



This Week's Headlines

Centennial Club Helps Fund 100th Celebration

Sharpen Leadership, HR Skills At Next MTA-U

Seats Available for Retransmission Consent Workshop

FCC To Study Fraudulent 911 Calls From Cell Phone

FCC Asked to Change Auction Rules

Creating a P2P Bill Of Rights

AT&T Introduces Small Business Wireless Plan

FCC: Verizon Didn't Violate Privacy Laws

Retailers Fined for No Analog Warning Label

FTTH Workshop For Telcos Planned

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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

April 18, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Centennial Club Helps Fund 100th Celebration

You can help make the MTA 100th anniversary one to remember by becoming a Centennial Club member. The MTA Centennial Committee invites all member companies to join the '**Centennial Club**' to help the MTA properly observe its 100th anniversary. The MTA will mark this milestone with a commemorative picture book, a special centennial convention and celebration as well as publicity across the state and nation.

In recognition of your contribution of \$500, your company will be listed as a 'Centennial Club' member in the commemorative picture book and at next year's convention. The book will be found at telephone companies, libraries and museums across the state for years to come. To be properly acknowledged, your contribution must be received at the MTA office by May 1, 2008. Questions about the Centennial Club may be directed to Mike Nowick at 651-291-7311. Send your contribution to the MTA office, 30 East 7th St, St. Paul, MN 55378

The following companies have joined the Centennial Club.

Centennial Club Members (as of April 18, 2008)

702 Communications

Ace Telephone Association

Albany Mutual Telephone Association

Badger Communications Corporation

Christensen Communications Company

CC & I Engineering, Inc.

diversiCOM

- **Mainstreet Communications, LLC**

- **Melrose Telephone Company**

Halstad Telephone Company

HickoryTech

Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc

KM Telecom

Lakedale Communications

Midwest Data LLC

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative

(651-291-2795) to MTA.

Save The Date

**MTA Office Managers
Spring Conference,**
The Lodge at Brainerd
Lakes, Baxter
April 23-25

**MTA Retransmission
Consent Workshop**
Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
April 29, 2008

MTA Golf Day
July 7, 2008

Stat of the Week

Broadband penetration in the US has increased by more than 300 per cent since 2002, according to Scarborough Research. DSL connections grew more than cable modems. Cable connections grew 188 percent compared to 575 percent for DSL connections.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would

Sherburne Tele Systems, Inc.
TDS Telecommunications Corporation

- Arvig Telephone Company
- Bridge Water Telephone Company
- Mid-State Telephone Company
- Winsted Telephone Company

West Central Telephone Association
Windstream Supply
Woodstock Telephone Company

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sharpen Leadership, HR Skills At Next MTA-U

Do you want to learn more about basic finance and accounting to enhance your performance on the job? Maybe you need some tips on handling emotionally charge people? If so, give serious consideration to attending the next MTA-U course for manager and supervisors. 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 Program members, \$225 for other MTA members and \$225 for non-members. Online registration for the course is available at www.mnta.org

Seats Available for Retransmission Consent Workshop

There is still room for you and coworkers at the upcoming MTA retransmission consent workshop. The MTA has partnered with Cinnamon Mueller law firm to conduct the workshop to help members who offer cable television service with this requirement. The half-day event is **April 29, 2008** in St. Cloud. It is sponsored by the MTA Video Committee and open to all members. The workshop will get under way with a noon luncheon at the Kelly Inn 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. Attendees will also find out what legal representation may be available from the law firm in upcoming negotiations. For fast, easy online registration, [click here](#).

INDUSTRY UPDATE

FCC To Study Fraudulent 911 Calls From Cell Phone

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted a Petition for a Notice of Inquiry filed by the public safety community regarding the number of fraudulent 911 calls made from wireless non-service initialized

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](#).

© copyright 2008,
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen,
Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

(NSI) phones. NSI phones are cell phones without service contracts that have no associated name and address, and do not provide Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and call back features used by Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to respond to 911 calls.

Commenting on the Commission's action, Chairman Kevin Martin said, "I look forward to developing additional data on this issue, and examining recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of our 911 system by ensuring that resources are directed to legitimate calls for help, and that fraudulent uses of the 911 system are eliminated."

According to petitioners, in 2006, PSAPs in Tennessee reported more than 10,000 fraudulent 911 calls from NSI phones in just a three-month span of time. In Florida, several PSAPs reported approximately 8,400 fraudulent 911 calls from NSI phones in just one month (December 2006), constituting more than 96 percent of the 911 calls received by those PSAPs from NSI phones. Blocking such calls, according to the petitioners, has raised technical and legal concerns by wireless carriers and the public safety community.

