015

## Steve Karnowski

### Associated Press

**Capitol:** 651-222-4821

**Newsroom:** 612-332-2727

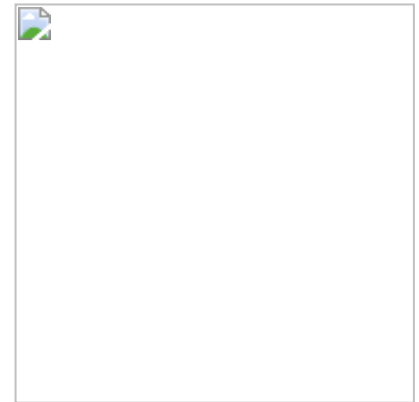
**Fax:** 612-342-5299

**Cell:** 612-442-7649

**Email:** skarnowski@ap.org

**Education:** BA from the University of Minnesota in journalism and political science, 1982.

**Experience:** Associated Press reporter since 1994; Conus Communications All News Channel, associate producer, 1994; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany, senior news editor, 1985 - 1994; United Press International in Washington, national desk editor, 1985, Minneapolis Bureau reporter, 1983 - 1985; Minnesota Daily, political reporter, 1979 - 1983.



## Jim Arthur Mone

### Associated Press

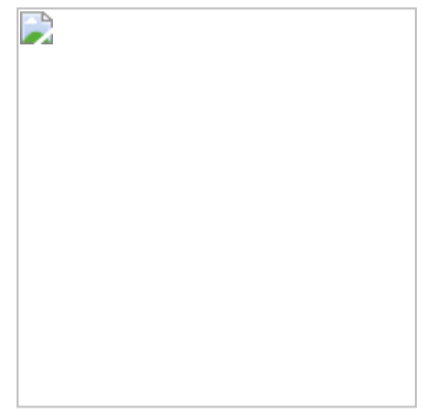
**Capitol:** 612-332-2727

**Cell:** 612-730-8258

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**Education:** B.S., journalism, Nebraska Omaha

**Experience:** 47 years as AP photographer.



## Torey Van Oot

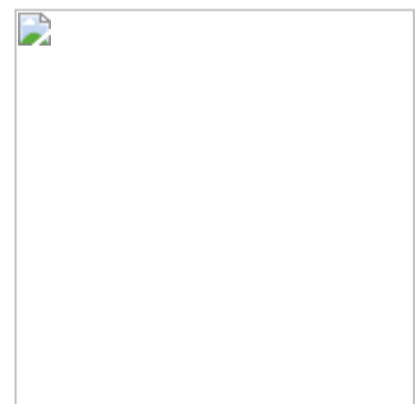
### Axios

**Cell:** 310-903-2160

**Email:** torey.vanoot@axios.com

**Education:** BA, political science and print journalism, University of Southern California.

**Experience:** Axios Twin Cities (2020 - present); Star Tribune Capitol Bureau (2018 - 2020); Refinery29 (2015 - 2018); NBC-owned TV stations national digital desk (2013 - 2015); The Sacramento Bee Capitol Bureau (2009 - 2013).



## Dana Ferguson

### Forum News Service

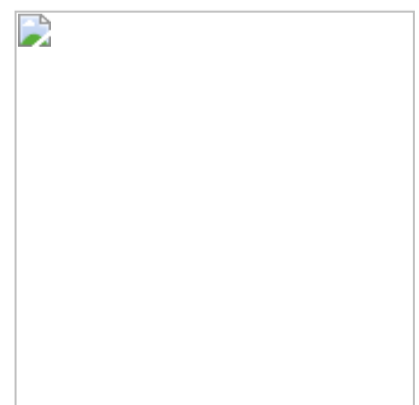
**Capitol:** 651-290-0707

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**Email:** dferguson@forumcomm.com

**Education:** DePauw University, BA, 2014.

**Experience:** Joined Forum News Service as Minnesota Capitol correspondent in 2018. Previously worked as a state government and politics reporter for the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, S.D., and The Associated Press in Madison, Wis.



