



This Week's Headlines

Members Approves
Bylaws Change, Elects
Board

MTA-U Course for
Manager, Supervisors
Announced

Retransmission
Consent Workshop
Coming In April

Verizon, AT&T Lead
Spectrum-Auction
Winners

[Video Convention Coverage On Web Site](#)

Video highlights from
the MTA 99th Annual
Convention, which were
produced by Viodi TV
and shown on the in-
house television
channels for the Hyatt
and Millennium Hotels,
is now available on the
MTA Web site
www.mnta.org. Check it
out!

Consumers Continue to
Rely on Landline

Comcast and BitTorrent
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**FCC & Regulatory
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March 28, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Members Approve Bylaws Change, Elect Board

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance's membership approved an amendment to the bylaws reducing the size of the Board of Directors to ten members at a special meeting on March 26. The members also elected a new Board of Directors. The new Board members are Kevin Beyer, Federated Telephone Cooperative, Chokio; David Bickett, Park Region Mutual Telephone Company, Underwood; Brent J. Christensen, Christensen Communications, Madelia; Cathy Clucas, Embarq, St. Paul; William Eckles, BEVCOMM, Blue Earth; Robert K. Eddy, Sherburne Tele-Systems, Big Lake; Ronald Laqua, Halstad Telephone Company, Halstad; Glenn Miller, Midwest Data, Willmar; Jean Pauk TDS Telecom, Madison, WI; and Gene R. South, Sr., Lakedale Telephone Company, Annandale. John Finke, HickoryTech, Mankato will serve ex officio and as chairman of the Board.

Merger Complete

The merger between the Minnesota Association for Rural Telecommunications and the Minnesota Telecom Alliance will close on Monday, March 31. All of the necessary legal work has been done and filed. We look forward to the new and improved MTA. Randy Young can now be reached by calling the MTA at 651.291.7311. His e-mail address is ryoung@mnta. Donna Larson's new e-mail address is dlarson@mnta.org.

MTA-U Course for Manager, Supervisors Announced

Now in its fourth year, MTA-U for managers and supervisors is the annual source for developing leadership skills and learning important human resources responsibilities. Members have the option of taking the one-day course on June 5 or June 6 at the Radisson Suite Hotel in St. Cloud. The course will cover de-escalating emotionally charged people; industry update & technology trends; and finance for non-accounting professionals. The cost is \$175 for MTA Education Committee Program members, \$225 for other MTA members and \$225 for non-members. Online registration for the course is available at www.mnta.org

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 The Date](#)

MTA Golf Day
July 7, 2008

[Stat of the Week](#)

The European Union added 19 million broadband lines in 2007, the equivalent of more than 50,000 households per day. Four countries -- Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland—lead the way. Source: European Commission

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

Retransmission Consent Workshop Coming In April

The MTA has partnered with Cinnamon Mueller law firm to conduct a retransmission consent workshop on **April 29, 2008** in St. Cloud. The workshop, sponsored by the MTA Video Committee, is open to all members. The workshop will get under way with a noon luncheon at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Chris Cinnamon will conduct the workshop. The program will review the retransmission/must carry rules, review the digital signaling transition and its effect on retransmission/must carry, and find out what legal representation may be available from the law firm in upcoming negotiations. Watch this publication for more details and registration information.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Verizon, AT&T Lead Spectrum-Auction Winners

Verizon Wireless, AT&T, Echostar, Cox, Qualcomm and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's Vulcan Ventures are among the winners in the FCC wireless-spectrum auction. Verizon and AT&T grabbed the largest portions of the auctioned airwaves, paying a combined \$16 billion of the total \$19.6 billion. The commission plans to re-auction the so-called D-block, the band reserved for use as a nationwide emergency network, after it failed to attract a minimum bid, Chairman Kevin Martin said.

The auction nearly doubled congressional estimates of \$10.2 billion. All other 68 auctions conducted by the FCC in the past 15 years collectively generated a total of only \$19.1 billion in receipts.

