



This Week's Headlines

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Survey Reveals Most Aware But Not Prepared

Verizon Study: 87

June 13, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Last Day to Register for MTA Golf Outing

Today is your last opportunity to register for MTA Golf Day. It only takes a few minutes to register using the fast, easy online registration. The 35th annual event is Monday, July 7, 2008 at Crow River Country Club in Hutchinson. The \$135 fee includes golf, cart, club house facilities, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and prizes. For non-golfers, a \$40 dinner-only option is available. MTA's online registration process allows members to register, choose which players they want in their group and sponsor a hole. The entire process only takes a few minutes. To register or sponsor a hole, [click here](#)

Suppliers and telecom companies are asked to contribute prizes, gift certificates, or cash for the prize giveaways at this year's MTA Golf Day. Notify Tom Farm 651. 481-1786, tfarm@otcpas.com or Glenn Miller 320.235-8881, glennm@mwd-inc.com by June 20 if you wish to donate prizes.

Golfers: Be Prepared for Road Construction

Road construction between St. Bonifacius and Silver Lake has closed Minnesota Highway 7. The designated detour from the Twin Cities is US Highway 212 to Glencoe and then Minnesota Highway 22 to Hutchinson. ***Allow yourself an additional 30 minutes for the trip to Crow River Country Club.***

All Members Encouraged to Participate

MTA to Begin Legislative Meetings Around the State

The 2008 Legislative campaign season is already upon us and that means that it is time to begin our biennial legislative visits around the state to our rural legislators. As in previous election years, MTA will be working with member telcos to set up meetings with our rural legislators to discuss the issues that are anticipated on coming up in the 2009 session. This will also be an opportunity to remind legislators of the broadband deployment and the economic impact the local telco has in their district. Our goal this year is to meet with 60 rural legislators in districts that have MTA members.

These meetings have proven to be extremely useful in the past, and this

Percent of Data Breaches Avoidable

Verizon Study: 87 Percent of Data Breaches Avoidable

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 The Date

MTA Golf Day
July 7, 2008

Stat of the Week

The average employer cost for employee compensation was \$28.46 per hour worked at the close of the first quarter this year, the U.S. Department of Labor reported this week.

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.

year should be just as beneficial. Small Independent Telco Political Action Committee (SITCIO PAC) will be sending House and Senate members in rural districts a contribution early in the summer (before they have reached their limit on PAC contributions) with a note that we look forward to meeting with them later in the summer.

We also are encouraging MTA's Associate Members who are in rural Minnesota to participate in these meetings along with local telcos and MTA staff. To participate, you only have to sign-up, show-up, and let the legislators know that you have jobs in their districts that are reliant upon the local telcos. Contact Randy Young at 651.291.7311 or ryoung@mnta.org for more details.

These are important meetings that not only educate legislators on issues important to the industry, but also continue the ongoing process of building relationships. MTA Active Members will be notified when and where meetings are being set up in their areas over the next four months.

MTA Ends Affiliation with the High Tech Association

After a ten year relationship (through MART), MTA has not renewed its membership in Minnesota High Tech Association. MHTA, which supports the growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy, had previously been an advocate of sound telecommunications policy in Minnesota. However, during the last legislative session MHTA was a prime advocate for the Gigabit bill, which would have set as state policy the deployment of a gigabit of broadband to every home, farm, and business by 2015. MHTA provided the "marquee" testimony in both the House and Senate in support of the bill, in addition to vigorously lobbying behind the scenes for the bill's passage. In spite of MART, MTA and other telecommunications industry members working to ameliorate MHTA's position, the association was unyielding in its support of the gigabit bill. MHTA's board chair is from Thompson West, one of the initial backers of the bill. This severing of MTA's relationship with MHTA also ends the program that MART had developed with MHTA to encourage rural telco to become members of MHTA through reduced dues.

REGULATORY UPDATE

Third Quarter USF Contribution Factor to Increase

The Federal Communications Commission has announced that the proposed universal service contribution factor for the third quarter of 2008 will increase to 0.114 or 11.4 percent. Contributions to the federal universal service support mechanisms are determined using a quarterly contribution factor calculated by the FCC. If the Commission takes no action within the 14-day period following the release of the Public Notice, they shall be deemed approved by the Commission.

