



Weekly BULLETIN

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PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax

January 18, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Yes, We Have Booths for MTA Convention

There are still good booth spaces available for the 2008 MTA Annual Convention, March 2-5, 2008 in Minneapolis. The new online service makes it fast and easy to register for the event. All the information you need to register as an attendee, exhibitor or event sponsor is available on one site.

Our theme – C3 2008: Competitiveness, Convergence and Consolidation—recognizes the three driving forces shaping today's telecom industry in Minnesota. For more information and online registration, [click here](#).

Time to Recognize Safe Companies

How safe was your company last year? The MTA Safety Program wants to know how participating members did last year in order to plan around companies safety needs as well as determine safety award winners for the past year. The safety material and award form was distributed to members this week. All members are urged to participate and help the MTA recognize safe companies at the MTA convention. Safety awards will be presented in the following categories: small company, medium size company and large company. In addition, a safety leadership award will be presented to an individual.

How Are We Doing?

Last Day to Participate in Online Membership Survey

Today, January 18, is the last day for provide your input on how the MTA is doing in serving its members.. MTA is conducting an online survey to identify member needs, desires and to measure the effectiveness of current programs and activities. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete. It is an anonymous survey. Participants' identity will remain confidential. When finished, simply hit the submit button and the survey will be sent to the MTA. It is a fast and easy process. To take the survey, [click here](#).

(651-291-2795) to MTA.

[Save These Dates](#)

Annual Convention & Trade Show

March 2-5, 2008

MTA Golf Day

July 7, 2008

Fall Conference & Communications Seminar

November 18 & 19, 2008

Stat of the Week

Baby boomers, who are now 43 to 62, hold \$1.75 trillion in 401 (k) plans, according to a study done by the Employee Benefit Research Institute for USA TODAY.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their name, company, and e-mail address to info@mnta.org and we'll add them to the list.

WEEKLY BULLETIN is intended for MTA members. Redistribution is limited to internal audiences only.

If you wish to be removed from the MTA e-List, click here to [unsubscribe](#).

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[21st Century Leadership Awards](#)

Looking for a Few Good Leaders

It's time again to call for entries for the ninth annual Minnesota Telecom Alliance 21st Century Leadership Awards – an award to recognize MTA members that have made outstanding contributions to the progress and prosperity of Minnesota's telecommunications industry.

Nominations are now being accepted for awards in the following categories: Humanitarian, Public Service, Industry Leadership, Associate Member Leadership and Economic Development. For more information and nomination form, [click here](#) and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Sprint to Reduce Jobs, Stores

Sprint Nextel today announced it will eliminate approximately 4,000 internal positions and reduced utilization of outsourced services and contractors. The company also expects to eliminate more than 4,000 third-party distribution points and to close approximately 125, or 8 percent, of its company-owned retail locations. The company has approximately 20,000 total distribution points, including nearly 1,400 company-owned retail locations.

Sprint Nextel currently expects these actions to reduce its internal and external labor costs by an annualized rate of \$700-\$800 million by the end of 2008. The employee headcount reductions are expected to be completed in the first half of the year and will include management and non-management positions throughout the company.

Bidders List Is A 'Who's Who' In Communications

Google is in. So are AT&T, Verizon and Comcast. These are just some of the 214 qualified bidders for next week's 700 megahertz wireless auction. It is set to begin January 24, and is expected to raise at least \$10 billion for the U.S. government. The airwaves being auctioned becomes available when television broadcasters move to digital from analog signals in early 2009. The spectrum will be auctioned off in several different blocks.

New Computerized TAP Form

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will no longer accept hard copies of the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) reporting form, effective January 1, 2008. Companies now have to electronically file the new, computerized TAP reporting form, which can be downloaded at [Http://www.puc.state.mn.us/telecom/index.htm](http://www.puc.state.mn.us/telecom/index.htm). The form is the last item in the sidebar on the left of the page.

Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Paul Freude, Secretary-
Treasurer;
Michael J. Nowick, President

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

[Action May Be Required](#)

Local Number Portability Order Released

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued an Order requiring rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECS) to comply with the Intermodal Number Portability Order. Rural ILECS must provide wireline-to-wireless porting where the requesting wireless carrier's coverage area overlaps the geographic location in which the customer's wireline number is provisioned. Wireline carriers are required to provide local number portability (LNP) only upon receipt of a specific request for LNP by another carrier and may not obstruct or delay the porting process by demanding information in excess of the minimum information to validate the customer's request. The FCC has declared that LNP validation should only require a 10-digit telephone number, customer account number, five-digit zip code, pass code (if applicable) and be completed within 48 hours. Carriers will have 90 days from the release of the Order to comply with these validation requirements. Rural ILECS should review and confirm their readiness to respond to requests for LNP under terms of the new Order. Carriers currently requiring more than the four fields will need to modify their validation process/systems by February 6, 2008.

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

JANUARY 21: FCC FORM 497: All ETCs requesting reimbursement from Lifeline, Link Up and Toll Limitation Service provided to low income customers must file by January 21, 2008. The filing is for the fourth quarter of 2007. A copy of the form can be found on the USAC website.

FEBRUARY 1: FCC FORM 502: All companies are required to file semi-annually the Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast Report (NRUF) with NANPA. A copy of the NRUF form can be found on the NANPA website.

FEBRUARY 1: FCC FORM 499Q: Revenue reporting form due to FCC.

March 1: FCC FORM 477: Local competition and broadband report due to FCC.

MARCH 1: All companies are required to file a Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) certificate with the FCC.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Jan 22: MTA Executive Committee conference call, 1:30 p.m.

Jan. 23: MTA Video Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 24: MTA CLEC Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 30: MTA Board of Directors conference call, 9:00 a.m.

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Update on Bruce

Bruce Reuber, president of **Interstate Telcom Consulting**, remains in the intensive care unit at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. He was recently diagnosed with cancer. He has been stable for the past week with no new blood clots or any other complications. The doctors are still concerned about some possible heart and kidney issues. The goal is to get Bruce healthy enough to start treating the cancer. Please continue to keep Bruce and his family in your prayers. Cards and get-well wishes should be sent to the company at: Interstate Telcom Consulting, 130 Birch Avenue West, Hector, MN 55342-0668.

CHR Solutions, Inc., a provider of infrastructure managed services and business consulting, announced that Vince Tyson is rejoining CHR Solutions Telecommunications business group in Lubbock, Texas as vice president, engineering managed services. Since 1999, Vince has been engineering manager and then chief technical officer for **Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative**.

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