History of the Minnesota
House of Representatives
Mini-sessions &
Governors State of the State
Addresses held away from the
Capitol

By Representative Gene Pelowski January 2019







## Record of the **House of Representatives Mini-Sessions 1987-1997.**

### Mini-Sessions

From 1987 to 1997, the Minnesota House held extensive hearings and forums away from the State Capitol and largely outside the Twin Cities area, usually during odd-numbered years. These "mini-sessions" were promoted as a way to expand legislators' horizons and give more access to outstate citizens. When the Republicans took control of the House in 1999, they continued the tradition of outreach by holding committee hearings in Greater Minnesota. Rather than holding mini-sessions on a variety of topics, individual committees have held hearings on topics of interest to citizens in the chosen city and region.

- Mankato
- Alexandria
- Eveleth
- Winona/Rochester
- Worthington
- Moorhead
- Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country
- Suburban Twin Cities
- Minnesota Valley (New Ulm/St. Peter)
- Minnesota Plains (Fergus Falls/St. Cloud) 11
- Headwaters (Bemidji/Park Rapids)
- Southern Minnesota (Austin/Albert Lea)

September 8-11, 1987 October 14, 1987 November 16-18, 1987 January 13-15, 1988 September 13-16, 1989 October 17-20, 1989 November 14-17, 1989 September 4-6, 1991 October 28-30, 1991 September 20-22, 1993 October 17-29, 1993 September 19-21, 1995 October 24-26, 1995 October 15-7, 1997

For more information about the individual mini-sessions, consult copies of the Mini-Session Report available in the Library. The 1997 edition is also available on the Web, at: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/mnsess.htm.



Winona/Bochester (Sept. 13 - 16)

- · Photo Story



### Winona

River bluff country Winona, a city of nearly 25,000, its in the Hiawatha Valley on a giant





### Highlights

Hundreds of residents from Winon formal forum expressed concerns to tate legislators on various issues.

or direction from the Department of Education (DOE) to meet this goal. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) told the audience that the Legislature considers hat issue important. She believes that mental education should be part of curricula at all levels. Kahn

me a crucial part of the DOE

(SOCS) facility Sept. 15 while visiting

mmunity setting. The facilities are

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), chair



### Mini-Session Report

**Mini-Session** Report

A forum for students

Legislative attention focuses on suburbs

Suburban Mini-Session



Universal questions greet lawmakers in suburbs

MINI-SESSION REPORT



MINI-SESSION REPORT

MINI-SESSION REPORT

House members 'get out and talk to real people

Fergus Falls, St. Cloud share legislative limelight



**Mini-Session** Report

There's nothing quite like being there'

# RECEIVED SEP 2 3 1999

**MINI-SESSION REPORT** 

MINI-SESSION REPORT

Southern Twin Cities welcome state lawmakers

MINI-SESSION REPORT

Land of lumberjacks welcomes House members

INSIDE:

## Mini-Sessions

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2	St. Paul	October 14, 1987
3	Alexandria	November 16-18, 1987
4	Eveleth	January 13-15, 1988
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6	Worthington	October 17-20, 1989
7	Moorhead	November 14-17, 1989
8	Brainerd Lakes/Cuyuna Country	September 4-6, 1991
9	Suburban Twin Cities	October 28-30, 1991
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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Mankato Mini-Session**

The Minnesota House of Representatives took an unusual step this year when, for the first time in history, it held an interim mini-session away from the capital city. More than 100 House makes and their staff went to Southeastern Minnesota for nearly a week of committee meetings. With headquarters in Mankato, hearings and tours took place from Sept. 8-11 in cities like a mboy, Austin, Good Thunder, I e Center, Mapleton, New Ulm, Wass ca, and Windom.

The Region 9 Regional Development Comnission, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and the League of Minnesota Cities gave a welcome reception in North Mankato Sept. 8. Here, Hou e Speaker Robert Vanasek (DFL-New Prague) expressed thanks and enthus asm for the upcoming meetings.

He told the audience, "we think folks out here in rural Minnesota have

just as much right to be involved in making legislative policy as folks in the Twin Cities area...and we want to make the legislative process as open and as available to people in the rural part of the state as we do to Minnesota citizens who reside in the seven-county

More than 30 meetings took place throughout the area: on the Mankato State University campus; in high school auditoriums and gymnasiums, and a technical institute cafeteria; in public libraries and a town mall; and in Norman's Cafe. Representatives attended a mural pre-dedication ceremony, and toured a refuse burning site, sewage treatment facilities, and Farm America. And members were guests of local residents in their homes.

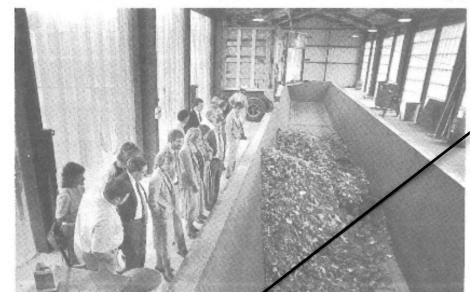
This issue of *Mini-Session Report* reviews mini-session events in highlights, committee action summaries, and photos.

Nothing herein is admissible as legal proof of legislative intent.

# Mankato Mini-Session

House Of
Representatives took
an unusual step this
year when, for the
first time in history, it
held an interim minisession away from the
capital city."

Center photo: Legislators watch St. Paul artist Ta-Coumba Aiken, on the scaffolding, put the finishing touches on his grain elevator mural depicting Good Thunder's history.



The Environment and Natural Resources Committee toured NSP's refuse burning facility in Mankato.



House members and staff view work under progress on a mural in Good Thunder.

Left to right: Lee Lambert, educational programs coordinator; Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona); Paul Cerkvenik, legislative assistant to the speaker; Speaker Rep. Robert Vanasek (DFL-New Prague); Mayor John Christenson, Good Thunder; Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar).



Rep. Phil Riveness (DFL-Bloomington) and Rep. Stephen Dille (IR-Dassel) confer at an Economic Development and Housing Committee meeting.

### Taxes Committee members hear MSU students talk about who's really paying the state sales taxes.



## RE: Pelowski Presentation on History Of The House Mini Session found this!

January 2, 2019 at 9:30 PM ☐ Found in Hbci Inbox

There's one or two questionable characters in that middle picture! I believe we are looking at the mural done by the artist Tecumba Aiken on the grain silo in Good Thunder. That was quite a work of art. And, just before election day this year, at a fundraiser for Carlos Mariani, I re-introduced myself to Tecumba Aiken. He was pretty impressed that I knew him and knew about the grain silo in Good Thunder! J He's now known as the mayor of Lowertown!

Thanks for sharing the pictures. Looking forward to seeing many of you in a few days,

Paul



Rep. Pelowski.

We digitized all the "Interim Reports" (AKA mini-sessions) for 1989. These mini- sessions were held in Winona, Worthington, and Moorhead. They are available here:

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs?oclcnumber=20770374

Eveleth

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/pre2003/other/P763/1988\_jan\_8.pdf

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/pre2003/other/P763/1988\_jan\_25.pdf

Alexandria

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/pre2003/other/P763/1987 nov 10.pdf

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/pre2003/other/P763/1987\_nov\_25.pdf

If you are interested in other mini-session reports over the years, they are all available here:

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs?oclcnumber=17197712

David Schmidtke, Deputy Director Legislative Reference Library 645 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 215-9058 davids@lrl.leg.mn



# WinCraft Industries

Winona, Minnesota.