## Sarah Mearhoff

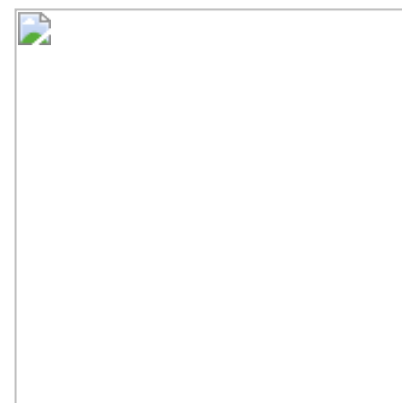
Forum News Service

Cell: 610-790-4992

Email: smearhoff@forumcomm.com

Education: BA, journalism, Pennsylvania State University

Experience: Political reporter in Minnesota for Forum News Service. Previous Capitol coverage in Pennsylvania, Mississippi and South Dakota.



## Thomas A. Olmscheid

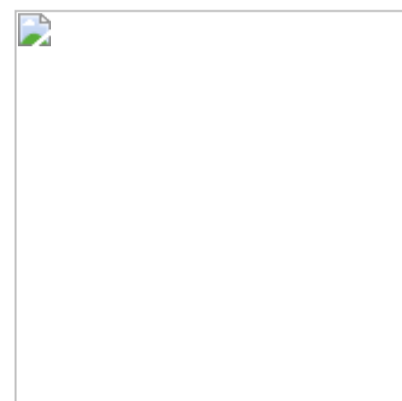
Freelance Photographer

Cell: 651-208-4885

Email: taolmscheid@comcast.net

Education: AA degree, Inver Hills Community College.

Experience: MN House of Representatives, chief photographer, 1975 - 2011; Associated Press, freelance photographer, 1978 - 2018; freelance photographer, 2011 - 2018.



## John Croman

KARE-TV 11

Capitol: 651-292-8988

Newsroom: 763-797-7215

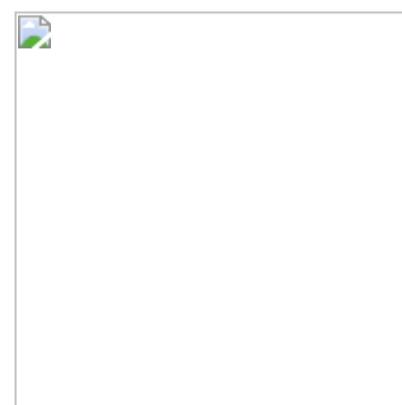
Fax: 763-546-1111

Cell: 612-209-9091

Email: jcroman@kare11.com

Education: BS, journalism, University of Kansas.

Experience: Reporter for KARE since 1997. Previously worked in TV news in Phoenix, Omaha and Lawrence, Kan.; and radio news in Kansas.



## Theo Keith

KMSP-TV 9

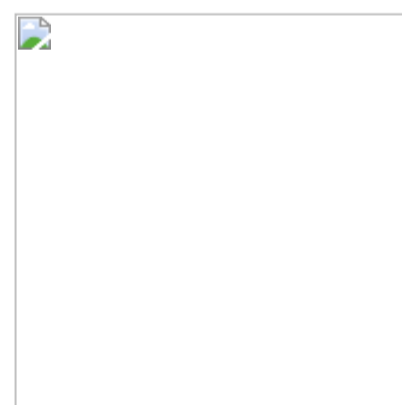
Newsroom: 952-946-5767

Cell: 763-257-9690

Email: theo.keith@foxtv.com

Education: Bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science, University of Missouri.

Experience: WITI-TV/Fox 6, Milwaukee, Wis., political reporter (2015-2018); WAVE-TV (NBC), Louisville, Ky., political reporter (2013-2015); WISC-TV (CBS), Madison, Wis., reporter (2011-2013); KMOX-AM (CBS) and KOMU-TV (NBC), Jefferson City, Mo. (2009-2011).



## Tom Hauser

KSTP-TV 5

Capitol: 651-665-0920

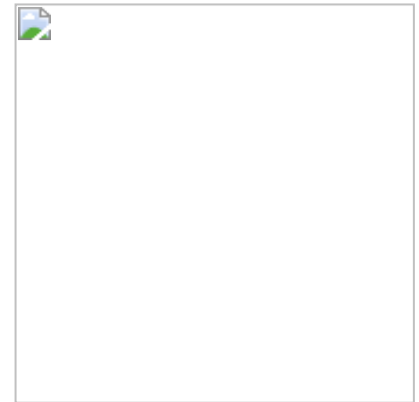
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Fax: 651-642-4409

Email: [thauser@kstp.com](mailto:thauser@kstp.com)

Education: BA, Journalism and Political Science, University of St. Thomas; MA, Journalism and Mass Communications, Drake University.

