



This Week's Headlines

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Do you have an announcement for *People*

August 1, 2008

MTA UPDATE

[Copies Available for Purchase](#)

Annual MTA Survey Distributed

The numbers of job classifications are declining among member companies and employers are shifting more of the costs of benefits to the employees. Those are just some of the interesting findings from the latest MTA annual benefits and salary survey. The survey report has been distributed to all participating companies. The survey addressed salary ranges in accounting and finance, business office and clerical support, customer service, information systems, marketing and public relations, and plant, engineering and central office. The benefits survey addressed group health insurance, dental insurance, retiree group health insurance and 125 flex/cafeteria plans. Twenty one companies completed the salary survey and 19 completed the benefits survey. This compares to 23 companies completing the salary survey and 15 companies completing benefits survey in 2007.

Rothsay Telephone Company was the winner of a complimentary registration to MTA University in December in a random drawing of participating companies.

Those active members who didn't participate in the survey may purchase a copy for \$100.00. Send your request to [Mike Nowick](#), director of member services. Thanks to MTA benefits and salary work groups for their assistance in preparing the surveys.

Centennial Club Gets New Members—More Wanted

Associate members Border States, KGP and Vantage Point Solutions are the latest members to join the MTA Centennial Club. There are now 80 members in the Club. All members, particularly associate members, are invited to join. Contributions to the 'Centennial Club' will 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.

& Companies? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

[Save These Dates](#)

Telecom Industry Appreciation Golf Day at Wapicada Golf Club in St. Cloud on Monday, **August 11, 2008** (formerly the MART Golf Day & Dinner). Sponsored by Pinnacle Please contact [Amy](#) at 800.950.4301.

MTA Office Managers Fall Meeting
Sept 24th- Sept 26th
Best Western- Kelly Inn
St. Cloud

MTA HR Peer Group Meeting, Sept. 25, 2008, Sherburne Telesystems, Big Lake

MTA Fall Conference October 9-10, 2008
Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park

[Stat of the Week](#)

An estimated 9.3% of U.S. TV households are unprepared for next February's switch to all-digital TV signals, according to Nielsen data, down from 10.5% in January.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their

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](#).

[Recycling Mandate](#)

Telcos, Directory Publishers Reminded of Annual Filing

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency this week solicited the assistance of the MTA in notifying telcos and directory publishers of the annual legal requirement to file the Phone Book Recycling Report form. Although the deadline is August 1, the agency is making exceptions for companies that weren't aware until now of the filing requirement. Companies that miss the deadline are asked to contact [Johanna Kertesz](#), environmentally preferable purchasing specialist for the agency, to indicate when you plan to file the form. You can also request a copy of the form and instruction letter from Kertesz.

Is the Do-Not-Call Number On Your Web Site Correct?

The telephone number for the Do-Not Call List has been changed to 1-888-382-1222 (TTY- 1-866-290-4236). Member companies who have the number on their Web site should verify that it is the current number. Information about the national registry is available on the MTA Web site. To view, [click here](#).

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Say Good Buy to Some Obsolete Telecom Laws

Effective today, telecom companies in the state are no longer burdened with several outdated laws. The new law, which was drafted by the MTA Legislative Committee, repeals a number of obsolete telecom rules. Under the new law telcos will no longer have to:

- Keep records of their inspections of billing equipment;
- Provide coin operated telephone lighted at night available to the public on a 24 hour basis; and
- Submit information annually on the number of resolved and unresolved complaints, number of lines in each class of service and the requirement to notify the Public Utilities Commission of changes.

A complete report of the telecom related laws passed in the last session is available on the MTA Web site. To view, [click here](#).

Its Now Illegal to Text While Driving

Starting today, Minnesotans caught texting while driving can be fined for violating a new law. The new law is just one of several telecom related laws passed in the last session that takes effect August 1, 2008. The penalty for violating this provision is a petty misdemeanor.

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](#).

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Weekly Bulletin editor:
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FCC Rejects Qwest Request for Price Deregulation

The Federal Communications Commission this week denied petitions by Qwest for relief from network sharing and other obligations in Minnesota and three other Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), according to media reports. The ruling means competitors who lease lines from Qwest will see no increase in the current wholesale prices. The FCC said Qwest did not provide sufficient evidence to warrant regulatory relief. Qwest said it faced enough competition from cable and wireless competitors to be granted relief from pricing constraints. In addition to Minneapolis, the other three MSAs are Denver, Phoenix and Seattle. The FCC had earlier granted Qwest request for pricing deregulation in Omaha due to competition. [Read more](#)

Early Termination Suit Goes Against Sprint

A California judge ruled this week that Sprint violated state law by charging a cancellation fee for customers who cancelled their service before the contract expired and ordered the company to pay \$18.3 million in cash to former customers. The major cellular providers have been lobbying the FCC for federal regulation that would preempt states' rights on the early termination issue. [Read more](#)

FCC Orders Comcast to Stop Blocking Internet Traffic

The FCC today ordered Comcast to stop blocking Internet traffic but did not fine the nation's largest cable company, according to media outlets. The FCC said the company has been specifically blocking or slowing traffic to per-to-per sites like BitTorrent. Comcast says its practices are reasonable and the FCC's so-called network-neutrality "principles" are part of a policy statement and are not enforceable rules, according to the Minneapolis StarTribune. [Read More](#)

Qwest Now Offering Verizon Wireless Services

Qwest is now offering Verizon Wireless services to all new residential and business customers in its residential service area, according to a release on the company's Web site. Through the five-year agent agreement announced earlier this year, new Qwest customers can now purchase Verizon Wireless products and services, including handsets, smartphones and BlackBerry devices, as well as high-speed wireless broadband services for e-mail, Internet access and multimedia services, such as mobile music and video. The company is ending its contract with Sprint to provide its wireless services to Qwest customers. [Read more](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

AUGUST 1: FCC FORM 499-Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: All telecommunications common carriers that contribute to federal Universal Service Fund support mechanisms must file this quarterly form. The form covers revenue information from the prior quarter plus projections for the next quarter.

AUGUST 1: FCC FORM 502, NUMBER UTILIZATION REPORT: Any wireline or wireless carrier that has been assigned an NXX code (10,000 numbers) or one or more 1,000 number blocks; and any wireline or wireless carrier that has received from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) or from another carrier one or more 1,000 number

blocks must file this form.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Aug. 5: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Service Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 11: Pinnacle's Telecom Industry Appreciation Golf Day, Wapicada Golf Club, St. Cloud

Aug. 13: MTA Safety Committee, Benton Cooperative Telephone Company, Rice, 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 14: MTA Centennial Committee conference call, 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 18: MTA Board of Directors, Brainerd, 9:00 a.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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