# Where, when

Here's the complete schedule for Winona's minisession

### Wednesday

10 a.m. to noon

► Agriculture. Agenda: Vertical Integration (stockyards) bill and briefing on agricultural property taxes. Location: Lewiston High School.

### 12:45-2:30 p.m.

►Education Agenda: State math and science high school. Location: Former College of Saint Teresa campus, Lourdes Hall, North Lounge.

▶ Privacy Subcommittee/Judiciary Agenda: Annandale decision (data practices). Location: Winona State, Kryzsko Commons, Purple Room 104.

►Rural Emergency Medical Services Task Force Agenda: Rural emergency medical services. Location: WSU, Kryzsko Commons, Purple Room 106.

### 3-4:45 p.m.

►Labor Agenda: Workers comp. Location: Former CST campus, Lourdes Hall, North Lounge.

► Elections Division/General Legislation Agenda: Uniform elections bill. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall.

► Transportation Agenda: Changes in county screening board. Location: Houston High School choir room.

►Educational Finance Division Agenda: Teacher induction program. Location: WSU, Dining rooms E, F and G.

► Enterprise Development Subcommittee/Economic Development: Agenda: State Governance of SBDCs. Location: WSU, Kryzsko Commons, Purple Room 104.

### 4 p.m.

►Welcome reception, Riverboat cruise.

### **Thursday**

7 a.m.

►Education Division Agenda: Breakfast with WSU, Winona Technical College. Location: Somsen Hall, WSU.

### 8-9:45 a.m.

Semi-States Division Agenda:
Report on regional art groups.
Location: City Council Chambers.

## **▶**Session

From page 1A

tion system, the establishment of a math and science high school at CST, tourism, and riverboat gambling.

Meetings will be at WSU, CST, Saint Mary's College, Winona City Hall, the Winona Senior Citizens Center, and several other locations.

Pelowski said it is a compliment to Winona that it was chosen to host a minisession, and encouraged everyone to attend hearings in which they are interested.

"The gauge of success for a minisession is the public participation," he said.

4:30-7 p.m.

► Take a legislator to dinner.

7:30 p.m.

►Winona Town Meeting Former CST campus, St. Cecilia Hall.

### **Friday**

8-10 a.m.

►Open Tour Agenda: Tour former CST campus and Winona Technical College aviation training center.

### 9-10:45 a.m.

►Civil Law Subcommittee/Judiciary Agenda: Pro bono work. Location: WSU, Kryzsko, Purple Room 106

► Joint Agriculture and Environment Committees Agenda: Tour Preston tire recycling, composting, sink holes, Forest Resources Center. Location: Preston and Lanesboro.

### 9-10:45 a.m.

► Health and Human Services Division Agenda: Tour of Byron state operated community facility for the developmentally disabled. Location: Byron SOCS, Byron, Minn

Lawmakers then go to Rochester.

Preston,
Lanesboro,
& Byron
Locations



Worthington Mini Session a Native American Pipestone Hand-craved Turtle.

Dinner place decoration that caused concern.



Winona Mini Session a handmade and hand painted wax SE Mn tree frog. Destined for a national nature center on the Mississippi River it fell prey to the lack of support for a Congressional

Earmark.

# Winona's becoming a capital

### House arrives Wednesday

By Joe Buttweiler Winona Daily News

Winona will assume the buzz of a capital city Wednesday through Friday as members of the Minnesota House of Representatives converge to hear local testimony on dozens of legislative topics.

Nearly 100 of the House's 134 members are expected for the minisession, according to Rep. Gene Pelowski, DFL-Winona.

"We're hoping the minisession will be very helpful," House Majority Leader Bob Vanasek said, in setting the agenda for the 1990 legislative session.

It may have a more immediate bearing on one unsettled issue from this year's sessions, Pelowski said. That issue is reform of the state's property tax system.

Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed be bill



passed by legislators last spring, and lately has been refining a plan of his own. He is expected to call for a special session later this month.

Since the special session could fall on the heels of the Winona minisession, local testimony could significantly affect the bill, Pelowski said. ► Schedule/3A

► Team works on tax plan/4A

Pelowski, co-chairman of the committee that planned the Winona minisession, called the 2½-day affair an "excellent opportunity" for southeastern Minnesotans to have some one-on-one meetings with members of the House.

Lawmakers, many of whom will arrive today, are scheduled to leave Winona Friday morning and go to Rochester for a series of hearings that afternoon and on Saturday.

Vanasek, DFL-New Prague, said House members and staffers will try to keep the meetings as informal as possible so as not to discourage people from testifying. Those who wish to speak may sign up at the start of each hearing.

Organizers of the minisession have also provided several other chances to interact with the legislators, such as a barbecue Wednesday evening at Levee Park and a town meeting Thursday night at the former College of Saint Teresa.

Other special events include tours of schools, meetings with students and dinners with local residents.

Winona State University President Darrell Krueger said the minisession represents a major opportunity for WSU and Winona.

Pelowski said he expects university officials to plug their requests for a new library and athletic facilities, while Winona Technical College will push for a new aviation mechanics training center.

Hearings will cover worker compensa-

▶Please see SESSION/3A

"Nearly 100 of the House's 134 members are expected for the mini session..."

"We're hoping the mini session will be very helpful."
House Majority Leader Bob Vanasek said, in setting the agenda for the
1990 legislative session.

# Lawmakers just may remember Winona

# Most agree that session boosts area's visibility

By Joe Buttweiler Winona Daily News

Winona's chance to spill its guts to the Minnesota House of Representatives has come and gone.

From Wednesday to Friday, local residents testified in no less than 25 hearings on a wide range of topics.

They talked about the perennial concerns of education, taxes, health care and the environment, but also about exciting and innovative ideas like riverboat gambling and requiring lawyers to assist poor people.

Besides the hearings, there were many opportunities for individuals to bend lawmakers' ears one-on-one about affairs of the state.



### **News analysis**

From now until House Speaker Bob Vanasek's gavel raps to a close the 1990 Legislature — and probably beyond —

► Please see SESSION/7A

## Lawmaker: It hinges on partisanship

Sites for legislative minisessions are selected mainly for political fortification, according to an Independent-Republican lawmaker who asked not to be identified.

The legislator, who noted that minisessions are very expensive, added, however, that his party would probably use them the same way it was in control. Other minisessions are scheduled this year for Worthington and Moorhead.

All three communities are served by Democratic-Farmer-Labor party members who do not have particularly firm footholds, the IR lawmaker said, explaining that the DFL leadership would hope to solidify sup-

- ► Rochester university hearing/3A
- ► Editorial on minisession/6A

port for Rep. Gene Pelowski via the Winona minisession.

Sen. Steve Morse, a DFLer from Dakota whose first term will be up next year, attended many of the minisession hearings, apparently to gain similar political advantage, the lawmaker said.

Other legislators were less cynical, however, about why communities are chosen for House minisessions. Most said the sessions provide citizens better access to lawmakers.

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The legislator, who noted that Mini sessions are very expensive, added, however, that his party would probably use them the same way it was in control."

# Lawmakers say so long

Winona's session was great success, say guests, planners By Karen Rivedal

Winona Daily News

The minisession was a smashing success, said legislators and Winona officials alike during a final press conference held Friday at the Holiday Inn Winona.

