



Weekly BULLETIN

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PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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

[Save These Dates](#)

[Telco Marketing](#)

August 15, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Strong Agenda for Customer Service Group's Event

Do you want to learn how to handle an emotional person before the situation gets out of control? How about successful methods for collecting bad debt? If these topics interest you plan on attending the MTA Customer Service Group's Fall Conference. The one-day event is September 17, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Maple Grove. For more details, [click here](#).

Registration Open for Marketing Group Conference

Marketing professionals will gather in Detroit Lakes from September 10-12 for the MTA Telco Marketing Group's Summer Conference. Attendees will learn how to use statistics to design their sales campaigns and hear a comparison of marketing strategies for a small town versus a big city. The agenda for the event includes 'Marketing by the Numbers' and 'Big Town-Small Town Marketing Comparison'. The annual event at Fair Hills Resort in Detroit Lakes gets under way at 3:00 p.m. with a nine-hole golf outing at Wildflower Golf Course, followed by a social gathering at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and concludes at noon on Friday. The cost for MTA members is \$100. The agenda and registration form is available on the [MTA web site](#) (scroll down to bottom of page). If you need to reset your user name and password [click here](#). For more on the conference, contact [Paul Solsrud](#).

Last Call to Be Included in the Picture Book

Time is running out for companies to join the Centennial Club. The Centennial Committee will soon finalize the list of members that will be included in the centennial picture book. The book is nearing the final stage for including pages. Therefore, the opportunity to join the Club will close soon without much notice. Therefore, if you plan to join the Club now is the time. We currently have 84 companies 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

Group Conference

Sept. 10th -12th
Fair Hills Resort
Detroit Lakes

MTA Customer Service Peer Group Fall Conference

September 17, 2008
Hilton Garden Inn,
Maple Grove, MN

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

Americans drove 12.1 billion fewer miles in June than the same month a year ago, according to the Federal Highway Administration. That's a 4.7 percent decline.

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.

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](#).

At 100th Annual Convention Performers Wanted for Historical Presentation

Do you have acting or professional voice service experience? Do you know someone who does? The MTA is looking for a few volunteers to take part in the opening historical presentation to kick off the centennial convention on March 2, 2009. If you would be willing to participate in the opening historical presentations contact [Mike Nowick](#) at 651-291-7311.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

New CEO at diversiCOM

David Del Zoppo is the new Chief Executive Officer for diversiCOM, effective August 11. He comes to *diversiCOM* from Rural Cellular Corporation where he was responsible for finance and accounting functions. He brings over 30 years of business related knowledge and experience to the diversiCOM companies. "We feel very fortunate to have Dave on board with us and are excited to have him," said Carol Bertram, director of industry relations.

Verizon Reaches Deal With Two Unions

Verizon reached a tentative agreement this week on three-year contracts with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The two unions represent approximately 65,000 employees primarily in the company's Verizon Telecom business group in 10 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states and Washington, D.C. The contracts include wage increases that total 10.5 percent over three years.

Qwest's Largest Union Authorizes Strike

Members of Communications International have voted to authorize a strike if an agreement can't be reached with Qwest, the StarTribune reported this week. The contract for employees of Qwest's largest union expires August 17. Approximately 20,000 workers in 13 states are affected.

Best Buy to Sell iPhone 3G

Best Buy will be the first independent retailer to offer the iPhone 3G. The Minnesota-based company announced this week that it will carry Apple's iPhone 3G in its 670 stores nationwide beginning September 7. That includes the stand alone Best Buy Mobile stores that are now in approximately 15 cities. [Read more](#)

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Vice Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen,
Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

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Moses Dennis

Not A Good Quarter for Broadband Additions

Broadband additions in the second quarter were the fewest of any quarter in the seven years that a research firm has been tracking the industry. According to research released this week by Leichtman Research Group, the twenty largest cable and telephone providers in the US – representing about 94% of the market – acquired 887,000 net additional high-speed Internet subscribers in the second quarter of 2008. These top broadband providers now account for 65.1 million subscribers – with cable companies having 35.3 million broadband subscribers, and telephone companies having over 29.7 million subscribers. [Read more](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

AUGUST 29: COPYRIGHT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS: The Copyright Statement of Accounts form plus royalty payment for the first half of calendar year 2008 (January – June) is due to be filed by August 29 at the Library of Congress' Copyright Office by cable TV service providers.

AUGUST 31: USAC LIFELINE CERTIFICATION: All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) must file with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by August 31, 2008 that the ETC has complied with state Lifeline verification procedures. Minnesota and Wisconsin companies should file a certification; North and South Dakota companies must file a certification and a verification, Iowa companies should file only a verification.

SEPTEMBER 2: FCC FORM 477, LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPETITION AND BROADBAND REPORTING FORM: Facilities-based providers of broadband connections to end user locations must report user data through June 30, 2008.

SEPTEMBER 30: FCC FORM 507, UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE

OCTOBER 1: STATE CERTIFICATION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT: State Public Utility Commissions must certify by October 1, 2008 that eligible rural carriers are using universal service support for the intended purposes. State commissions must file this annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

Aug. 11: Pinnacle's Telecom Industry Appreciation Golf Day

Aug. 13: MTA Safety Committee

Aug. 14: MTA Centennial Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

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

Aug. 25: Legislative Committee meeting, conference call, 2:00 P.M.

Aug. 20: MTA Associate Members Committee, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 2:00 p.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

In Memoriam

Former MTA President **William R. Glaeser**, 83, of Waconia passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 10, surrounded by his family. Bill was the former owner of Western Telephone Company in Springfield. He served as MTA President in 1972. Bill, a retired Carver County attorney, served on the board of directors for Sherburne County Rural Telephone Company from 1989-2006. He was later appointed a lifetime board member by Sherburne when he was named Director Emeritus. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II. He was a founding board member of the Ridgeview Foundation in Waconia. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, boating, flying and woodworking.

He is survived by his loving family: wife Marion; daughter and son-in-law Signe and Tony Hall; and brother Paul Glaeser Jr. A memorial service will be held Friday, August 15, 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 601 East 2nd Street, Waconia. Visitation is one hour before the service. The interment is at the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred. Arrangements by Johnson Funeral Home, Waconia. Memorials and condolences may be sent to: Johnson Funeral Home, 141 1st Street East, Waconia, Minnesota 55387. The contact number for the funeral home is 952-442-2121.

Bob, Good Luck!

Bob Gannon has resigned as general manager of **Blackduck Telephone Company**, effective August 15, 2008. He has accepted a position as the GM of WesTel Systems in Remsen Iowa. Gannon served on the MTA Board of Directors and chaired the Marketing and Communications Committee. Good luck, Bob.

Olsen Thielen On the Move

Olsen Thielen is moving to a larger office in Roseville after 37 years in Little Canada. The certified public accounting firm's new address, effective August 25, is: 2675 Long Lake Road, St. Paul, MN 55113-117. The main phone numbers are 651-483-4521 and (fax) 651-483-2467.

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