Experience: KAAL-TV, Austin, MN; WINK-TV, Fort Myers, FL; WHO-TV, Des Moines; KSTP-TV, Mpls-St. Paul.



## Dan Ochsner

Leighton Broadcasting AM 1450/FM 99.3 KNSI

Capitol: 320-492-5661

Newsroom: 320-203-4831

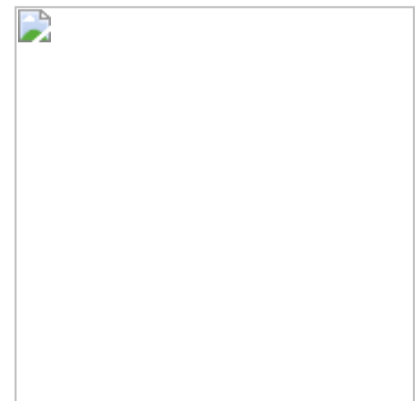
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Cell: 320-492-5661

Email: [dochsner@leightonbroadcasting.com](mailto:dochsner@leightonbroadcasting.com)

Education: Associates Degree Radio/TV Broadcasting; Bachelor's Degree Media Business.

Experience: 20+ years in radio news and talk radio; KDLM news director, 1998-2001; MN Associated Press Broadcasters Board, past president; Political talk show host, KNSI St. Cloud, 2001-present.



## Kevin Featherly

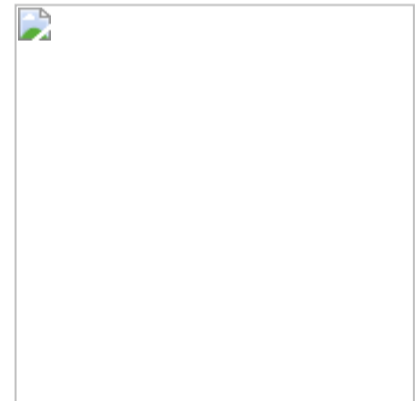
Minnesota Lawyer/Politics in Minnesota

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Email: [kfeatherly@minnlawyer.com](mailto:kfeatherly@minnlawyer.com)

Education: BA, Journalism, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Experience: Most recently 12 years of freelance writing for dozens of local and national publications; held previous positions as reporter and editor with Washington Post Newsweek Interactive, McGraw-Hill, Landmark Communications, North Country Community Newspapers and Internet Broadcasting System.



## Scott Peterson

Minnesota News Network

Capitol: 651-224-0355

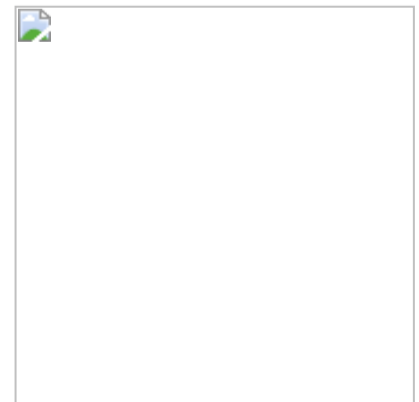
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## Bill Werner

**Minnesota News Network**

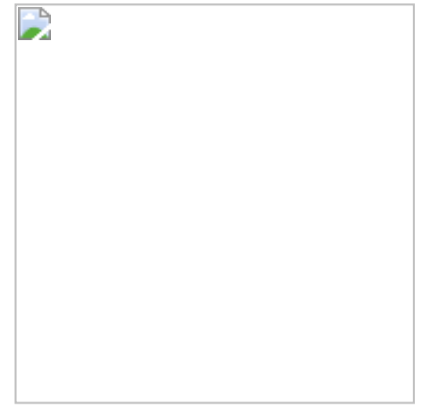
**Capitol:** 651-224-0355

**Newsroom:** 952-545-6660

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**Education:** BA, Political Science, Macalester College.