"We keep surprising ourselves with the success of every minisession, and this was certainly the smoothest functioning session ever," said House Speaker Bob Vanasek, (DFL-New Prague).

The House of Representatives has held previous minisessions in Mankato, Alexandria and Eveleth, Minn.

The session in Winona began Wednesday and ended about noon Friday, when the 100 law-makers packed up their bags and headed for Rochester. The minisession ends there today.

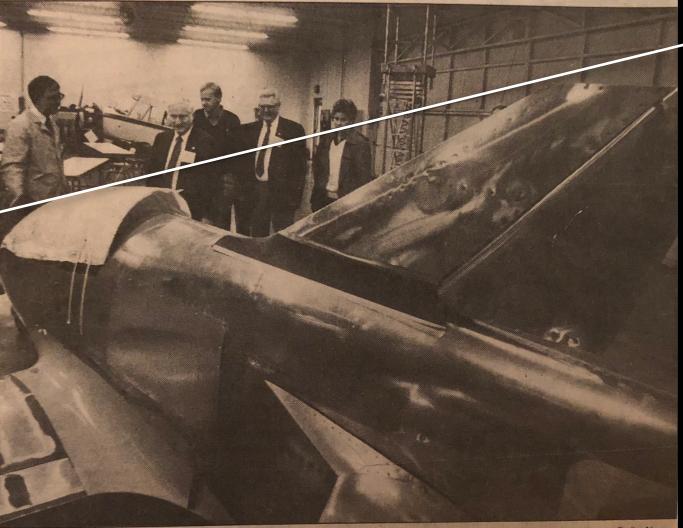
On Friday, high-ranking legislators pledged to take seriously the comments gleaned from the Winona commmunity during the many minisession hearings and get-togethers.

"We've listened to the problems and concerns, and they will definitely have an effect," said House Majority Leader Dee Long (DFL-Minneapolis).

Vanasek said much the same, noting in particular the comments made during hearings on local government aid and the formula for funding school districts.

"This testimony and advice comes at a very critical time," Vanasek said, since he and

► Please see SESSION/3A



Jim Galewski/Winona Daily News

Bob Thiede, an instructor at Winona Technical College's Aviation School, shows local and visiting legislators some of the aircraft stu-

dents' work Friday at WTC's hangar at Winona's Max Conrad Field. Winona's minisession moved on to Rochester, Minn., on Friday.

"We keep surprising ourselves with the success of every mini session, and this was certainly the smoothest functioning session ever," said **House Speaker** Bob Vanasek.

# Session/Lawmakers, organizers praise Winona's smooth minisession

From page 1A

other legislative leaders are scheduled to sit down with Gov. Rudy Perpich early next week for a meeting.

Vanasek played hide-andseek, however, with reporters' questions about his candidacy, or lack therof, for governor.

"I've learned as a speaker you shouldn't make decisions based on hypothetical situations," he said, when asked whether he would run if Perpich, whose term ends in 1990, doesn't.

"We're going to watch what happens and act accordingly," Vanasek said.

Other speakers on the panel included Winona Mayor Tom Slaggie, Rep. Gene Pelowski, (DFL-Winona), and Gary Evans. Pelowski and Evans co-chaired the steering committee which began organizing the minisession back in May, and both received kilds at the con-

ference for their efforts.

"I think we're going to have (Evans) bronzed and put in a park some place," joked Pelowski,

Evans said the minisession accomplished three specific things. One, he said, Winona area residents got a chance to meet the legislators.

Two, he said, "We've seen groups in Winona work together on a project very seriously and very hard. We don't get very many chances to do that."

Thirdly, Evans said, as a result of the minisession, Winona and Rochester have worked together, "perhaps as we've never seen (the two cities) before."

In closing, Evans reminded the legislators that Winona's door is always open.

"Winona doesn't need much of an excuse to have a party. I can assure you that if you want to come down again, we can organize a party within 24 hours."

# Finances look good, too

Session pumped up Winona's tourism businesses

By Karen Rivedal Winona Daily News

What do you suppose it would cost to host 100 state legislators and their staffs for 21/2 days in a midsize, southeastern Minnesota town?

No, this isn't a word problem - it's reality. Winona did host just such an adventure, as most people know by now. The Winona-based portion of the legislative minisession of the House of Representatives began on Wednesday and finished up Friday.

And what did it cost? Not too awful much, by most people's standards. The total cost is expected to be somewhere between \$3,000 to \$4,000, according to an estimate from Rep. Gene Pelowski, (DFL-Winona). who co-chaired the steering committee that organized the minisession, on Friday. The cost of increased



Gene Pelowski

police security is a separate item, and Winona Police Chief Frank Pomerov said the force put in 135 hours covering the minisession. Fifty hours of that was overtime, and cost about \$700. Pomerov

Peloriski emphasized the \$3,000-4,000 figure Las only an estimate, and said the

I think that broad-based support is the kind of thing that made this successful. It was not just one person. Tom Tourville

actual amounts couldn't be tallied until all the bills come in.

Tom Tourville, director of the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, said that would take 10-12 days. Tourville and other chamber members also were instrumental in working out the local details for the Winona

Tourville said members of the steering committee began seeking money to finance the session about three months ago, and proceeds from the \$20-a-plate riverside barbecue held Wednesday also will help cover costs. Between 400-500 people attended the barbecue, Tourville said.

A whole cross-section of Winona area volunteers from business, education and government joined together to fund and plan the program, Tourville said.

"I think that broad-based support is the kind of thing that made this successful. It was not just one person," he said.

Among the organizers' duties before and

during the minisession were setting up transportation for lawmakers to and from hearings and tours; planning out where the sessions would be; reserving rooms or buildings as necessary; arranging for technical light and sound support during meetings and social gatherings; setting up the barbecue fixings; and matching families with legislators for the "Take a Legislator to Dinner" program.

The House of Representatives' budget paid for the lawmakers' lodging, Tourville said.

There is a flip side to this situation. however. While it cost maybe \$3,500 to organize the event, bringing the legislators here may have poured much more than that into the local economy.

An average tourist spends between \$100 to \$150 a day, Tourville said, on things like lodging, food, transportation and retail sales.

Using those figures and the number of legislators and staff who visited for 2½ days, the minisession could've pumped about \$39,000 of new money into Winona.

Add the effect of turnover between merchants in the community, and that figure can be multiplied three to five times, Tourville said.

In a less fiscal sense, Tourville added, "The exposure to Winona is phenomenal."

"For southeastern Minnesota," he said, "to have a vision and an opportunity for business and government to share their ideas and concerns with legislators is phenomenal."

"Take a Legislator to Dinner Program"

"The exposure to Winona is phenomenal. For southeastern Minnesota to have a vision and an opportunity for business and government to share their ideas and concerns with legislators is phenomenal."

**Tom Tourville** Winona Chamber **Director** 

"The total cost is expected to be somewhere between \$3,000 to \$4000, according to an estimate from Rep. Gene Pelowski who co-chaired the steering committee that organized the steering committee that organized the mini session, on Friday."

# MINNESOTA FLAG COALITION

Coordinators:

(Rev.) Wm. M. Becker, STL 1315 12th Ave. N.W. Rochester, MN 55901 507/288-8238 Member, No. American

Mr. Lee L. Herold, PA Herold & Herold Miracle Mile

Vexillological Assn.

