



This Week's Headlines

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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](#).

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PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or

September 19, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Seeking Candidates for Scholarship Foundation Board

A new foundation is being set up to administer the MTA's scholarship program. The MTA Board of Directors is seeking candidates from both active and associate members to serve on this board. The board will serve as the fiduciary of the program and raise funds to finance the program. For years the MTA has added an extra \$5.00 to the annual convention fees to finance the scholarship fund. That will continue under the new scholarship program. The new scholarship program will team up with our active member companies to promote the scholarship program in high schools within their service areas. Approximately \$9,000.00 has been given away annually to assist students pursuing telecommunications related educations. It is planned that that amount will continue to be given away to students pursuing information technology, telecommunications, math or science studies and have an interest in rural areas after graduation. If you would like more information or want to be considered for appointment to the scholarship foundation board, please contact Mike Nowick. Considerations will be accepted until October 3.

[At MTA Fall Conference](#)

Professor Discusses the Blogging Phenomenon

Blogging is fast becoming one of the most popular communication tools for sharing opinions and obtaining feedback. So, what is behind this growth and what are the benefits to businesses? You'll find out when John Logie, professor of writing studies at the University of Minnesota, presents 'The Blogging Phenomenon' at the MTA Fall Conference.

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

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](#)

About one-fifth of all U.S. households will rely solely on wireless-phone service by the end of this year, according to a new Nielsen Mobile study

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.

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www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
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online registration takes less than five minutes to complete. For more details and registration, [click here](#).

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. For online hotel reservations, [click here](#).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Office Managers Conference Next Week

'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

Glahn Replaces Garvey As Dep. Commissioner of Commerce

Bill Glahn is the new Director of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security and Deputy Commissioner of Commerce. He was appointed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty and assumed his position in early September. Glahn, the founder of energy consulting firm Piedmont Consulting, replaced Ed Garvey.

USF Contribution Set for 4th Quarter

The Universal Service Fund (USF) contribution factor for the fourth quarter of 2008 has been proposed at 11.4%. If the FCC commissioners take no action on the proposal by the FCC's Office of Managing Director within 14 days it will be deemed granted.

In Case You Missed It

[Reprinted from Last Week](#)

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.

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

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

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](#).

Reprinted from last Week

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.

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. 17-18: MTA Customer Service Group Conference

Sept. 18: Retirement Golf Day & Dinner

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

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, Interstate Telcom consulting Inc.

and Farmers Union Insurance

