



#### This Week's Headlines

Still Time to Display Your Company In Pictures

Committee Members Rave About Picture Book

MTA Accepting Bids for New Web Site

Registration Info Now Available for Video Forum

Martin Wants to Overhaul Intercarrier Compensation

Qwest Reaches Deal With CWA Union

#### Contact Us

The new phone numbers for MTA staff members are: Randy Young, CEO and president, 651.288-3724; Mike Nowick, director of member services, 651.288-3723; Moses Dennis, communications manager, 651.288-3726; Gerry Steele, manager of member services,

October 17, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### [At Centennial Convention](#)

#### **Still Time to Display Your Company In Pictures**

More than 20 members have signed up to display their company photos in a commemorative frame at the MTA Centennial Convention in March 2009. All MTA member companies, particularly associate members, are urged to prepare a framed portrait depicting their company's past and present. These portraits will be displayed at the centennial convention in a portrait gallery. The MTA will provide the participating member with an engraved plate with the inscription for inclusion with the portrait. The inscription will read: Minnesota Telecom Alliance, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2009. The deadline for notifying the MTA of your company's plans to participate is Nov. 14, 2008. To be included, send an e-mail to [Joanne Stowell](mailto:Joanne.Stowell@mta.org) indicating your interest in being a part of history.

### **Committee Members Rave About Picture Book**

The MTA Centennial Committee members this week gave four thumbs up to the new centennial picture book, "A Century of Connections." After more than a year in the making, the commemorative centennial picture book has been printed and is now available for ordering. The photo filled, 126 paged, hard cover book was prepared to commemorate the centennial convention in 2009. Written by Minnesota author Dave Kenney, the book is arranged by decades and highlights the people, companies, technology and events that affected the progression of the telecommunications industry. It's filled with photos contributed by member companies. Current active member companies are listed along with their founding date. The book contains the group photo taken at last year's MTA convention. Other members are included in the book as members in the Centennial Club. To obtain an order form, [click here](#).

### **MTA Accepting Bids for New Web Site**

The MTA has prepared request for proposals (RFP) for the design and implementation of a new Web site. The new Web site will incorporate the best of the MART and current MTA Web sites. MTA members will have the opportunity to bid on the project. To obtain a copy of the RFP, contact MTA President/CEO [Randy Young](#) or [Moses Dennis](#), communications manager.

### **Fall Conference Presentations Available Online**

Copies of the material presented at the MTA Fall Conference last week

651.288-3725; Joanne Stowell, events planning manager, 651.288-3721; and Shari Gensch, 651.288-3731. The main MTA number and fax number are still 651.291-7311 and 651.291-2795 respectively.

#### ***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 & Companies*? Send an e-mail ([info@mnta.org](mailto:info@mnta.org)) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

#### ***Stat of the Week***

Half of all Internet users in the U.S. ages 12 to 64 watch at least one video a week and 10 % watch every day. Source: Advertising Age

#### **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

are now available online. To access the information, [click here](#).

## **EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Registration Info Now Available for Video Forum**

The agenda and registration information for the MTA Video Forum is now available on the MTA Web site. The event is Nov. 18-19, at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. Matt Polka, president and CEO of the American Cable Association, will deliver the keynote presentation. The event, sponsored by the MTA Video Peer Group, gets under way with a kickoff luncheon at noon on Nov. 18. The topics to be addressed include operating video on demand systems, options for local content programming, advertising inserts, pending Federal Communications Commission issues and a roundtable discussion. The second day begins with a breakfast and adjourns at noon.

Hotel reservations can be made now at the Arrowwood Resort. The MTA group rate is \$94. Call 866-386-5260 or 320-762-1124 for reservations. Watch this publication and the MTA Web site for registration information.

### **Martin Wants to Overhaul Intercarrier Compensation**

There would be a complete overhaul of the carrier compensation system, the method by which telcos pay each other to connect calls, if the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission gets his way. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin is floating a proposal that is described as a massive overhaul of the system as well as changes in the Universal Service Fund. The major telecom reportedly favors changing the compensation system, saying it is irrational and based on obsolete regulatory distinctions. Chairman Martin wants the proposal on the agenda for a vote on Nov. 4. [More](#)

## **INDUSTRY UPDATE**

### **Qwest Reaches Deal With CWA Union**

Qwest Communications and the Communications Workers of America reached a new tentative agreement for a 4-year contract covering about 20,000 Qwest workers. Results of a ratification vote over the new agreement by Qwest CWA members are expected by Oct. 31. In total, Qwest employs about 35,000 workers. The pact follows the announcement on Sept. 30 that CWA-represented Qwest workers had voted down a tentative agreement reached during normal bargaining by both parties Aug. 17. [More](#)

## **In Case You Missed It**

### ***Reprinted From Last Week***

### **Verizon Willing to Divest More Markets for Alltel Deal**

In an effort to move the acquisition of Alltel forward, Verizon Wireless this week offered to divest 15 additional markets to gain Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval. According to [Arkansas business.com](http://arkansasbusiness.com), the company made the voluntary offer in a letter to the Commission. Minnesota is one of the 15 markets, which also includes

them to the list.

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Weekly Bulletin editor: Moses Dennis

Iowa and Nebraska. [More](#)

## FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

**OCTOBER 20: FCC FORM 497, LOW INCOME QUARTERLY REPORT.** This form, the Lifeline & Link Up Worksheet, must be submitted to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that request reimbursement for participating in the low-income program.

**NOVEMBER 1: FCC FORM 499Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET:** All telecommunications common carriers that expect to contribute more than \$10,000 to federal Universal Service Fund (USF) support mechanisms must file this quarterly form.

**NOVEMBER 1: RED FLAG RULES MUST BE IN PLACE:** Telco board of directors must pass resolution by Nov. 1.

**DECEMBER 30: FCC FORM 507, UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE.**

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

### MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

**Oct. 16:** MTA Centennial Committee meeting

### Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

**Oct. 21-22:** OPASTCO Technical Forum, Mankato

**Oct. 22:** MTA Associate Members Committee meeting, MTA office, 1:00 p.m.

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

## PEOPLE & COMPANIES

**William P. Heaston** has joined **SDN Communications** as business development director. He was formerly director of governmental affairs for Knology.

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