507/288-1165
Member, No. American
Vexillological Assn.

### Liaisons:

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Winona, MN 55987
507/452-2002

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 1989

# Rochester Hearing

Proposal for a new state flag to get second hearing

A coalition of citizens seeking a change in the Minnesota state flag will receive another hearing from a legislative committee this month, according to the two Rochester men who are coordinating the effort. Rev. William Becker, a Catholic priest, and Lee Herold, a tax accountant, say that the House Governmental Operations Committee will hear them out during the legislative "mini-session" in Rochester on September 15. The committee is chaired by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley).

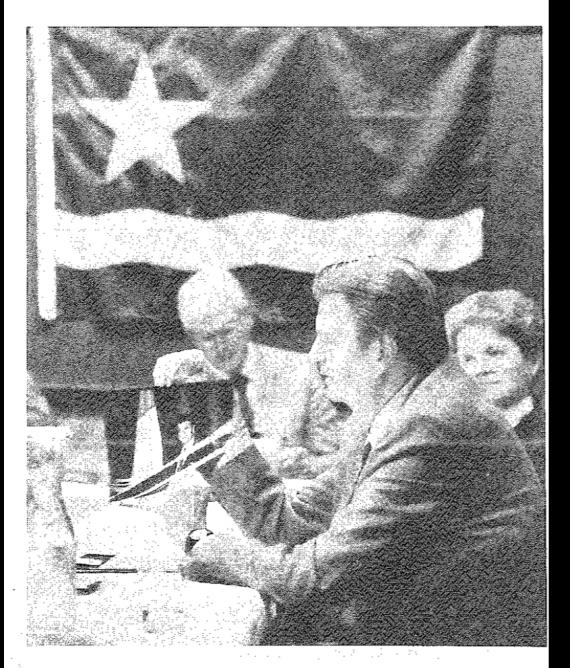
At the behest of Rep. Gil Gutknecht (IR-Rochester), the two men first appeared before the committee on March 16. There they gave a presentation detailing the history of the current flag, as well as the functional problems created by its complex design. The men suggested the creation of a new flag by 1993, the centennial year of the adoption of the first state flag --- and they even brought a "proposed new design" along.

Public response to the proposal to change the flag was mixed: legislative and newspaper commentary ranged from outright endorsement, to unabashed ridicule. One complaint concerned the appearance of two loons in the coalition's proposed design; the loons appeared as part of a composite of state symbols, including a sprig of northern pine (the state tree), and the state flower.

Bowing to the criticism, the composite has now been removed from the "north star" where it formerly appeared. "We didn't want people focussing on the loons; it distracted from the idea in general," the men explained.

The forthcoming hearing is scheduled for 3:45 - 5:30 p.m. at Rochester Community College, Room U-234 (the "Winona State University" building).





John Tracy Anderson, former state representative, describes how he, as a freshman legislator in 1957, opposed the suggested design for the state flag and called for a more heraldic one. His testimony on Sept. 15 at the Governmental Operations Committee meeting in Rochester supported Rep. Gil Gutknecht's (IR-Rochester) proposal to study the state flag.



### Winona Model Legislature Session 2018

Authors of the Bill

Senate Author

Lucas Wilkemeyer

Committee Hearing

Taxes

2. Environmental and Agriculture

Education

4. Ways and Means

Action Taken in Committee

Passed

2. Passed

3. [Committee 3 Action]

4. [Committee 4 Action]

Bill Number HF7020 SF7020

Bill Introduced By Lucas Wilkemeyer Rushford-Peterson House

A Bill For an Act Relating To Create a new flag representing the State of Minnesota House Author

[House Author]

Legislative Action

[House Action]

House

[Senate Action]

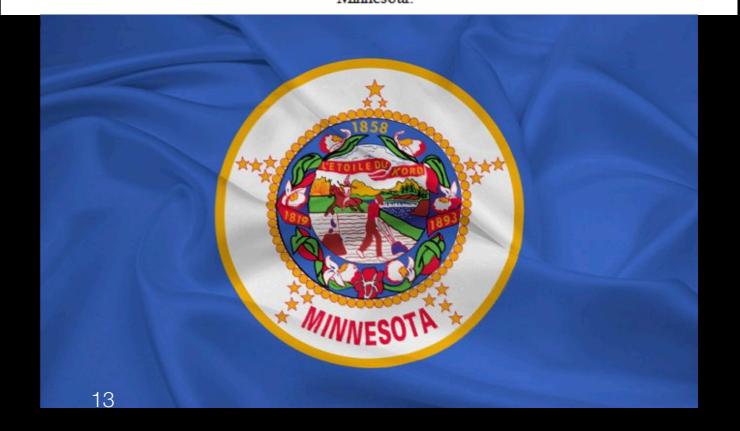
Senate

[Governor Action]

Governor

[Override Veto]

Override Veto





# Rep. Gene Pelowski &

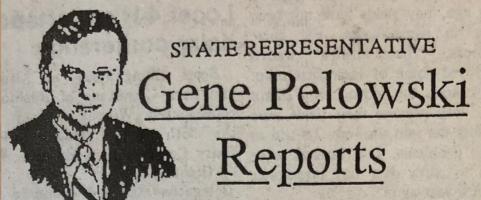
the Minnesota House extend their warmest

# THANK YOU

for Winona's hospitality and input during the 1989 Southeastern Minnesota Mini-Session



# Government



### Residents offer comments on mini-session

by Rep. Gene Pelowski, District 34B

I'm happy to report that Winona area residents responded to the recent legislative mini-session with very positive comments. I recently had the opportunity to review the feedback compiled by House members from a number of Winona residents who participated in the various mini-session events.

Some 95 individuals who responded to the questionnaires felt the mini-sessions are a good idea which should continue. Not one individual disagreed. Of these respondents, 83 noted that the public was provided adequate input throughout the event; only two people dissented.

Of the respondents who attended the town meeting, all offered positive comments, ranging from "the format was excellent" to "democracy in action."

Residents attending the various committee meetings also provided positive feedback. One individual noted: "...ran much more smoothly than many I observe during the

regular session." And another respondent wrote this: "appreciated the openness and opportunity to testify."

ax

The questionnaire also provided respondents with a chance to rank those issues which they believe should be considered in the 1990 legislative session. The highest votegetting issues proved to be drug control/crime followed close by Environment/recycling.

The questionnaire also asked how future mini-sessions could be improved. Suggestions from respondents included: "more town meeting-type activities," "allow more time for testimony," "better microphones" and "the legislators could take us out to dinner."

It was gratifying to me to see such a favorable reaction to the mini-session. The many Winona area residents who took part both in setting up the event and in participating in the many activities can appreciate knowing they contributed to a job well done.

"The legislators could take us to dinner."

Prepared and paid for by the Minnesota House of Representatives, an equal opportunity employer, State Capitol, 100 Constitutional Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155.

"Governor Perpich signs 1990 legislative bonding bill at Lourdes Hall in Winona in May. WSU Lourdes Hall will become the first Residency College in the State University System."

Representative Dave Bishop of Rochester is seated next to the Governor. Senator Steve Morse & Representative Gene Pelowski look on.



State Rep. Gene Pe' wski (left) spoke as Governor Rudy Perpich (right) signed in a law the 1990 Legislative bonding bill at Lourdes Hall if Winona in May. State Sen. Steve Morse is standing next of Rep. Pelowski.

