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

August 29, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### [Honoring Bishop, Clay and Lien](#)

#### **Deadline Next Week for Retirement Celebration**

If you haven't sent in your RSVP for the golf and dinner to celebrate the careers of John Bishop, Walt Clay and Herb Lien, you should do so by September 4. The event will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at Kimball Golf Club, 11823 County Road 150, Kimball, Minnesota. The event gets under way with a 11:30 a.m. luncheon, followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. For non-golfers, the social hour and dinner begin at 5:30 p.m. For more, contact [Joanne Stowell](#).

#### **Power Limited Training Course Coming In September**

The next Power Limited training course will be held September 18, 2008, at Lakedale Telephone Company in Annandale. It will cover the code, the law and related technical topics. This course will fulfill the requirement for 8 hours of continuing education that is required for Power Limited license holders whose current license has an effective date prior to December 1, 2007. It will fulfill one half of the 16 hour requirement for Power Limited license holders whose current license has an effective date of December 1, 2007 or later.

This course is designed for telecom personnel. At a cost of \$110, it is a cost efficient way to meet the Department of Labor and Industry's requirement. For more, contact [Eric Monsos](#)

#### **Safety Training Sessions Scheduled**

The MTA Safety Program this week notified member companies of the schedule for safety training sessions from September through January 2009. The staff has designed the training based on the anticipated needs of each company. The topics include defensive driving, basics of bucket trucks, heart attack warning signs and identify theft. Contact [Eric Monsos](#) if you have any questions.

mail ([info@mnta.org](mailto:info@mnta.org)) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

### [Save These Dates](#)

#### **[MTA Telco Marketing Group Conference](#)**

Sept. 10-12, 2008  
Fair Hills Resort  
Detroit Lakes

#### **[MTA Customer Service Group Conference](#)**

September 17, 2008  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Maple Grove

#### **[MTA Office Managers Group Conference](#)**

September 24-26, 2008  
Best Western-Kelly Inn  
St. Cloud

#### **[MTA Fall Conference October 9-10, 2008](#)**

Northland Inn  
Brooklyn Park

### **[Stat of the Week](#)**

More than 1.2 billion pages and 72 million video streams were viewed through Saturday on NBCOlympics.com, which more than doubles the combined Internet viewing audience of both the 2004 and 2006 Games.

### **[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](mailto:info@mnta.org) and we'll add them to the list.

### [Reprinted from Last Week](#)

#### **[Good News: Dues to Remain the Same for 2009](#)**

The MTA Board of Directors has set the dues for 2009. All classes for members will remain at the same level as 2008. For Active Members, that means that the same formula used to calculate dues for 2008 will be used again for 2009. There may be slight increases or decreases to individual member dues because of changes in the company's Minnesota revenues or access lines. There will not be a "MART" surcharge for those members that had been MART members before the merger and had also been paying MART dues in the past.

#### **[Reserving a Spot for You at Office Managers Conference](#)**

'Managing by the Numbers' and 'Hiring the Right People' are just two of the interesting topics on the agenda for the upcoming MTA Office Managers Fall Conference. The conference is September 24-26, 2008 at the Best Western-Kelly Inn, St. Cloud. For the complete agenda and registration form [click here](#). If you need to reset your user name and password [click here](#).

Contact [Christie Turn](#) if you have any questions.

#### **[Time to Register for Customer Service Conference](#)**

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](#).

#### **[Accepting Registration for Marketing Conference](#)**

Attendees at the upcoming Telco Marketing Group's summer conference 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. This year's conference 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](#).

#### **[Jones Seeking Seat on NECA Board](#)**

Roger W. Jones, CPA, partner in Kiesling Associates in West Des Moines, Iowa, is a candidate for the National Exchanges Carriers Association's Board of Directors outside director position. Roger has spent his career working with independent telephone companies. Roger is very knowledgeable in telephone finance and regulatory matters. He understands revenue and cash flow requirements of small rural telephone companies and the current issues facing NECA member companies. Jones has prepared testimony and testified before state public service commissions on various regulatory matters. NECA will be mailing ballots to member companies on Sept. 2, 2008.

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

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### No Change In Roaming Rules

There appears to be no change in the cellular roaming rules now that Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin has withdrawn his proposal. According to media reports, Chairman Martin had proposed guaranteeing that carriers who owned unused spectrum could continue roaming for four years before they lost roaming rights. The issue is whether cellular companies should be allowed to roam in areas where they own airwaves but haven't built networks, the New York Times reported. Chairman Martin withdrew the proposal last week because there was no agreement with other commissioners. [Read more...](#)

### FCC Report: Broadcasters Ready for Digital Transition

A report on the status of the digital build out by full power television broadcasters by the FCC's Media Bureau shows that over 96 percent of active full power television stations are either fully operational with digital service or are on track to have their full digital service operational by February 17, 2009. [Read more...](#)

### Frontier Considering Caps on Internet Use

Frontier Communications is strongly considering limiting download use to 5GB a month. According to media reports, the company may charge extra for those who exceed that cap. The company's new policy sets 5GB as a "reasonable amount of usage" for both uploading and downloading from the Internet. Other larger companies are testing similar limits on bandwidth use. [Read more...](#)

### AT&T Offering Tech Support Service

AT&T announced last week that it will offer technical support on devices other than its own. The service, known as AT&T ConnectTech, will provide in-home tech service for "virtually all" electronics from installation of home theater systems to computer repair starting at \$99. The plan will serve not only AT&T customers, but non-AT&T customers as well and will be available in all 50 states. [Read more...](#)

#### [Reprinted form Last Week](#)

### FCC Coming to Minnesota To Promote DTV Transition

Federal Communication Commissioners will be in Duluth and the Metro Twin Cities area on February 17, 2009 to increase awareness about the upcoming transition to digital television. According to an FCC release, the Commission identified target television markets for specific DTV outreach, including all markets in which more than 100,000 households or at least 15 percent of the households rely solely on over-the-air signals for television. [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. 25:** MTA Legislative Committee

### **Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events**

**Sept. 9:** MTA Regulatory, Tariffs and Services Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

**Sept. 9:** MTA Centennial Committee, conference call, 2:00 p.m.

**Sept: 10-12:** MTA Telco Marketing Group Conference, Fair Hills, Detroit Lakes

**Sept. 17:** MTA Customer Service Group Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Maple Grove

**Sept. 18:** Retirement Golf Day & Dinner, Kimball Golf Club, Kimball

**Sept: 24-26:** MTA Office Managers meeting, Best Western – Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

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

## **PEOPLE & COMPANIES**

### **In Memorial**

The MTA sends its condolences to **Joan Miller**, chief marketing officer for **Polar Communications** in Park River, ND. Her husband, Ian Miller, 35,

died on Sunday, August 24 due to a farm accident. Joan and Ian have two children, daughter Maris Kate, 7 and son Emmitt Ian, 3. Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 28. Send your condolences to Joan at: P.O. Box 263, Park River, ND, 58270

**MTA Wants Your Releases!** Is the MTA on your distribution list for news releases? We want to share your news with fellow members. Active and associate member companies are urged to send their news releases to [mdennis@mnta.org](mailto:mdennis@mnta.org).

