



Weekly BULLETIN

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](#).

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People*

September 26, 2008

MTA UPDATE

The Economy Will Be On Agenda at Fall Conference

With the current economic crisis in the news, you don't want to miss the presentation by Terry Fitzgerald, an economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, on the second day of the MTA Fall Conference. The title of his presentation is: 'Has Middle America Stagnated?' After his address, Fitzgerald will answer questions on the state of the economy in Minnesota and the nation.

This year's event 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: blogging; a presentation by the new Public Utilities Commission chairman David Boyd; and useful workforce management tips.

Once again, 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](#).

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

Retirement Celebration Photos Online

The MTA celebrated the careers of John Bishop, Walt Clay and Herb Lien with a golf outing and dinner. More than 50 industry leaders attended the event on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at Kimball Golf Club, Kimball, Minnesota. To view the photos online, [click here](#).

REGULATORY UPDATE

FCC Releases Report On Local Competition

Local phone companies had approximately 129.7 million switched access lines in service at the end of 2007. That is one of the interesting facts in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) latest report on local telephone service competition in the United States. The report is based on information local telcos and other telecommunications providers file with the Commission twice a year (FCC Form 477). The report also revealed there

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

[Save These Dates](#)

**MTA Fall Conference
October 9-10, 2008**
Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park

[Stat of the Week](#)

Residents in the Twin Cities have requested 575,000 coupons for the digital converter boxes in preparation for the switch from analog TV to digital in 2009. Source: National Telecommunications & Information Administration.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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were 249.2 million cellular customers and 28.7 million competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) lines in use at the end of last year. [More](#)

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Residents Preparing for Switch to Digital TV

Nearly 21 percent of the households in Minnesota use older TVs with antennas to get analog signal, according to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The daily newspaper reported that 93 percent of Minnesotans are aware of the planned switch from analog to digital signals in February 2009. Statewide, consumers have requested 575,000 coupons from the government to purchase the digital converters to make the analog TVs work after the conversion. [More](#)

Another Million Needed to Finish City's Wi-Fi Network

Minneapolis will spend \$1 million to repair the dead spots in its Wi-Fi network, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported this week. The city will install stronger light poles that can support the Wi-Fi network's radios. The decorative light poles in the three dead spots around the city couldn't handle the weight of radios. [More](#)

AT&T's New Home Phone has Wireless Features

AT&T this week introduced a new phone for the home that combines access to Internet content and popular wireless phone applications with traditional home phone service. AT&T said in a release that HomeManager, the brand name for the phone, offers Internet access as well as visual voice mail, weather reports, e-mail access and local news content on the wireline phone. As part of its initial launch, the phone is available in nine AT&T markets but not the Twin Cities. [More](#)

Verizon Offering Month-to-Month Service

Verizon Wireless is now offering service on a month-to-month basis for customers who don't want a long term contract. Customers can purchase new devices at full-retail price, or use their own devices without the commitment of a one- or two-year contract, according to a company news release. Additionally, customers can terminate their agreement at the end of any month without paying an early termination fee. [More](#)

Comcast Files Broadband Traffic Management Plan

Comcast has submitted plans to the Federal Communications Commission detailing how it plans to manage its broadband network, according to media reports. The company will no longer target specific types of peer-to-peer file sharing traffic. Under the new plan, Comcast said it will slow Internet speeds for its heaviest users at peak times when its network is congested. Comcast, the country's second-largest broadband provider, has been testing the method in five markets for the past three months and says it has heard no complaints from subscribers in those markets. [More](#)

In Case You Missed It

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

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

[Reprinted From Last Week](#)

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. 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.

[Reprinted From Last Week](#)

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.

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: 24-26: MTA Office Managers meeting

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

- Oct. 1:** MTA Legislative Committee conference call, 2:00 p.m.
- Oct. 2:** MTA Video Peer Group meeting, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 9:** MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee meeting, location to be determined, 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 9:** MTA Board of Directors meeting, Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park 9:00 a.m.
- Oct. 9 - 10:** MTA Fall Conference, Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Mary Leiran has joined **Midwest Data** as a Sr. CABS analyst. She has over 20 years of experience in CABS billing, message processing, conversions, and testing. Mary's experience includes over 10 years as the CABS/IT Manager and other positions with Ollig Utilities in Ada, MN.

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, John Staurulakis, Inc.
and Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.

Morning Break – Calix, Interstate Telcom consulting Inc.
and Farmers Union Insurance