### Dear Friends:

The 1/89-90 Legislative Session is now history. It was a very important session, and a produr five one for our district. I'm convinced much of the success had to do with the House of Representatives' Mini-Session held lifere in Winona last fall. Winona State University Vice President Gary Evans and I cochaired the task force that planned and coordinated the event, and he was a tireless force behind it. Winona Chamber of Commerce director Tom Tourville also worked very hard to be sure everything went well. Everyone who participated should be commended for impressing upon legislators that Winona is important and deserves their support

We set several goals for the legislative session during last fall's mini-session and all of them were achieved. Many people deserve credit for making it happen. Cliff Korkowski, president of the Winona Technical College, lobbied to convince legislators to add an aviation center at the Technical College. WSU president Darrell Krueger was instrumental in winning approval of funds for planning a new campus library and chaired the local task force with Sen. Steve Morse that helped us convince legislators to support the state Math and Science Resource Center proposal. WSU faculty members Rod Henry and Jim Eddy were also of great value in the lobbying efforts for the library.

In another success story, four people deserve thanks for their work in helping get Winona a \$750,000 grant through the state Trade and Economic Development Department for

# 1990 Legislative Report



downtown development: Mayor **Tom Slaggie**, City Manager **Eric Sorensen**, economic development director **Judy Bodway** and community development coordinator **Lucy Daley**. I acted as liaison between DTED and the city, but our local officials did the hard work.

I also wish to thank **Ben Hovel, Don Lilla, and John Watembach** of UAW, and **Ron Schroeder** of the Labor Temple for keeping me informed of labor issues during the session.

Altogether, these projects and others in the 1989-90 session mean more than \$20 million in new state funding will be spent in our district.

One more connection was made during the legislative session that has special significance for our district. At the request of the Speaker of the House, I visited with a delegation from Poland called the Foundation in Support for Local Democracy. I have one of their Solidarity pins and they have pins from WSU, but a more substantial exchange could result. Our cities are starting talks for sister city status.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your legislator. It's been a challenge and an honor.

Sincerely Yours,

Jen /

Rep. Gene Pelowski



The Library maintains a list of gubernatorial addresses, including the State of the State, with locations:

https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mngov/stateofstate

Here are the SOS held elsewhere than the Capitol:





3/9/201 6	Mark Dayton	<u>video</u>	P University of D Minnesota -
	Timothy Pawle nty	State of the State 2008, <u>11 a.m.</u>	PSt. Cloud Civic Center
	Timothy Pawle nty	State of the State Address, 11 a.m.	P Rochester
1/3/200 2	Jesse Ventura	State of the State Address, <u>6:30 p.m.</u>	P Governor's D Residence, St.
1/16/19 96	Arne Carlson	State of the State Address, 7:30 p.m.	P Bloomington
2/15/19 94	Arne Carlson	State of the State Address, <u>12 p.m.</u>	P Rochester
2/11/19 92	Arne Carlson	State of the State Address, <u>7 p.m.</u>	P Hutchinson
		1990 State of the State: Building on our Success, Bloomington (First time the citizens of MN were asked to participate in the	P Bloomington
		The State of the State 1988: Minnesota Preparing for the 1990's, 6:30 p.m.	P Winona  OVERNOR RIDLY PERPORATION OF THE STATE OF THE S

The paper used extensive excepts from Representative Gene Pelowski's Journals to chronicle the progress of the WSU Composite Enginerring Legislation.

The 1987 Effort by Winona State University and the Winona Community
To Establish a Composite Engineering Program

by GENE PELOWSKI History 550 for Dr. Gregory Schmidt 11/19/92

OPINION

Winona Dally News Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1986' Established In 1855, Page 6

WSU engineering: Great prescription

An engineering school at Winona State University? You bet! It's just what the doctor ordered to keep WSU healthy.

Gov. Rudy Perpich, who approved Mankato State, St. Cloud State and the University of Minnesota-Duluth for engineering schools a couple years ago, says a WSU engineering program will "absolutely" be part of his 1987-89 budget proposal.

We'll hold you to your words Rudy - if you're re-elected this year, and last week's announcement, two weeks before the Sept. 9 primary, certainly shouldn't hurt your fortunes in southeastern Minnesota.

"The Rochester-Winona area very definitely needs a school of engineering," Perpich said, "and I will be recommending that to the Legislature. That's my plan."

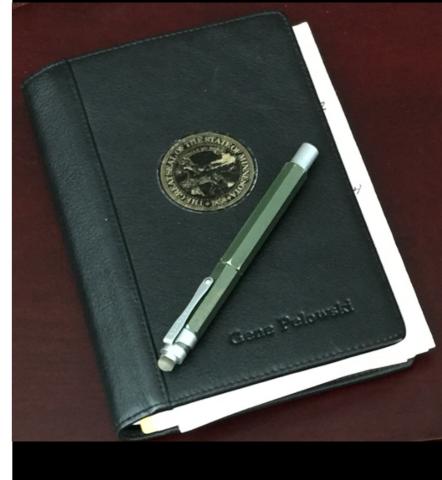
Perpich hasn't released any details of his plans for WSU, but on the surface it's a good <u>oneprovided</u> the school is based in Winona, not WSU's new Rochester Center.

WSU president Thomas Stark insists that any engineering school would be based in Winona rather than Rochester, although Perpich sees a need for at least some components of the program to be offered in Rochester. And we'll hold you to your words, Tom.

Stark says WSU is looking to offer a four-year bachelor of science degree in engineering, housing it m a new building on the Winona campus and staffing it with new teachers. It would complement WSU's Center for Research, Development and Materials Testing and the two year composites technology program planned for 1987 at Winona Area Technical Institute.

Both programs will be run in cooperation with Winona businesses like <u>Fiberite</u>, TERTM, Polymer Composites, RTP and Winona Canoes which lead <u>the nation</u> in the high-tech, plastic composites industry. The WSU engineering program, specializing in the composites technology, would be unique in Minnesota. It "would be one of the greatest developments <in Winona) in the last century," according to Stark.

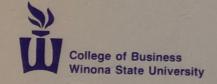
The engineering program is still in the conceptual stage. It's still several years away. It still, has to be approved by fickle legislators – will those who represent our area lead the way? And the money still has to be allocated.



Rudy Perpich in August 1986. Governor Perpich toured the Winona State Science Department during a stop in Winona and was impressed with the work that was going on for the local composite industries. Later that day he announced his support for a Composite Engineering Degree. The reaction to that announcement is typified by the Winona Daily News editorial of September 2, 1986 which is above.