**Experience:** Political correspondent, Minnesota News Network since 1993.



## Brian Bakst

**Minnesota Public Radio**

**Capitol:** 651-291-1035

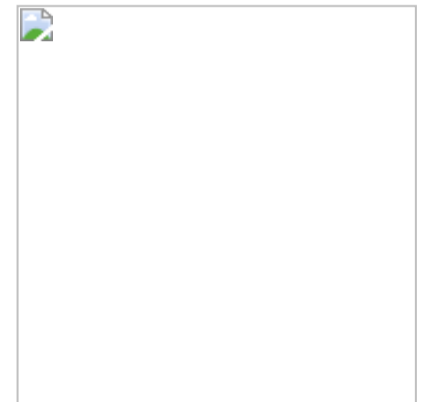
**Newsroom:** 651-290-1424

**Cell:** 651-226-6089

**Email:** bbakst@mpr.org

**Education:** BA, Political Science/Journalism, University of Minnesota.

**Experience:** Copy editor, Albuquerque Journal; legislative correspondent, Murphy McGinnis Media; legislative reporter, Associated Press, 1999 - 2016.



## Tim Nelson

**Minnesota Public Radio**

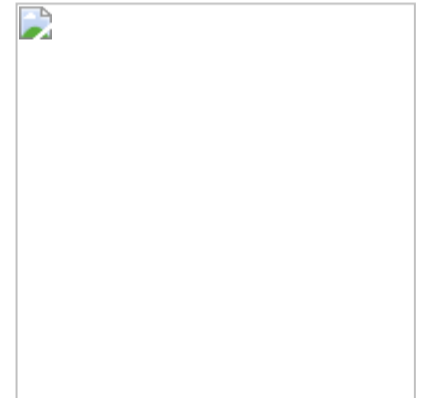
**Newsroom:** 651-290-1393

**Cell:** 651-315-4900

**Email:** timnelson@mpr.org

**Education:** BA, Gustavus Adolphus College.

**Experience:** Minnesota Daily, St. Paul Pioneer Press.



## Tim Pugmire

**Minnesota Public Radio**

**Capitol:** 651-291-1035

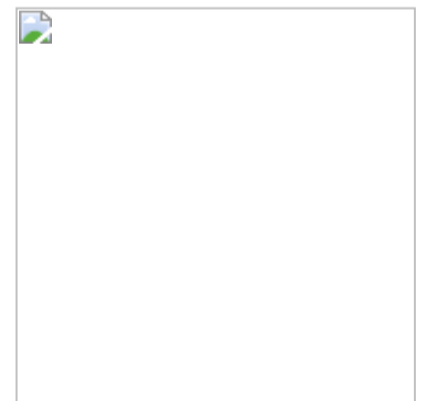
**Newsroom:** 651-290-1424

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

**Experience:** Minnesota Public Radio, 1990-present.





## Ricardo Lopez

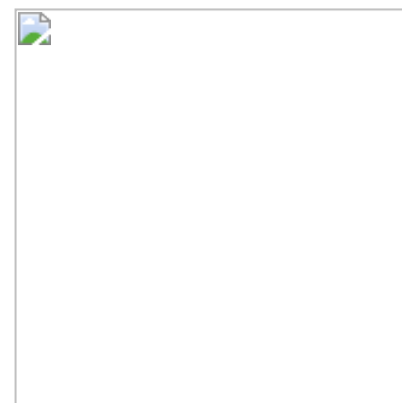
Minnesota Reformer

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Email: ricardo@minnesotareformer.com

Education: BA, journalism and Spanish, University of Nevada, Reno.

Experience: Previously at The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, Calif.), Variety (Los Angeles), Star Tribune, Los Angeles Times.



## Peter J. Callaghan

MinnPost

Newsroom: 612-455-6950

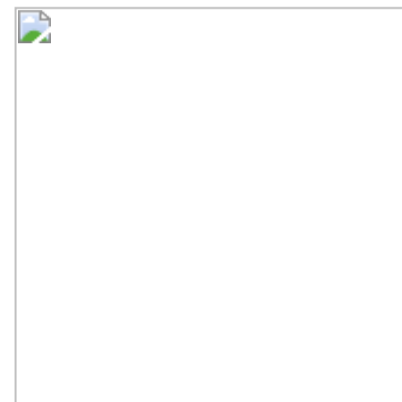
Fax: 612-455-6960

Cell: 253-219-6332

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Education: BA, University of Washington

Experience: MinnPost; Associated Press in Olympia and Seattle; Everett Herald; Tacoma News Tribune.