FCC Asked to Change Auction Rules

FCC commissioners were on capital hill this week to answer harsh questions about the recent auction. Speaking to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's subcommittee on telecommunications and the Internet, Chairman Kevin Martin said the agency will reconsider the requirements for the public safety spectrum, which did not attract the minimum bids in the recent auction. One of the goals of the spectrum auction was to attract a private bidder that would build a network to be shared with public-safety groups. According to the Washington Post, he told lawmakers that the public safety block will probably be auctioned off again in the fourth quarter. Lawmakers suggested the Commission change the rules to encourage more bids from smaller carriers.

Creating a P2P Bill Of Rights

Comcast Corporation and Pando Networks, Inc. announced this week they will lead an industry-wide effort to create a "P2P Bill of Rights and Responsibilities" (BRR) for peer-to-peer (P2P) users and Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The two companies plan to collaborate and engage with industry experts, other ISPs and P2P companies, content providers and others to set a framework for the BRR that can serve as a best practice, according to a Comcast release. The purpose would be to clarify what choices and controls consumers should have when using P2P applications as well as what processes and practices ISPs should use to manage P2P applications running on their networks. For example, P2P users should have the right to control their computers' resources when using P2P applications.

The companies said they plan to conduct a test of Pando Network Aware™ P2P technology on Comcast's fiber-optic network. The purpose of the test will be to capture and analyze the data flow associated with downloading a file using Pando's P2P application. These tests, along with tests Pando will conduct on a variety of other ISP networks, including

cable, DSL, fiber and wireless, will measure things like performance, speed, distance and geography as well as the bandwidth consumption impact to the ISP.

AT&T Introduces Small Business Wireless Plan

AT&T has a new wireless offer that enables small businesses to share monthly Anytime Minutes for up to 40 employees. The plan is similar to the company's FamilyTalk plans. The new plans start at \$60.00 per month for five users and 700 Anytime Minutes and go up to 40 users and 20,000 Anytime Minutes. The company is also offering unlimited Mobile to Mobile or Push To Talk features, the company said.

FCC: Verizon Didn't Violate Privacy Laws

The FCC recently ruled that the methods Verizon used to retain customers who wanted to switch to a cable company did not violate privacy laws, according to an article in CedMagazine.com. It didn't, however, rule on whether Verizon's retention activities are reasonable or unjust, the article stated. For nearly a year Verizon has been offering incentives to customers who were switching services. Several cable companies, including Comcast and Time Warner, complained to the FCC. The Commission said the law was unclear as it is written and suggested the wording be changed to be more specific.

Retailers Fined for No Analog Warning Label

Two Minnesota-based companies were hit with fines last week for failing to put warning labels on analog-only televisions that need to be adjusted for the switch to digital next year, according to media reports. Best Buy and Target were among the retailers who were fined a total of \$3.9 million last week. For Best Buy, the fine was \$280,000 and \$296,000 for Target. Sears received the largest fine, nearly \$1.1 million. The Commission said it issued warnings to the companies after its inspections turned up violations.

Local Content Roundtable Workshop at Melrose

ViodiTV will conduct a local content workshop on May 12 at diversiCOM Melrose Telephone Company. Building upon Viodi's local content workshop series, the roundtable will be a refresher of some of the latest ideas, tips and tools for producing low-cost, high-quality content. Fresh from the exhibits of the NAB show, there will be plenty of ideas as to how independent telcos can become better producers. Ken Pyle and Roger Bindl, co-producers of ViodiTV, will conduct the workshop. The cost is \$50 for MTA members. [Click here](#) for more information

FTTH Workshop For Telcos Planned

The Fiber-to-the-Home Council is inviting telco executives to a workshop on Tuesday, June 3rd at the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines, IA. The workshop will cover numerous topics including case studies and best practices, government and regulatory updates, FTTH updates, and overbuilding. Registration is \$50 for the day which includes two breaks, the luncheon and a cocktail reception at the end of the day. For more details and registration info go to www.ftthcouncil.org.

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

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

MAY 1: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: FCC FORM 499-Q, all telecommunications carriers that expect to contribute more than \$10,000 to federal USF support mechanisms must file this quarterly form

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

April 17: MTA Video Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

April 21: MTA Board of Directors Conference Call, 3:00 p.m.

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

April 23-25: MTA Office Managers Spring Conference, The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Baxter

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

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

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

After 28 years of service, **Dean Mohs**, Chief Operating Officer for **diversiCOM Melrose Telephone Company**, retired effective April 1.

Mohs, a big supporter of the MTA, served on numerous committees. Congratulations, Dean.

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA