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE COMPOSITES SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM ON THE WINDNA AREA

January, 1987



# ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE COMPOSITES SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM ON THE WINDNA AREA

### January, 1987

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### Presented to

Dr. Douglas P. Sweetland, Dean College of Business Winona State University

by

Dr. Michael J. Murray, Director

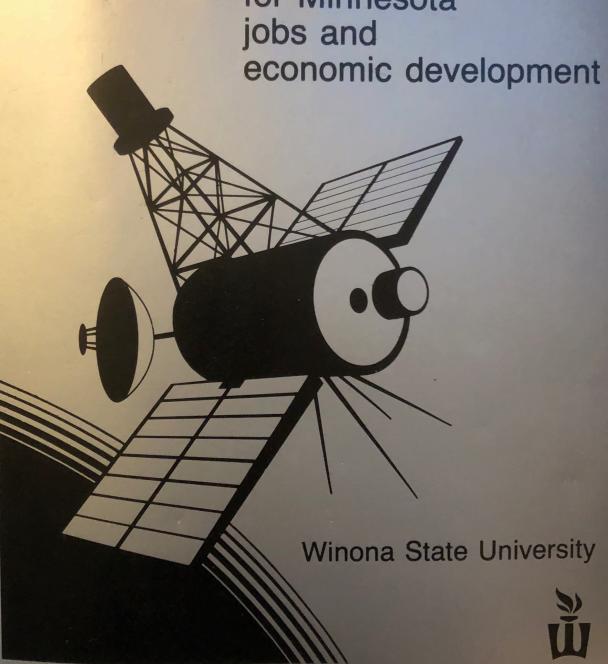
Center for Business and Economic Development

College of Business

Winona State University

# Composites Science and Engineering

for Minnesota jobs and



### Winona State University

Winona, Minnesota 55987 Telephone (507) 457-5000



January 15, 1987

### Dear Legislator:

The material which is attached to this letter is an advanced composite material manufactured by Fiberite in Winona, Minnesota. Advanced composites are rapidly replacing metals and other materials in manufacturing because of their outstanding physical properties. They are in high demand in the aerospace, electronics, auto, and recreation industries.

An experimental airplane, the Voyager, recently circumscribed the globe nonstop and without having to be refueled while airborne. Soon to be built is a passenger aircraft that will fly from New York to Tokyo in three hours. Such accomplishments can only be realized with aircraft made of materials that are lighter than aluminum, yet are stronger than steel -- advanced composites.

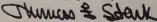
Some years ago, a fledgling Winona industry, Fiberite, began manufacturing materials that today are called advanced composites. Fiberite has grown until today it is the nation's largest producer of composite materials. The company's products are utilized by the space industry, major aircraft manufacturers, and the defense industry. Because of Fiberite's avant-garde position, other high-tech advanced composite industries have chosen to locate in Winona. Among them are: RTP, Polymer Composites, Diversified Fabricators, We-No-Nah Canoe, and TERTM. Corporations with allied interests to the composite industry include: Watlow Winona, Lake Center Industries, Badger Foundry, and MEC-PRO.

To enhance learning opportunities and to support economic and industrial development, Winona State University has created a strong alliance with business and industry. The University's Center for Research, Development and Materials Testing has provided a mutually beneficial relationship and an especially strong bond with the composites industry. Our two-year cooperative program with Winona AVTI will do much to provide needed entry-level employees for the industry.

The next step in economic development and jobs creation must be taken now! A four-year composites science and engineering program should be established at Winona State University to support Minnesota's pre-eminent position in the advanced composites industry. This industry is, without question, the wave of the future! The state that establishes and maintains itself in this field will have economic advantages of immeasurable proportions! Minnesota simply cannot afford to let this industry slip away to some other sector of the country.

Now is the time! Winona is the place! Winona State University's strong physics, chemistry, mathematics, and computer science programs, coupled with its strong alliance with the composites industry, make it the natural institution to establish this needed program of engineering.

The materials which follow provide important background regarding the advanced composites industry and the rationale for the establishment of a composites science and engineering program at Winona State University.



President



# Representative Gene Pelowski's Journal Entry

1/14/87

Meeting with DEED. Stark, Denny N., Earl L., Gary Evans, Judy Bodway, Alice Keller, and Sollenberger. Great media show for composites.

This was produced by Mediawerks in Winona at a cost of \$20,000 or about \$1000 a minute. It will be the chief promotional tool on the hill and used to educate the community on the need for the program. It was shown here to the test the presentation and assist Fiberite in request from DEED.

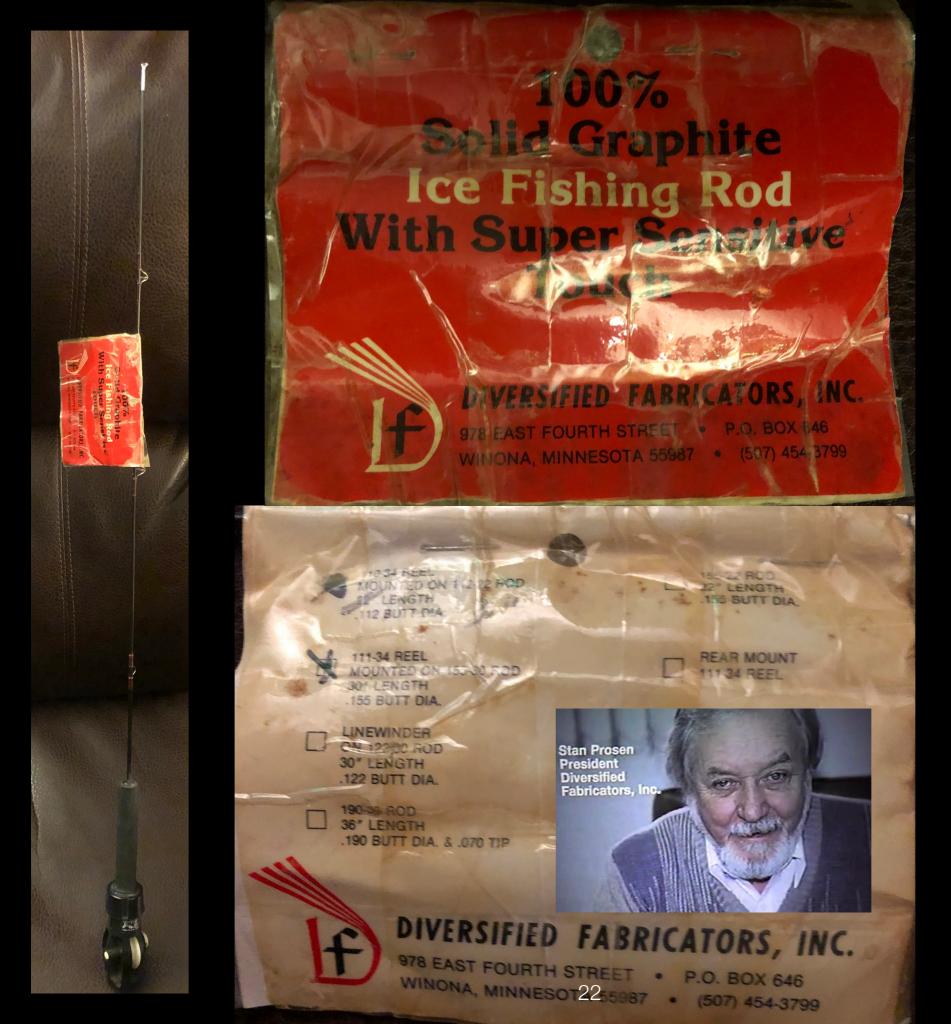
23 minute video converted from six slide carousel presentation. First multi media presentation to a Mn House of Representative Committee.





The Age
Of
COMPOSITES

This was produced by Mediawerks in Winona at a cost of \$20,000 or about \$1000 a minute. It will be the chief promotional tool on the hill and used to educate the community on the need for the program. 23 minute video converted from six slide carousel presentation. First multi media presentation to a Mn House of Representative Committee.