Koppendrayer's Retirement Party: You're Invited

A grand retirement party for MPUC Chair LeRoy Koppendrayer will be held on Sat. June 28, 2008 at his farm outside of Princeton, MN. The event begins at 11:30, with lunch at noon, a short program at 1:30 and fun for the whole family for the rest of the day. This "Outdoor Picnic at the Farm" will be a great time to not only deliver best wishes to LeRoy but to chat informally with the other commissioners and staff. Details and a map can

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Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

be found at the PUC website at <http://www.puc.state.mn.us/calendar/index.htm#thisweek>. You can email RSVP to Ronnie.slager@state.mn.us or 651.201.2211.

[Reprinted from Last Week](#)

RFP for Next Generation 911 Available Online

The Department of Administration has notified the 9-1-1 Program Office, Department of Public Safety that the NG9-1-1 Request for Proposals will be available on their website either Friday, June 6th or Monday June 9th. To download the RFP go to: www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us If anyone needs help in downloading the RFP they can call the Helpline at 651.296.2600.

Please DO NOT contact the 9-1-1 Program office if you have questions regarding the RFP. Direct your questions to Joan Breisler, Acquisition Management Specialist, Department of Administration. The RFP will direct you on the appropriate manner to address your questions.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

St. Louis Park Pulls Plug On Wi-Fi Project, Sues Vendor

It was supposed to be the nation's first citywide Wi-Fi network powered by the sun. It tuned out to be a bust so St. Louis Park this week filed a lawsuit against developer Arinc Inc. for \$1.7 million, according to an article in the Star Tribune. The city had been attempting to negotiate a settlement since it found Arinc to be in default in December 2007. The city's test found large areas of the city where there was no reliable network.

[Read more...](#)

AT&T Plans to Invest \$60 Million In State This Year

AT&T this week announced plans to invest more than \$60 million this year in the Minnesota network to expand and enhance wireless coverage. According to a company release, AT&T plans to add new 60 new cell sites across the state and introduce its higher-speed third-generation (3G) wireless network to more communities. This year's planned investment will bring AT&T's three-year wireless network investment in Minnesota to more than \$150 million, the company said. [Read more...](#)

New Billing Company Created

Stellar Billing, LLC is a new billing solution provider specializing in the communications industry. It was created by four separate companies; CBT, Inc. a software firm that resales and supports GenSoft Systems OSS billing product, out of Geneseo, IL., Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, headquartered in Bellingham, MN, Federated, Chokio, MN, and Spring Grove Communications in Spring Grove, MN. [Read more...](#)

Federal Policy On Early Termination Fees By July?

There could be a federal policy on early termination fees as soon as July if FCC Chairman Kevin Martin gets his way. The Chairman reiterated this week that he favors a national policy, saying: "I do not believe a patchwork

of 50 different sets of regulations with widely varying protections benefits consumers or the industry.” The major wireless companies have been pushing for an FCC policy to preempt state courts from hearing lawsuits involving early termination fees. The companies have expressed a willingness to relax or eliminate the fees to try to avoid state regulation lawsuits. [Read more...](#)

Three Major ISPs Agree to Block Access to Child Porn

Verizon, Sprint and Time Warner this week reached an agreement with New York Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo to block connections to newsgroups and Web sites that offer child pornography, according to media reports. The AG office said it took action as a result of a eight-month investigation that discovered ISPs were allowing child pornography to grow despite customer service agreements that include disconnection threats for violators. [Read more...](#)

With Certain Stipulations

Verizon Gets Justice Dept. Approval to Acquire RCC

The Justice Department this week approved Verizon Communications purchase of Rural Cellular Corp. with the stipulation that it sell certain assets in Vermont, and parts of New York and Washington, media outlets reported this week. The FCC must also approve the reported \$679 million deal. [Read more...](#)

for Switch to Digital TV

Survey Reveals Most Aware But Not Prepared

The good news is that the majority, 84%, of respondents to a survey are aware of the oncoming switch from analog to digital broadcasting. However, a third of those surveyed didn't know what they need to do to prepare for the conversion in February 2009. That's one of the findings from a report issued this week by the General Accounting Office. The findings indicate that those most likely to lose television service when the switch occurs need more information to properly prepare. [Read more...](#)

Verizon Study: 87 Percent of Data Breaches Avoidable

Nearly nine in 10 corporate data breaches could have been prevented had reasonable security measures been in place, according to a comprehensive report issued this week by Verizon. The study also found that 73 percent of breaches resulted from external sources versus 18 percent from insider threats, and most breaches resulted from a combination of events rather than a single hack or intrusion. [Rea more](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

JUNE 30: ANNUAL ICLS USE CERTIFICATION: Rate of return carriers and CETCs must file a self-certification with the FCC and USAC stating that all Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) and Long Term Support (LTS) will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which their support is intended. Failure to file this self-certification will preclude the carrier from receiving ICLS support.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

June 9: MTA Legislative Committee conference call,

June 10-11: MTA Fishing Outing

June 12: MTA Centennial Committee conference call

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

June 18: MTA IT Peer Group, Sherburne Tele Systems, Big Lake, 10:30 a.m.

June 24: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, MTA office 9:30 a.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all MTA members, we extend our sympathy to the friends and family of **Thomas R. Borchert**, former president of **Mankato Citizens Telephone Company** and a member of the MTA board of directors, who passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato after a short battle with cancer. He was 71.

He spent his lifetime career at Mankato Citizens Telephone Company, now **HickoryTech**, holding many positions and becoming vice president in 1972 and president from 1984 until he retired from **HickoryTech Corporation** in 1997. Tom held many memberships in the telecommunications industry, being a board member of HickoryTech and the HickoryTech Foundation, board member of MTA from 1989-1995, United States Telephone Association and MEANS.

He enjoyed dancing with his wife, Patti; boating, sporting events, playing cards with family and friends, and in his younger years, curling. Tom is survived by his wife, Patricia; six children, 12 grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Dave, Chuck, Ed, and Joe.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mankato. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in Mankato. Visitation will be held from 4–7 p.m., with a 4:00 p.m. prayer service on Friday at Mankato Mortuary. Visitation continues one hour before the service at the church on Saturday. Memorials may be given to Mankato United Way, Pathstone Living or ISJ Hospice.

Associate Members News

Editor's note: The MTA Bulletin invites associate members to submit their company's news release for publication. Due to space consideration, we will run the first paragraph and provide a link to the entire release. A link to the story must accompany the news release. If possible, submit in word format for easy editing. Send submissions to mdenns@mnta.org.

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail

(info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA

Centennial Club Members

Thanks to the following companies for joining the MTA Centennial Club.

702 Communications

Ace Telephone Association

Albany Mutual Telephone Association

Alexicon, Inc.

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

Arvig Communication Systems

- Callaway Telephone Company, Inc.
- East Otter Tail Telephone Company
- Midwest Telephone Company
- Osakis Telephone Company
- The Peoples Telephone Company of Big Fork
- Twin Valley-Ulen Telephone Company

Badger Communications Corporation

Benton Cooperative Telephone Company

BEVCOMM

Blackduck Telephone Company

Calix

Cannon Valley Telecom, Scott & Loretta Johnson

CC & I Engineering, Inc.

Christensen Communications Company

CoBank

Consolidated Telephone Company

Corning Cable Systems

diversiCOM

- Mainstreet Communications, LLC
- Melrose Telephone Company

Dunnell Telephone Company

Embarq

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

Finley Engineering Company, Inc.

Federated Telephone Cooperative

Garden Valley Telephone Company

Halstad Telephone Company

Hanson Communications, Inc.

- Clara City Telephone Company
- Sacred Heart Telephone Company
- Starbuck Telephone Company
- Zumbrota Telephone Company

Hector Communications, Inc.

- Arrowhead Communications
- Eagle Valley Telephone Company
- Felton Telephone Company
- Granada Telephone Company
- Loretel Systems
- Pine Island Telephone Company
- Sleepy Eye Telephone Company

HickoryTech

- Enventis

Home Telephone Company

Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc.
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
KM Telecom
Lakedale Communications
Larson Utilities

- Minnesota Valley Telephone Company
- Winthrop Telephone Company

Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company
Lowry Telephone Company, LLC
Manchester – Heartland Telephone Company
Martin Group
Midwest Data, LLC
Moss & Barnett
MP Nexlevel, LLC
MRV Communications
National Information Solution Cooperative
NECA
North Star Chapter Pioneer Club
NU-Telecom
Onvoy Voice Services
Olsen Thielen & Company, Ltd.
Park Region Mutual Telephone Company

- Otter Tail Telcom
- Valley Telephone Company

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative
PCS Technologies, Inc.
Pinnacle Publishing, LLC
Polar Communications
Red River Rural Telephone Association
Rothsay Telephone Company
Rural Cellular Corporation
Runestone Telecom Association
Sherburne Tele-Systems, Inc.

- Connections, Etc.
- NorthStar Access, LLC

Shields Environmental, Inc.
Spring Grove Communications
Suttle
TDS Telecommunications Corporation

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

Walker and Associates
Warinner, Gesinger & Associates, LLC
West Central Telephone Association
Wikstrom Telephone Company
Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association
Windstream Supply
Woodstock Telephone Company