## Walker Orenstein

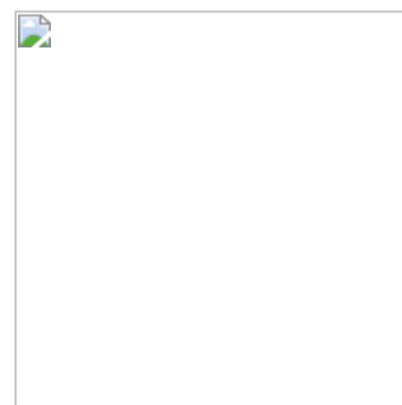
MinnPost

Cell: 651-276-7490

Email: worenstein@minnpost.com

Education: BA, University of Washington.

Experience: Reported on Washington State's Legislature for The (Tacoma) News Tribune and The Associated Press. Interned for The Seattle Times.



## Martin D. Owings

mncapitolnews.com

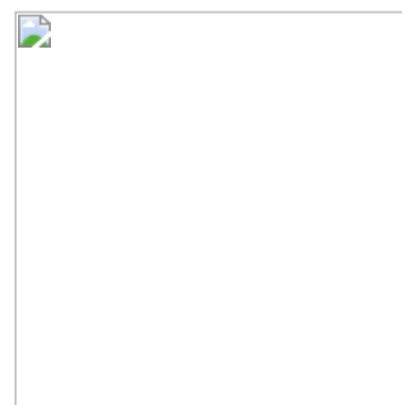
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Education: BA, history and political science, Metropolitan State University; MA, organizational leadership, Saint Catherine University.

Experience: Reporter/editor/online host; Board President at Public Record Media.



## John Eric Autey

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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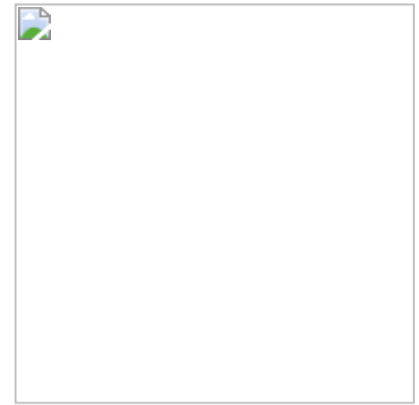
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Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer: 20 years with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, 15 years in the newsroom.



## Mara Gottfried

St. Paul Pioneer Press

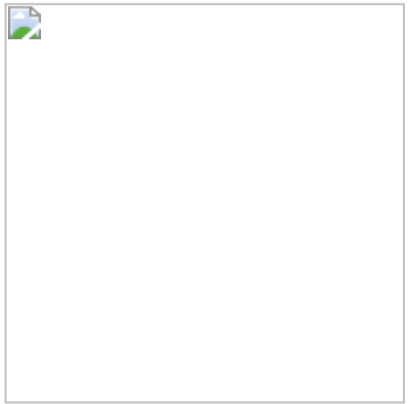
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Email: [mgottfried@pioneerpress.com](mailto:mgottfried@pioneerpress.com)

Education: BA, University of Maryland.

Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press, 2001 - present.



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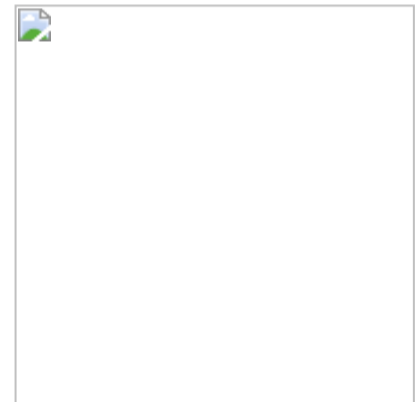
St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Email: [cmagan@pioneerpress.com](mailto:cmagan@pioneerpress.com)

Education: B.S. Journalism from Tennessee State University

Experience: Education reporter for Pioneer Press, 2011 - present;  
education/government reporter for Dayton Daily News, 2004-2011



## Dave Orrick

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-224-5812

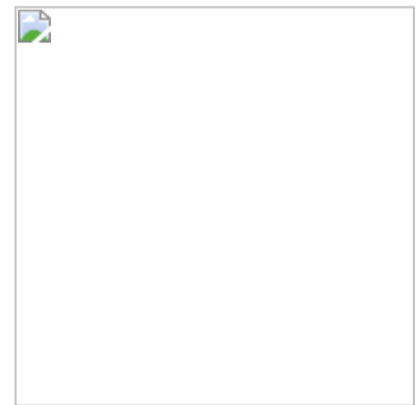
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Cell: 651-283-5489

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Education: Northwestern University.

Experience: Twenty-plus years' experience; 14 years' experience with St. Paul Pioneer Press.