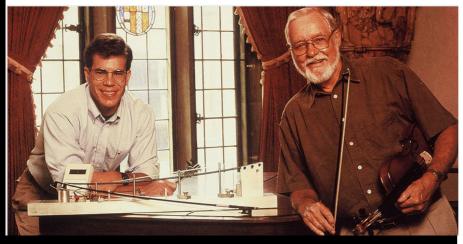








# Tradition: History and Heritage







### **Individual Serialization Number**

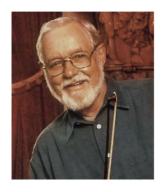


Your bow is an investment. You deserve the tools that protect your investment and give you peace-of-mind. Each CodaBow model is engraved with a unique serial number that records manufacture date, optimizes tracking and insurance, and enables your warranty.

### Signature Carbon Fiber Architecture



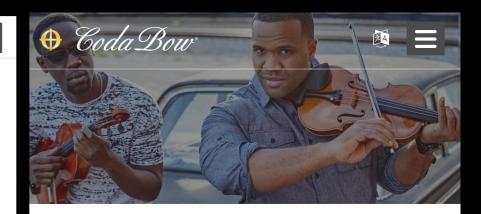
### **Pioneers**



Stan Prosen

Pioneer / Material Scientist

Known as the 'Grandfather of Composites', Stan (together with Roger Bacon, the inventor of carbon fiber) fabricated the earliest carbon fiber parts ever made. While testing one notable part, the NOL ring, Stan accidentally dropped it and discovered the "uncommon resonance" which inspired what eventually became the CodaBow. Despite esteemed credits of numerous scientific publications, patents, ASTM standards, and some of the highest industry awards, Stan considered pioneering the carbon fiber bow to be his greatest professional contribution to humanity.

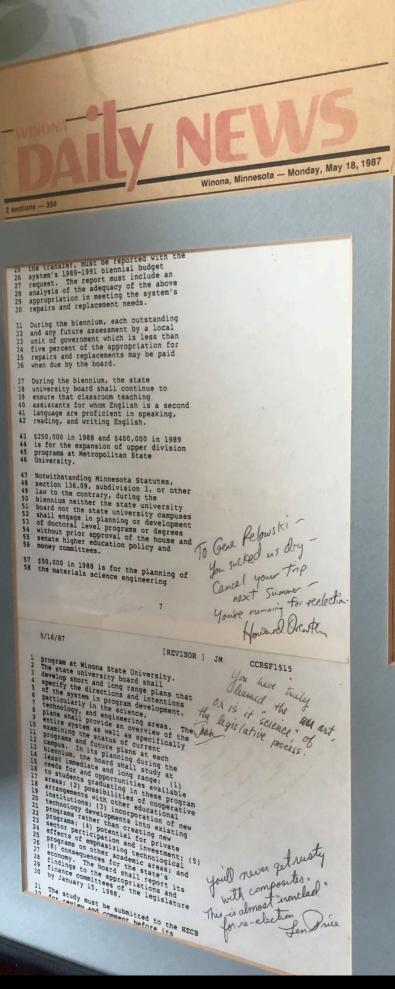


### **Artists**

From concert halls to arenas to music festivals everywhere, CodaBow Artists represent some of the most talented, versatile, and passionate musicians today.







The longest day -Page 5 K mart gets permit —Page 2 Carol's files lawsuit —Page 3 Celtics eliminate Bucks —Page 9

# It's up to Perpich now

WSU engineering program OK'd by House, Senate

By JOE BUTTWEILER

composites engineering program at Winona State University was approved by both the Minnesota

As part of a 1.66 billion higher education funding package, WSU will receive \$50,000 in 1987-88 to plan the program and \$500,000 to mplement it in 1988-89, pending implement it in 1988-89, personal implement it in 1988-89, personal implementation of Gov. Rudy Perpich's approval.

"This pretty much means we've got it." Rep. Gene Pelowwe've got it." Rep. Gene Pelowwe've got it." Rep. Said of the seed

ski, DFL-Winona, said of the seed money. "It's still a little difficult to believe. This has been a daily thing for the past five months." He said the House passed the higher ed funding package at about 3 a.m., and that several House conferees who worked on the package ceremoniously presented him with a copy of the bill after it was passed. "Everyone was tired, but it was really nice. They wanted me to rest assured it was all there and that they had all agreed to it," said Pelowski, a first-term lawmaker.

tent, this was a process of wearing down the opposition."

Composites are strong, light-weight materials made by comtics. About 10 Winona companies use the materials and the city is considered by some to be a hotbed of advanced composites

sentatives helped urge legislative

sentatives neiped urge legislative support of the program.

"This is something that we have been waiting a long time for," Nielsen said. "Now we'll be able to move into a significant new area that is going to impact

Two reports, one on the health of existing engineering schools in the state and the other on the feasibility of the WSU program, must be approved before funds are allocated, but Nielsen said he sees them as small hurdles. sees them as small hurdles.

"Now the work begins," he said, with selecting someone to lead the program and with get-ting it accredited through the Ac-creditation Roard of Section 1997.

said Pelowski, a first-term
Me and Dennis Nielsen, dean of
NeU's College of Science and
solubts (Start Perpich, a supporter
approve the package.

"It's hard to believe," Nielsen
party on the Legislature house the supporter
said of the composite program, will
"It's hard to believe," Nielsen
programs at WSU.
Legislature knew what a composite was and-now I doubt if there's.

Sen. Steve Morse, DFL-Dakota,
sponsor of the bill in the Senate,
sus unavailable for comment

May 5, 1987 Conference Committee passes WSU Composite **Engineering!**  WSU engineering plan prompts study

Although the State University system received a 12.5 percent dget increase from the Minne came with at least one string at-

A proposed Winona State Uni-versity material science engineering program received pre liminary funding, but \$500,000 of its \$550,000 budget will not be released until legislative finance committees decide engineering programs are viable at state

Winona State officials had testified before legislative committees that the new engineering program would fit right in with Gov. Rudy Perpich's applied re-search/economic development plans as many of the Winona manufacturing businesses would be able to work with students and the university in the pro-

But there's a certain reluctance on the part of some legis-lators to go ahead with engineering programs. Those legislators are requesting that the State University System present a full report on the two existing state university engineering programs at Mankato and St. Cloud.

Legislators will be evaluating the success of the Mankato and St. Cloud programs, said Sharon Miller, communications manager for the State University

Gene Mammenga, lobbyist for the State University System, choed Miller. Lyndon Carlson ion of the Appropriations Comnittees, has reservations about ngineering at state universities and is reluctant to spend more esources for new programs,

After the legislature funded ne Mankato and St. Cloud pro-



IT BECAME REAL — With the help of State Rep. Gene Pelowski, Gov. Rudy Perpich signs a bill allocating funding for the

grams, said Mammenga, "tha was generally understood, that it was unlikely that there would be any more (engineering programs).

The report the State University System is preparing for the legislature will outline the success of the engineering programs in terms of graduate placement and faculty qualifica-

"We're going to pay attention to those two reports," said Mammenga

Bidne)

Miller said that the legislative review was far from a rubber stamp approval of the Winona program. Yet both Miller and Mammenga seem confident.

"We think our programs are viable," said Miller

"We believe (the programs) are top quality," added Mammenga.

In addition, the State University System has more clearly defined its mission since the funding of Mankato and St. Cloud

(Legislators) now want to see how it fits into the mission," said Mammenga

September 13, 1987

Governor signs Bonding bill at WSU for \$1.5 million planning to build Applied Health & Science Building at WSU for Composite Engineering & Nursing Program.

