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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

October 24, 2008

MTA UPDATE

MTA Comes Out Against FCC Inter-carrier Comp. Vote

The MTA Board of Directors voted this week to send a [letter](#) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging the agency not to vote on the proposal to overhaul the inter-carrier compensation system on Nov. 4. Local telcos around the nation are coming out strongly against a proposal that would dramatically increase telephone and broadband rates for rural telephone users across the country. That proposal would eventually force local telephone companies to cut back on investment in lines and services, and costing jobs at a time of historic economic crisis. The Coalition for Affordable Communications, comprised of a group of telcos, has set up a Web site that provides information that can be used to write members of Congress and the FCC Commissioners urging them to stop this proposal from being considered. The site contains hot links to elected officials and Commissioners. To access the Web site, [click here](#). To view the letter, [click here](#).

Requesting Ideas for Breakout Session Topics

A request for proposed topics for breakout sessions at the MTA Centennial Convention was sent electronically to association members this week. The 2009 convention is setup to have a total of nine breakout sessions. The sessions will be presented in three time periods with three topics being presented concurrently on Tuesday, March 3 only. Topics selected will be presented once. The MTA Associate Members Convention Committee and the MTA Event Planning Committee will jointly review all entries and select those that will be included in the convention program. Entries must be returned by November 21, 2008. For more details and copy of the entry form, [click here](#). If you have any questions, contact [Mike Nowick](#) via email or call 651.288-3722.

About the Picture Book Cover

They are real Minnesotans, not actors, on the cover of the new centennial picture book, "A Century of Connections." The two gentlemen are Garden Valley Telephone Company retirees Bert Brown, who is on the left, and Anton Bunes. Jill Jantzen, a technician with Pine Island Telephone Company, is in the middle. Brown and Bunes were linemen who began working for the company in the mid-1940s. While little is known about Bunes, Brown turned 90 years old this past May and still lives in Erskine. Jill, a mother of three children, has been with the company for nearly eight years.

member services, 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@mmta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

Stat of the Week

A new study finds that the Internet and cell phones may strengthen family ties. According to a poll, 60 percent of adults said the new technologies did not affect the closeness of their family, while 25 percent said cell phones and online communication made their family closer. Only 11 percent said the technology had a negative effect. Source: Pew Internet and American Life Project.

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. To obtain an order form, [click here](#).

Accepting Bids for New Web Site

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

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Room Block Open for General Managers Meeting

Anyone planning to attend the General Managers Peer Group meeting on Dec. 4 at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park can make their room reservations now. The MTA room block, which has a \$129 rate, will close on Nov. 14. Call 800-441-6422 or go online to register at www.NorthlandInn.com (verify that the online rate the MTA group rate). The registration fee for the event is \$60 and spouses receive a complimentary registration. This will be an afternoon program with an evening reception and dinner. The registration material and agenda will be sent to general managers shortly.

Accepting Registrations 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. For agenda and registration form, [click here](#).

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.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

FTC Delays Enforcement of Red Flag Rules

The Federal Trade Commission will suspend enforcement of the new "Red Flags Rule" until May 1, 2009, to give creditors and financial institutions

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 here to [unsubscribe](#).

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

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

additional time in which to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs. These rules require all MTA member companies to implement procedures and identity theft prevention programs. The deadline was originally set for Nov. 1, 2008. [More](#)

[Telcos Urged to Participate](#) **Announcing the Minnesota Broadband Awards**

Blandin Foundation and ADC Foundation are sponsoring the first annual Minnesota Broadband Awards. The awards will recognize excellence in broadband network deployment and in broadband application adoption. Minnesota telecom providers are encouraged to apply on their own behalf and to make their technology savvy customers aware of these awards. Winners will be eligible for \$2,000 grants for community technology projects. The deadline is Nov. 1, 2008. For application, [click here](#).

[Alltel Merger Could Be Approved by FCC Next Month](#)

The merger between Verizon and Alltel may get the Federal Communications Commission's approval at the next meeting on Nov. 4, according to media outlets. The merger, which would create the nation's largest cellular company, is one of two proposed mergers on the agenda. The other is the proposed merger between Clearwire and Sprint to create a company that plans to create a nationwide WiMax network. [More](#)

[Comcast Brings Faster Broadband to Twin Cities](#)

Comcast has doubled its broadband speed for Internet services in the Twin Cities, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported this week. The Twin Cities is the first market in the nation to get Comcast's fastest broadband services. The nation's largest cable company increased the download speeds of its 6 megabit-per-second and 8 megabit-per-second services to 12 and 16 megabits per second. There is no additional charge for the faster speeds. The paper said the Twin Cities was chosen because of the updated local infrastructure to handle "ultrabroadband." [More](#)

[Over Broadband Termination Practices](#) **Anoka Resident Files Suit Against Qwest**

Qwest is being sued over its termination practices for broadband service, according to the Wall Street Journal. This is the first known case of a lawsuit related to broadband termination fees. The lawsuit came from two Qwest broadband customers, one of which lives in Anoka. Qwest's termination fees are part of its "price for life" plans, which cost \$30 or more a month for broadband. The two ex-customers were charged \$200 for cancelling their broadband service. Earlier this year several cellular companies faced lawsuits over termination practices for cellular service.

['Google Phone' Available This Week](#)

T-Mobile announced the national availability of the T-Mobile G1 with Google, the first Android-powered mobile phone. The so called "Google phone" has full touch-screen as well as keyboard and comes with dozens of Android applications. As part of the introduction offer, the dozens of applications available on Android Market are free-of-charge for T-Mobile G1 users. [More](#)

In Case You Missed It

[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, 100th 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) indicating your interest in being a part of history.

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

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.

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

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

Oct. 21-22: OPASTCO Technical Forum

Oct. 22: MTA Associate Members Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Oct. 27: MTA Scholarship Foundation, MTA office, 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 27: MTA Legislative Committee Meeting, EMBARQ, 10:00 a.m.

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

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