## Bill Salisbury

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5538

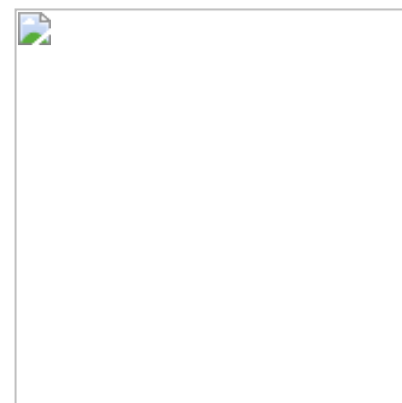
Newsroom: 651-228-5448

Cell: 651-334-5538

Email: bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, history, University of MN, Morris.

Experience: Reporter, Fairmont Sentinel, 1971-72; reporter, Rochester Post-Bulletin, 1972-77; reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1977-present.



## C. Scott Takushi

St. Paul Pioneer Press

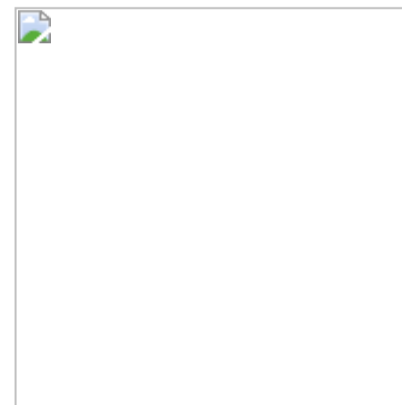
Newsroom: 651-228-5497

Fax: 651-228-2169

Email: ctakushi@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Wheaton College.

Experience: Seattle Times, 1985-1987; St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer since 1987.



## Briana Bierschbach

Star Tribune

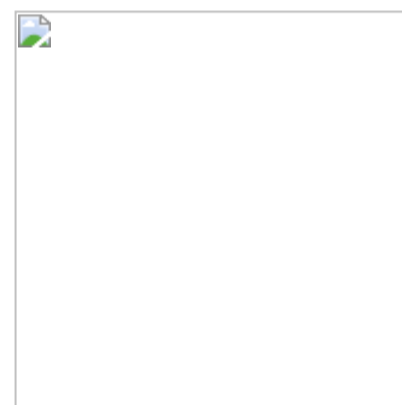
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Cell: 320-469-3206

Email: briana.bierschbach@startribune.com

Education: BA, journalism, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Experience: Star Tribune since 2020. Previous experience at the Capitol for The Associated Press, Politics in Minnesota, MinnPost and Minnesota Public Radio.



## Patricia Ava Lopez

Star Tribune

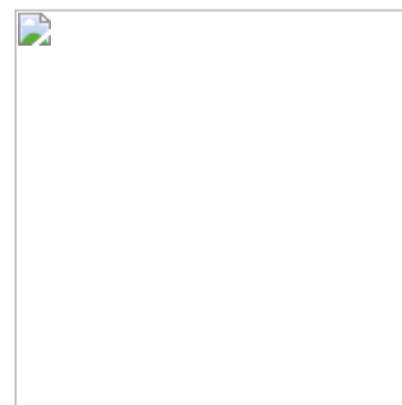
Newsroom: 612-673-7028

Cell: 612-599-2654

Email: plopez@startribune.com

Education: California State University, Los Angeles.

Experience: Editorial writer, Star Tribune; former state and national political editor, Star Tribune; former chief political reporter; Star Tribune; Previously reporter for Cincinnati Enquirer, Los Angeles Times, Roanoke Times, Los Angeles City News Service.



## Stephen Montemayor

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-925-5048

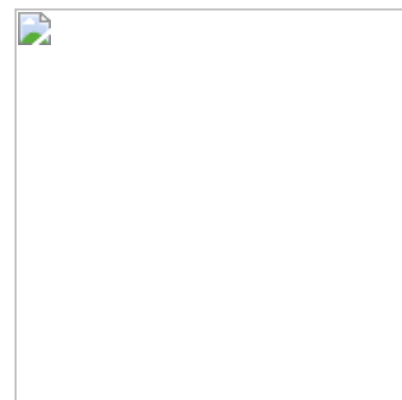
Newsroom: 612-673-1755

Cell: 612-760-8405

Email: smontemayor@startribune.com

Education: BA, journalism, University of Kansas.

