



This Week's Headlines

MTA Convention Starts Sunday!

MTA Bill Advances

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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

February 29, 2008

Pre-Convention Issue

MTA Convention Starts Sunday!

In just a few days nearly 1,500 telecom professionals will converge on the Hyatt Regency and Millennium Hotels in Minneapolis for the MTA 99th Annual Convention.

The registration desk will be open Sunday, March 2 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The trade show portion of the convention will feature 174 companies displaying their products and services for attendees.

At the Annual Meeting on Monday, March 3, Active Members will be voting on proposals to amend the bylaws and merge with MART.

Attendees will also get a glimpse of the centennial picture book that is being published for next year when the MTA celebrates its 100th anniversary. In addition, attendees will have a chance to be a part of history when a group photo is taken following the second general session on Tuesday, March 4. Plans call for the photo to be one of the last pages in the publication.

New this year is free Wi-Fi in the hospitality room. Our thanks to the MTA Associate Members.

There's also a new networking luncheon this year, video, bringing the total number of luncheons to six plus 18 breakout sessions over a two-day period. Last, there is a Local number portability workshop on Tuesday afternoon.

There's so much to see and do at the MTA Convention that you just have to see it for yourself. **See you in Minneapolis!**

[Check These Sites for Things to Do In Twin Cities](#)

One in every 100 adults is in jail or prison, according to a new report by the Pew Center on the States.

Looking for interesting events and activities to attend while in the Twin Cities for the convention? Check out the following Web sites: For things to do in Minneapolis, [click here](#). To check out what's happening in St Paul [click here](#). A good site for making dinner reservations is www.opentable.com.

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.

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INDUSTRY UPDATE

MTA Bill Advances

The Minnesota House and Senate committees having jurisdiction over telecom issues took action on four legislative proposals this week. They included the MTA bill that would repeal obsolete rules. The bill (SF 2262) was passed by the Senate Energy, Utilities, Technology & Communications Committee and sent to the Senate floor. This legislation is the result of efforts by the rewrite subcommittee of the MTA Legislative Committee. The subcommittee met with regulators this past year and reviewed all 54 rules in Chapter 7810. They agreed that 22 of the current rules were outdated. The subcommittee and regulatory staffs agreed on proposed new language for 14 of the rules. The rewritten rules will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) with a request to open a rulemaking docket to adopt the language of the rewritten rules. The remaining rules are obsolete and are being repealed in SF 2262. The House companion bill (HF 2414) was heard in the House Telecom, Regulation & Infrastructure division, approved and temporarily laid on the table for inclusion in an Omnibus Telecom bill.

Another bill (SF 1918/HF 2107) that the MTA actively worked on also received action this week. The bill as originally introduced would have required 1 Gigabit of service to be available to all Minnesotans by 2015. The broadband subcommittee of the MTA Legislative Committee developed a handout that showed what the costs would be to provide 1 Gigabit and what the scale or capacity of 1 Gigabit represents. This handout was used extensively in meetings with committee members, legislators and committee staffs this past fall. With MTA's assistance the bill was successfully amended in both the Senate committee and House division to remove the 1 Gigabit to every Minnesotan by 2015 goal. The bills now authorize the governor to appoint a broadband task force to develop a broadband goal and make recommendations on how to achieve the goal by December 2009. The makeup of task force is different in the House and Senate versions of the bill and the goals for the task force are more focused in the House version. The House version (HF 2414) was amended extensively, passed and referred to the Commerce & Labor Committee. The Senate version (SF 1918) passed and was referred to the State & Local Government Operations Committee where issues relating to the task force makeup will be considered.

A bill (SF 2866) requiring the Commissioner of Commerce to contract for a statewide inventory of current broadband service was heard by the Senate committee but a number of technical issues were raised so no action was taken on the bill. The House division has not held a hearing on the House companion bill (HF 2959). An issue behind the

scenes for the bill's authors is the state's budget deficit. The question of where will the money come from to pay for the inventory, makes it likely that in order for the bill to proceed there will have to be a scaled-down version of what seems to be a popular legislative proposal.

The Senate bill (SF 2939) authorizing telcos with more than 50,000 access lines to opt into existing Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR) plans of larger companies was passed out of Senate committee and referred to the floor. The House companion bill (HF 3327) was approved by the House division and laid over for inclusion in an Omnibus Telecom bill.

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

FEBRUARY 29: Comments due on PUC docket P999/CI-07-1484, Industry-wide Investigation into the Promotional Practices of Telecommunications Services Providers

MARCH 1: FCC FORM 477: Local competition and broadband report due to FCC. All ILECs, CLECs and wireless providers must file this form. All cable TV operators that provide cable modem service must file this form.

MARCH 1: CPNI ANNUAL CERTIFICATION: All carriers are required to file a Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) certificate with the FCC. A company officer with personal knowledge that the company has established operating procedures adequate to ensure compliance with the rules must sign the certificate, place a copy of the certificate in the company's compliance records file and file with the FCC.

MARCH 1: COPYRIGHT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FORM: This form for cable companies, plus royalty payment for the second half of the calendar year 2007, is due. This form covers the period July 1 to December 31, 2007, and should be mailed directly by cable TV operators to the Library of Congress' Copyright Office.

APRIL 1: FCC FORM 499-A: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: This form must be filed by all contributors to the Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, the cost recovery mechanism for the North American Numbering Plan Administration and the shared costs of local number portability.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

March 2- 5: 2008 MTA Convention & Trade Show, Minneapolis

March 3: MTA Education & Human Resources Committee, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 2:00 p.m.

March 5: MTA Board of Directors, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 9:00 a.m.

March 11: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, MTA office, 9:30

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

MTA 99th Annual Convention Sponsors

Thanks to the following companies for helping to sponsor this year's convention. We couldn't do it without them!

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MTA Education & Human Resources Committee

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Ace Communications Group has collected donations from its various vendors for area residents affected by the August 2007 flood. The vendors contributed a total of \$30,300 for disaster recovery efforts. The money will be distributed to recovery organizations in both Fillmore County and Houston County.

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