



This Week's Headlines

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June 20, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Last Call for Golf Day Prizes

Today, June 20th, is the deadline for notifying MTA that you are bringing prizes for MTA Golf Day. It only takes a few minutes to register using the fast, easy online registration. 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 today if you wish to donate prizes. The 35th annual event is Monday, July 7, 2008 at Crow River Country Club in Hutchinson.

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.***

Wanted: Company Portraits

Be a part of the MTA 100th anniversary celebration by displaying your company photos in a commemorative frame at the convention in March 2009.

MTA member companies are asked to prepare a framed portrait depicting their company as they wish to portray it, whether that includes a historical perspective, a more current-status type of picture, or a combination of both. These portraits will be displayed at the centennial convention in a portrait gallery. After the convention, member companies will be free to decide where they may wish to display their portraits, whether back in their office, at a local museum, or anywhere else of your choosing. Individual members are free to make the portraits their own and in their own style and décor. Your own creativity is welcome, with adherence to the 30 X 40 glass size essentially being the MTA's only requested compliance.

The MTA will then provide the member an engraved plate with an inscription for inclusion with the portrait. Please respond to Joanne Stowell

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

(jstowell@mnta.org) **no later than July 15, 2008** whether (or not) you intend to bring such a portrait to the 2009 convention. Contact Mike Nowick at 651-291-7311 or by email at mnowick@mnta.org if you have any questions and to sign up your company.

Centennial Club Looking for More Associate Members

The MTA Centennial Committee is now focusing on getting more associate members 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 and 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. [Click here](#) for an invitation to join the **Centennial Club**. Questions about the Centennial Club may be directed to Mike Nowick at 651-291-7311. **To view the Centennial Club membership lists**, [click here](#).

Stat of the Week

Minnesota recorded the highest state unemployment rate, 5.4 percent, in 17 years in May, according to the Minneapolis StarTribune. That's up from 4.8 percent in April.

New 2008 Telecom Laws Available Online

A summary of telecom related bills that were passed by the 2008 legislature and signed into law by the governor have been posted by chapter number on the MTA website. During the just completed 2008 legislative session 1,704 bills were introduced in the House and 1,532 bills were introduced in the Senate. 220 bills passed both bodies and were sent to the governor for his signature. The governor signed 190 into law. The 2009 legislature will convene at noon, January 6, 2009.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

FCC Makes Do-Not-Call Registry Permanent

The Federal Communications Commission has amended its rules to require telemarketers to honor registrations with the National Do-Not-Call Registry indefinitely, according to a release on the Commission's Web site. The previous rules provided that registrations would expire after five years. The Federal Trade Commission has already committed to retain numbers on the Registry indefinitely. To enhance the accuracy of the Registry, the Commission encourages telephone companies to convey information on disconnected and reassigned numbers to the FTC, the administrator of the Registry, in a timely and accurate manner.

[Read more...](#)

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](#).

Reprinted From Last Week

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

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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.

Deal On Wiretap Bill Gives Telcos Immunity

The phone companies that took part in President Bush's program of eavesdropping without warrants will receive immunity as part of an agreement reached Thursday between legislators to overhaul the wiretap law, according to media outlets. Under the agreement, phone companies will receive immunity as long as a federal district court determined that they received legitimate requests from the government directing their participation in the program of wiretapping without warrants. AT&T reportedly is facing 40 lawsuits over their participation in the program following the Sept. 11 attacks. [Read more...](#)

Philly Wi-Fi to Go Forward

A group of Philadelphia investors said it would back the city's municipal Wi-Fi network under undisclosed terms. The group said it would alter the network's business model, making it free for residents and expanding its coverage area while charging businesses and institutions. The move comes one month after EarthLink abandoned the project.

[Read more...](#)

New Broadband Reporting Requirements Released

The FCC this week released new subscribership reporting requirements for broadband service providers that it had approved on March 19. The new rules require service providers to report their broadband connections via individual census tracts. Subscriptions must be reported in separate categories based on speeds of service. The number of subscribers in each census tract must be broken down by technology type, upload speed, and download speed. The speed tiers include 200 to 768 kbps, 768 kbps to 1.5 mbps, 1.5 mbps to 3.0 mbps, 3.0 mbps to 6.0 mbps, 6.0 mbps to 10.0 mbps, 10.0 mbps to 25.0 mbps, 25.0 mbps to 100 mbps, and greater than 100 mbps. The Commission will reexamine these speed categories every two years to consider potential revisions. The FCC also issued an Order on Reconsideration to require that all wireline, terrestrial fixed wireless, and satellite broadband service providers report the number and percentage of subscribers who are residential.

To view the FCC's Report and Order and FNPRM, [click here](#).

FCC Provides Info Emergency Authorizations Due To Floods

Telcos and other service providers whose operations are affected by the severe flooding in the Midwest can contact the FCC to request emergency special temporary authorizations. Contact information on applying for special temporary authorizations during normal business hours is available

at <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/services/sta.html>. Providers who need to make an emergency request, or who need to consult FCC officials at night or over a weekend, should call the Commission's Communications Center at 202/418-1122.

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 18: MTA IT Peer Group

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

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

Associate Members News

CHR Solutions, Inc., a leading provider of telecommunications engineering and infrastructure managed services, and Hutchins & Wunnenberg Engineering, Inc., a provider of complete engineering services to the telecommunications industry based in Camden, Arkansas, announced that Hutchins & Wunnenberg has been acquired by CHR Solutions effective June 16, 2008. Both companies are privately held and terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

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