Experience: Star Tribune (2015 - present). Previously: Twin Cities Business; Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World.



## Leila Navidi

Star Tribune

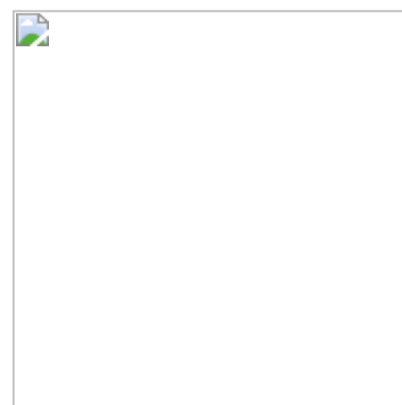
Newsroom: 612-673-4840

Cell: 612-710-1293

Email: leila.navidi@startribune.com

Education: Rochester Institute of Technology, B.A. Applied Photography, 2003

Experience: Star Tribune since Sept. 2014; Las Vegas Sun, 2007-2013



## Glen Stubbe

Star Tribune

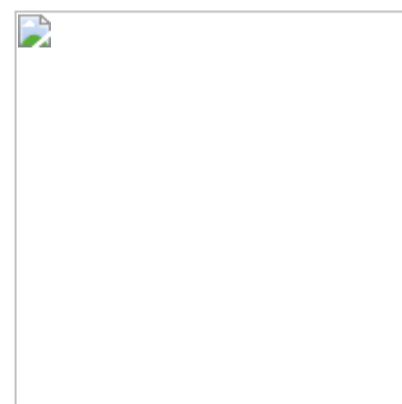
Capitol: 612-210-8603

Newsroom: 612-210-8603

Email: glen.stubbe@startribune.com

Education: BS Photojournalism, Syracuse University.

Experience: Wilkes-Barre, PA, Times Leader, 1981-83; Tampa Tribune, FL, 1983-86; Washington Times, DC, 1986-98, Star Tribune, 1998 - present.



## Lori Sturdevant

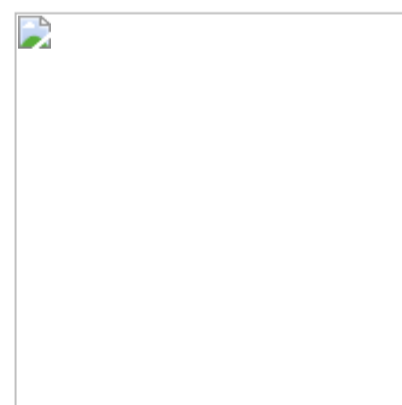
Star Tribune

Cell: 612-644-6963

Email: lsturdevant@startribune.com

Education: BA, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; graduate work, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Star Tribune reporter, 1976-1986; assignment editor 1986-1992; editorial writer and columnist, 1992-2018. Retired from the Editorial Board in December 2018 and continues as an occasional columnist. Author and/or editor of 12 books, including "Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement" and "The Pillsburys of Minnesota."



## Jessie Van Berkel

Star Tribune

**Capitol:** 651-925-5044

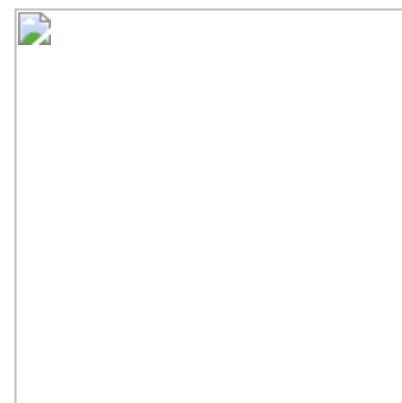
**Fax:** 651-222-0101

**Cell:** 612-516-0121

**Email:** jessie.vanberkel@startribune.com

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

**Experience:** Star Tribune (2014-present). Previously: Sarasota Herald-Tribune and the Post-Crescent.



## Michael McIntee

The Uptake

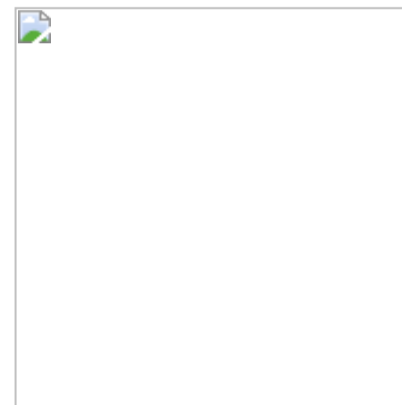
**Capitol:** 651-261-2272

**Newsroom:** 651-538-0411

**Email:** michael.mcintee@theuptake.org

**Education:** BA, journalism, University of MN.

**Experience:** WMMR-AM news director, 1977-81; WCCO-TV producer, 1979-1982; KGBT-TV producer, 1982-84; KETV-TV producer 1984-87; KWTW TV producer, 1987-88; Conus Communication 1989-2002; cofounder and executive producer, The UpTake, 2006-present.



