



# Weekly BULLETIN

## This Week's Headlines

Online Registration Open for MTA Fall Conference

Power Limited Training Course Coming In September

You Can Still Register for Marketing Conference

Time to Register for Customer Service Conference

Hiring, Managing On the Agenda for Office Managers Conference

Be Aware of Phishing Sites Targeting Utilities

FCC May Eliminate Antiquated Regulations

### FCC & Regulatory Filings

### INDUSTRY CALENDAR

### PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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

September 5, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### Online Registration Open for MTA Fall Conference

Economic uncertainty, the changing political climate and continuing industry mergers and acquisitions are indications that **'the times are a changing.'** These shifts are creating new challenges and opportunities for today's telecommunications managers. To survive and prosper in these uncertain times requires a new look at how we manage the resources we use to provide telecom services.

The MTA takes a closer look at the forces driving these changes at this year's MTA Fall Conference, October 9-10, 2008, at the Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park.

In keeping with the theme, **'the times are a changing'**, the topics planned include: opportunities during times of high energy costs; making your telecom more efficient; and useful workforce management tips.

The MTA has made it fast and easy to register for this year's event. The online registration takes less than five minutes to complete. For more details and registration, [click here](#).

### Power Limited Training Available this Month

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](#)

**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**

The jobless rate was 6.1 percent last month, up from 5.7 percent in July, the Labor Department said today. It is the highest unemployment rate in five years, and compares to joblessness of 4.1 percent one year ago.

**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@mmta.org](mailto:info@mmta.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

**You Can Still Register 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](#).

**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](#).

**Office Managers Conference**

**Hiring, Managing On the Agenda**

Whether its hiring or managing, you'll find it covered at 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.

**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

**Be Aware of Phishing Sites Targeting Utilities**

The Federal Communications Commission says it has received complaints about official looking government Web sites set up to misdirect companies seeking to submit their regulatory fee payments. The complainants say these non-government websites are attempting to collect financial information. The FCC is urging regulatory fee payers to make any Internet payments directly through the Commission's authorized Internet website. Payment may be submitted electronically at [www.fcc.gov/feefiler](http://www.fcc.gov/feefiler).

**FCC May Eliminate Antiquated Regulations**

In an effort to eliminate outdated regulations, the FCC today is expected to approve a request from AT&T to stop filing reports on service quality, customer satisfaction and infrastructure investments, according to the Wall Street Journal. The business daily reported that the agency is expected to take up similar requests from Qwest and Verizon.

**Comcast Files Law Suit Against the FCC**

Comcast is challenging in court the FCC's authority to regulate how it manages Internet, according to an article in the New York Times. Last month the FCC sanctioned but did not fine the nation's largest cable

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Moses Dennis

company for slowing peer-to-peer traffic. Comcast said it was simply managing its network. The company filed suit Thursday in the United States Court of Appeals in Washington. [Read more...](#)

**Comcast also announced** this week that starting Oct. 1, it will cap customers bandwidth at 250-gigabytes a month. [Read more...](#)

## FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

**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

### 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

**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).

## MTA Fall Conference Sponsors

Thanks to these supportive companies for their sponsorships of the MTA Fall Conference.

**Afternoon Break** -- Midwest Data, LLC and Stellar Billing

**Reception** -- Dorsey & Whitney LLP

**Breakfast** -- Moss & Barnett and Onvoy Voice Services

**Morning Break**-- Finley Engineering and Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.

**Morning Break** -- Calix and Farmers Union Insurance