# Winona Daily News



► Cotter boys hot, win 62-42/1B

► Alma wants new siren/7A ► On to New Hampshire/9A

### Church focusing on priests' abuse

### Hollywood hits Moscow

# Perpich aims at future



Winona a 'perfect example' of partnership

### **Speech showcases Winona**

THE STATE OF THE STATE 1988

GOVERNOR RUDY PERPICH

A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA **FEBRUARY 9, 1988** 

Last summer Marilyn went to Harvard.

This year she is attending the Yale University School of Organization and Management.

Who knows what this remarkable woman will

I'd like to present to you Marilyn Wolfe!

There is much more that could be said. Her son went back as a mechanical engineer. Her son-in-law, who also had lost his job, will be an electrical engineer. So, from a blue collar family she's creating a family of people all going to college with college degrees. Isn't that wonderful?

I appointed Marilyn to the Minnesota State Board of Vocational Technical Education in 1983. During her two years on the board she constantly worked at finding ways to help nontraditional students to cope with the problems of getting an education

The Employment and Training Fund is a response to her advocacy and a tribute to her determined spirit, a spirit that should be encouraged in every Minnesotan.

Retraining our workers is one piece of the partnership we need to succeed in the world economy. The other pieces are a first-rate postsecondary educational system and a program for applied research and development.

We have begun the Commitment to Focus at the University of Minnesota, an important investment in our economic future. As we streamline the University's focus, we must establish our community colleges, our state universities, and our technical institutes as magnets for regional high-technology business growth.

That is why I have come to Winona this evening. This campus, this city and this region are a perfect example of how partnerships between business and education can stimulate economic development.

Under the outstanding leadership of President Tom Stark, Winona State is an active participant in a county where the unemployment rate is under five percent.

Thousands of people in this city are designing. manufacturing and selling the high-technology products that shape our future.

The Watlow Company is a world leader in the design of environmental test chambers.

The Fiberite Company makes heat shields for NASA rockets that endure temperatures up to

Both companies are expanding in Winona creating more high-paying jobs to anchor the

Winona State's new engineering program is specifically designed to provide these companies with skilled workers from among the local residents. These community partnerships form the essence of our blueprint for job creation.

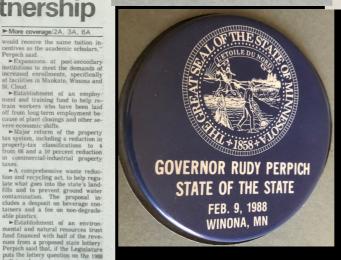
We can see it in the training provided by the Winona Technical Institute. We can see it in the proposed expansion of the Rochester Center just west of here, where high-tech companies like the Mayo Clinic and IBM will invest in the education of local students to create quality jobs in that

At the government level, we must back up our support for these partnerships with bricks and mortar Higher student enrollments are bulging the seams of our campus facilities at Mankato, Winona, St. Cloud and many other campuses. We must expand to meet the demand. We must develop creative programs like the proposed Agricultural Research Institute and the International Language Villages at Concordia College, which help us to think globally and act locally.

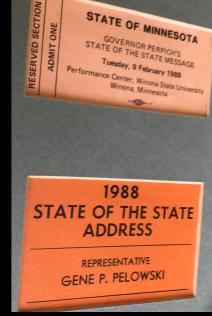
We must accommodate and channel the brainpower that is crackling in every corner and community of Minnesota.

Our public-private partnerships are joined together by the Greater Minnesota Corporation, which paves a path for innovation from the classroom to the marketplace.

The GMC is the most strategic long-term job growth effort ever launched in Minnesota. It is a public corporation that operates like a business.







February 9, 1988 First State of State Address held outside St. Paul.

# Winona Results



State of the State, February 9, 1988

&

House of Representatives Mini-Session, September 13-15, 1989





2. WSU Applied Health & Science Building for Nursing Program & Composite Engineering.





4. Planning for new WSU Library to be first digital library.



5. Overpass of Winona Railroad Tracks.



## **Rochester Results**

The future "University of Minnesota Rochester" began to take form when, in January 2005, Governor Tim Pawlenty announced in his State of the State address that southeastern Minnesota was underserved by public higher education and a plan to initiate research into what was necessary to solve the problem. Governor Pawlenty formed the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee (RHEDC) and appointed local business owner Marilyn Stewart to lead the group. The committee consisted of representatives from other public and private education institutions, area business leaders, and leaders in health care. The group's charge was to formulate a plan to advance higher education in southeastern Minnesota.



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**ADMISSIONS** 

ACADEMICS

**CURRENT STUDENTS** 

SUPPORTERS

**FACULTY & STAFF** 



A PREMIER UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

# The Digital Textbook by Gene Pelowski gpelowsk@hbci.com. 507-458-5988

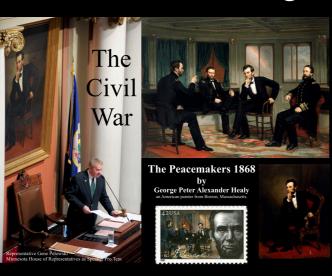
These are hybrid versions of the ones created on Authorware when WSU was using it as the basis for its student portfolios in the 1990s under President Darrell Krueger. This is being created using an IPhone 6 plus and an Ipad Pro. It is meant to demonstrate how the WSU Education Village can create personalized teaching units emphasizing content and current information making learning interesting and relevant

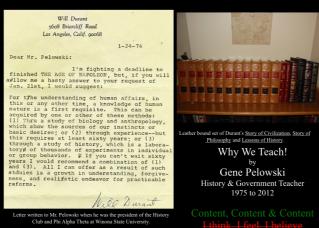
interesting and relevant.



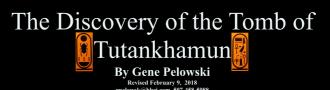










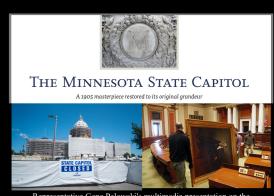












Representative Gene Pelowski's multimedia presentation on the Minnesota State Capitol Restoration.

The \$310 million, three year project has returned the Capitol to its 1905 splendor.



The Creation of Chapters 12A & 12B

CONTROL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The History of The Winona Model Legislature 1962-Present



By Representative Gene Pelowski Advisor to the Winona Model Legislature 1975-Present First Edition Fall 2018



## Proclamation

Gene Pelowski, because he represents Winona, is the official host State Representative WHEREAS: for the Governor's State of the State message; and

Gene Pelowski proved his effectiveness as a legislator while only a freshman, by convincing the Legislature to approve funds for the new Composites and Engineering School at Winona State University; and WHEREAS:

WHEREAS: Gene Pelowski was named an Outstanding Legislator for 1987 by the Minnesota State University Student Association; and

WHEREAS: Gene Pelowski was given an award by his peers last session in recognition of his unusual zeal for communicating by mail with his constituents; and

WHEREAS: Gene Pelowski holds February 9, 1988 in high regard because his birthday is on that day, and he will be 36 years of age:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim February 9,

GENE PELOWSKI DAY

in Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this fifth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eightyeight, and of the State the one hundred thirtieth.

GOVERNOR

## Proclamation

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