



This Week's Headlines

Proposed Settlement Agreement Sent to Qwest

Speaker Uses Magic, Juggling to Deliver Message

Power Limited Training Course Coming In September

You Can Still Attend Customer Service Conference

Strong Agenda for Office Managers Conference

Telcos Must Comply With Red Flag Rules

N.C. Area Stations Broadcasting Only In Digital

Web site Access?

If you need to reset your user name and password to access information in the "members only" section of the MTA Web site, [click here](#).

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People*

September 12, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Proposed Settlement Agreement Sent to Qwest

The Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, Intercarrier Compensation Task Force has completed a proposed settlement agreement that would bring closure to a complaint filed by the MTA against Qwest. The complaint filed in 2004 with the PUC (Docket No. P-421/C-04-200) called certain practices and procedures of Qwest into account in an attempt to reduce the amount of "phantom traffic" occurring in Minnesota. The MTA and Qwest have reached an interim settlement agreement and have been working since with an Administrative Law Judge to permanently resolve the outstanding complaint.

Bill Vandersluis, Intercarrier Compensation Task Force Chair said highlights of the task force settlement proposal include the following key elements:

- MTA ILECs will support Qwest's withdrawal from 1+ toll service in Minnesota ILEC markets provided Qwest compensates for any costs incurred by ILECs;
- Qwest provides TABS records (for Qwest terminating toll) and Wireline Transit records at no cost;
- Written standards are established for TABS and Transit records;
- A continued process is provided to monitor records provided by Qwest for access billing, mitigation of phantom traffic and a mandated procedure to resolve billing or phantom traffic issues; and
- A dispute resolution procedure allowing disputes to go to a simplified arbitration.

The task force is currently awaiting a response from Qwest to the proposed settlement agreement.

[Fall Conference](#)

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

Save These Dates

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, according to the Labor Department. 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@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

Speaker Uses Magic, Juggling to Deliver Message

The keynote speaker for the upcoming MTA Fall Conference is Tim Cimbura, a professional speaker and entertainer who resides in Minnesota. The "Child at Heart" is the title but the presentation is far from being childish. Through the presentation he motivates, inspires, and entertains while instructing the audience on the principals they can learn from children that are critical to success in the work world and at home. He uses humor, magic and juggling to engage the audience from start to finish.

This year's MTA Fall Conference is 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](#).

MTA Fall Conference

Schedule at a Glance

October 9th

Noon – 1:00 p.m. ...Registration
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.....Program
4:30 p.m..... Adjourn
4:45 p.m.....Networking Reception

October 10th

7:45 – 8:30 a.m.....Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon...Program
12:00 noon.....Adjourn

Room Block Now Open for Fall Conference

The Northland Inn has reserved a block of rooms for the MTA Fall Conference, Oct. 9-10, 2008. The MTA Fall Conference group rate is \$134.00. Rooms fill fast so don't delay, reserve your room today. For online hotel reservations, [click here](#).

MTA Committees Assignments Now Complete

The MTA Committees have been filled and is now available on the MTA Web site. To view the committees, [click here](#) and follow link at top of page.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Power Limited Training Next Week

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.

here to [unsubscribe](#).

© copyright 2008,
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen,
Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

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](#)

You Can Still Attend Customer Service Conference

If you act fast, you can still reserve a seat for next week's MTA Customer Service Group's Fall Conference. Attendees will learn how to handle an emotional person before the situation gets out of control. Also on the agenda is a presentation on successful methods for collecting bad debt. The one-day event is September 17, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Maple Grove. For more details, [click here](#).

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

REGULATORY UPDATE

Telcos Must Comply With Red Flag Rules

All telecommunication companies must comply with new identity theft Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regulations (Red Flag rules) by November 1, 2008. The FTC requires creditors to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs as part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. Telecommunication companies are included in the definition of creditor. Creditors must have programs in place by November 1 that provide for the identification, detection, and response to patterns, practices, or specific activities (Red Flags) that could indicate identity theft. The written program must be approved, updated periodically and managed by the Board of Directors or a designated employee in its administration. The FTC's Red Flag rules are separate from the FCC's Customer Proprietary Network (CPNI) requirements.

A seminar for telcos on the new Red Flag rules will be presented by Olsen-Thielen as part of the MTA Office Managers meeting on September 25th. More information is available on the FTC's Web site. To access, [click here](#).

INDUSTRY UPDATE

N.C. Area Stations Broadcasting Only In Digital

Television broadcasters in the five-county Wilmington, N.C., television market began broadcasting only digital signals on Monday, September 8, 2008. The Federal Communications Commissioners and staff were on hand for the first transition to digital television in the nation. The DTV transition for the rest of the country will not take place until February 17, 2009. [More](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

SEPTEMBER 30: FCC FORM 507, UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE: First quarter ILEC line counts due to USAC; High Cost Loop, 2008–2 forms and certification due to NECA

SEPTEMBER 30: FCC FORM 492, RATE OF RETURN: Filing due to FCC

SEPTEMBER 30: FCC FORM 159, REMITTANCE ADVICE

SEPTEMBER 30: FCC FORM 396c, MVPD EEO PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

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).

OCTOBER 20: FCC FORM 497, LIFELINE & LINK UP WORKSHEET: Filing due to USAC

OCTOBER 31: FCC FORM 499Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: Filing due to USAC

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

Sept. 9: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs and Services Committee

Sept. 9: MTA Centennial Committee

Sept: 10-12: MTA Telco Marketing Group Conference

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Sept. 17-18: 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.

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