## Sheila Regan

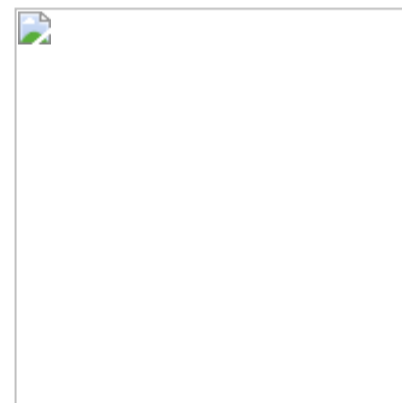
The Uptake

**Cell:** 612-447-6983

**Email:** sheilacecilia@gmail.com

**Education:** BA, Macalester College; MFA, Indiana University.

**Experience:** Twelve years' experience as a freelance journalist. Bylines in the Washington Post, Star Tribune, Salon, Mic, PRI, Vice; stringer for The Associated Press.



## Cirien Issa Saadeh

The Uptake

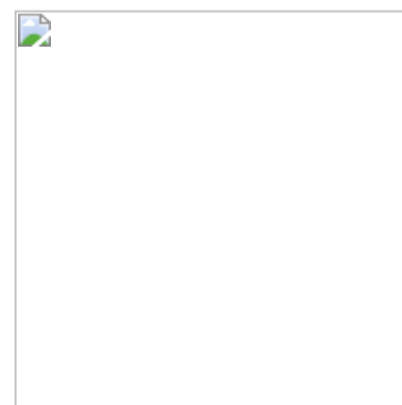
**Capitol:** 651-538-0411

**Cell:** 952-423-8186

**Email:** cirien.saadeh@theuptake.org

**Education:** BA, political science, St. Catherine University, 2012; MA, humanities, Prescott College, 2015; Ph.D., sustainability education, Prescott College, 2019.

**Experience:** Freelance reporting during the last several years on local politics and community mobilization efforts. Previous work as a reporter at the Minnesota State Capitol, reporting on both state and local elections, as well as legislative politics for independent, nonprofit organizations.



## Mary Lahammer

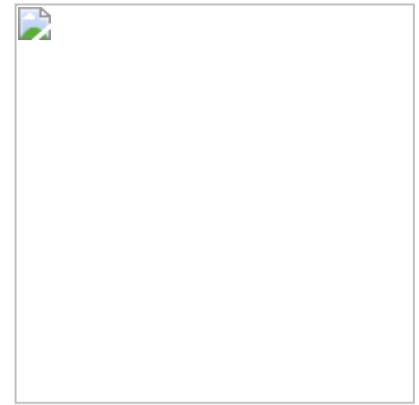
Twin Cities PBS

**Capitol:** 651-402-8848

**Email:** mlahammer@tpt.org

**Education:** University of Minnesota; major: Journalism and Mass Communications; 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.



## Scott Trotman

Twin Cities PBS

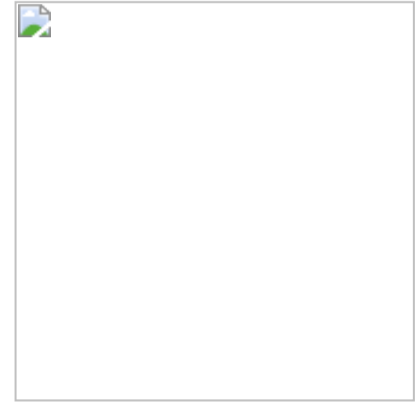
**Capitol:** 612-867-8358

**Newsroom:** 651-222-1717

**Email:** strotman@tpt.org

**Education:** BA, Winona State University; major, Mass Communications, Broadcasting; minor, Speech Communications.

**Experience:** Over 20 years of video production experience; 16 years with TPT. Worked four sessions with Senate Media in 1990's.



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