Consumers Continue to Rely on Landline

American consumers have a wide array of choices for personal communication services, but, when it comes to their home, an overwhelming majority -- including those who have a cell phone -- say they plan to keep and continue using their landline home phone indefinitely. Most often the service's proven reliability and safety were given as reasons in a new nationwide survey commissioned by Verizon.

The telephone survey, conducted by KRC Research last month, polled more than 800 consumers aged 18 and over who pay their landline phone bill. It found that:

- Eighty-three percent of the respondents intend to continue using their landline home phone indefinitely -- a strong vote of consumer confidence for landline voice service in a survey group that included a large number of participants who also have a cell phone (74 percent).
- Ninety-four percent of the respondents cited reliability and 91 percent cited safety as the key factors for retaining landline service.

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Minnesota Telecom Alliance
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Paul Freude, Secretary-
Treasurer;
Michael J. Nowick, President

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

- Seventy-six percent of landline phone owners use their landline phone every day

Comcast and BitTorrent Form Collaboration

Comcast Corporation and BitTorrent, the popular file-sharing site, announced this week that they will undertake a collaborative effort with one another and with the broader Internet and ISP community to more effectively address issues associated with rich media content and network capacity management. While BitTorrent and Comcast are talking directly, according to a Comcast news release, they are also in discussions with other parties to help facilitate a broader dialogue and cooperation across industries.

The Comcast and BitTorrent discussions have already produced meaningful results. On the one hand, Comcast announced that it will migrate by year-end 2008 to a capacity management technique that is protocol agnostic. "This means that we will have to rapidly reconfigure our network management systems, but the outcome will be a traffic management technique that is more appropriate for today's emerging Internet trends. We have been discussing this migration and its effects with leaders in the Internet community for the last several months, and we will refine, adjust, and publish the technique based upon feedback and initial trial results," said Tony Werner, Comcast Cable's Chief Technology Officer.

Responding to the agreement, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said, "I am pleased that Comcast has reversed course and agreed that it is not a reasonable network management practice to arbitrarily block certain applications on its network. I also commend the company for admitting publicly that it was engaging in the practice and now engaging in a dialog with BitTorrent."

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

MARCH 31: LIFELINE & LINK-UP WORKSHEET DUE: FCC FORM 497, last day to submit revisions to Form 497 for 2006 and all months prior to January 2007

MARCH 31: UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE: FCC FORM 507, line count updates are required to recalculate a carrier's per-line universal service support and covers lines served as of September 30, 2007

MARCH 31: COMPETITIVE CARRIER LINE COUNT QUARTERLY REPORT: FCC FORM 525, competitive eligible telecommunication carriers are eligible to receive high-cost support if they serve lines in an incumbent LECs service area, and that incumbent carrier receives high-cost support. The report covers lines served as of September 30, 2007

MARCH 31: PROJECTED ANNUAL COMMON LINE REVENUE REQUIREMENT FORM: FCC FORM 508, rate-of-return incumbent carriers filing due to USAC to enable the calculation of the annual common line revenue requirement for each study area served in order for the carrier to be eligible to receive Interstate Common Line support

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.

APRIL 21: LOW INCOME QUARTERLY REPORT: FCC FORM 497, this form, the Lifeline and Link-Up Worksheet must be submitted to USAC by all ETCs that request reimbursement for participating in the low income program

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

March 26: MTA Centennial Committee

March 26-27: MTA Day on the Hill

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

April 9: MTA Legislative Committee, conference call, 1:30 p.m.

April 17: MTA Video Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

April 22: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

April 24: MTA CLEC Committee, 702 Communications, Moorhead, 9:30 a.m.

April 29: Retransmission Consent Agreement Workshop, St. Cloud, noon

April 29: MTA Golf Committee, Crow River, Hutchinson, 9:00 a.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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