



This Week's Headlines

MTA Centennial Picture Book



To Order - [Click Here](#)

Pressure Mounts on FCC to Delay the Vote

Officers Elected at First MTA Foundation Meeting

You Can Submit Breakout Sessions Proposals Online

Telcos Urged to Support Broadband Mapping Project

Accepting Advance Orders for Centennial Picture Book

Deadline to Register for Video Forum Near

Next MTA-U Tailored for Service Reps, Technicians

Reserve Your Room for General Managers Meeting

CenturyTel Acquiring EMBARQ

Qwest Reports Lower Earnings, Job Cuts

Pressure Mounts on FCC to Delay the Vote

October 31, 2008

MTA UPDATE

[for Intercarrier Compensation, USF](#) **Pressure Mounts on FCC to Delay the Vote**

After filing comments supporting the Minnesota Independent Coalition's concerns with Federal Communications Commissioner (FCC) Chairman Kevin Martin's proposal, MTA has continued to apply pressure to slow down the process. The MTA is recommending the FCC take a more deliberative and prudent approach to changes in the intercarrier compensation mechanism and the Universal Service Fund. Thanks to the efforts of MTA member companies, Congressmen Jim Oberstar (D-MN), Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Tim Walz (D-MN) signed on to a letter circulated by Congressman Rick Boucher (D-VA) and Lee Terry (R-NE) that was delivered to the FCC calling for a more open process and urging "the Commission to put the full proposal on record and seek public comment for a period of at least two months." On the Senate side, Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) has signed a similar letter and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) has sent a separate letter. Thanks goes out to MTA members who put forth a lot of effort in securing this congressional support and to those members of the Minnesota congressional delegation who joined MTA in seeking a more open process at the FCC.

The Coalition for Affordable Communications, comprised of a group of small and medium size telcos, has set up a Web site that provides information that can be used to write members of congress and the FCC Commissioners. The site contains hot links to elected officials and Commissioners. To access the Web site, [click here](#).

Officers Elected at First MTA Foundation Meeting

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation used its first meeting this week to get organized by electing members of the board of directors and officers.

It elected Allen Arvig, Kevin Beyer, Bob Eddy, Mary Ehmke, Joy Gullikson, Steve Katka, Ken Knuth, Glenn Miller and George Wikstrom directors. Officers will be Bob Eddy, chair, Steve Katka, vice chair and Mike Nowick, secretary and treasurer. Mike Nowick was also named executive vice president.

The foundation board took action to incorporate itself; approved the actions of legal counsel to execute the incorporation; completed the

Cox To Offer Wireless Services

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, 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

Qwest Communications is cutting 1,200 jobs, which represents 3percent of its

IRS tax exemption application and adopted bylaws, a conflict of interest policy, a fiscal year and a banking resolution. It also adopted the scholarship program. Its next action will be to prepare the scholarship application forms, a publicity program and plan to educate members on how the program will operate.

You Can Submit Breakout Sessions Proposals Online

It has never been easier to submit ideas for breakout session topics for the MTA convention. This year associate members can go online to complete the form and submit electronically. A request for proposed topics for breakout sessions at the MTA Centennial Convention was sent electronically to association members last 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.

Telcos Urged to Support Broadband Mapping Project

As a result of legislation that was passed last session by the state legislature, Minnesota is beginning a process to develop a statewide digital map that will display where broadband is located in the state. This will be a valuable asset to policy-makers and the public, as well as broadband providers. Connected Nation and its newly created affiliate, Connect Minnesota, have been selected as the vendor that will be collecting the data and producing the maps. The MTA Board of Directors has reviewed the project and is encouraging our member companies to fully participate in the mapping project by providing Connect Minnesota with the data that they will be requesting. MTA member telcos will be receiving a mailing shortly with more information on the project as well as a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Connect Minnesota in order to protect the confidentiality of the data.

It is very important that policy-makers get a full and accurate picture of the great job that the telecommunications industry has done in Minnesota in deploying broadband (without government mandates) so that future public policy is not based on a false picture of Minnesota's broadband status. The deadline for producing the initial set of maps is February 1, 2009, making the timeframe for responding to Connect Minnesota's request for data very short. MTA looks forward to working with its members and Connect Minnesota in this project. If you have any questions, contact [Randy Young](#) via e-mail or call 651.288.3724.

Accepting Advance Orders for Centennial Picture Book

The new centennial picture book, "A Century of Connections," is now available for advance 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

workforce.

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](#).

© 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

photos contributed by member companies. To obtain an order form, [click here](#).

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline to Register for Video Forum Near

The deadline to sign up for the 2008 MTA Video Forum is only a week away—Nov. 4. The agenda and registration information 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.

Next MTA-U Tailored for Service Reps, Technicians

This year's Winter Session of MTA-U will feature a special seminar on *Designing and Servicing the Home Theatre*. This in-depth 4-hour session will be taught by expert instructors from the Minnesota State Community and Technical College System. We'll also cover several key industry topics to help employees keep pace with industry developments and job expectations. Designed especially for customer service reps and install and repair technicians, this MTA-University program will help employees perform at the highest level. There are several options for attending: December 10 & 11 at the St. Cloud Kelly Inn; and December 12 at the Mankato Best Western. The agenda and registration form is available on the MTA Web site. To access, [click here](#).

Reserve Your Room 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.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

CenturyTel Acquiring EMBARQ

CenturyTel this week reached agreement to acquire EMBARQ in a tax free, stock-for-stock transaction initially valued at \$5.8 billion. The two companies have a combined operating presence in 33 states with approximately eight million access lines and two million broadband customers. The transaction reflects an enterprise value of approximately \$11.6 billion, including the assumption of \$5.8 billion of EMBARQ's debt. Upon closing of the transaction, EMBARQ shareholders are expected to own approximately 66% and CenturyTel shareholders are expected to own approximately 34% of the combined company. [More](#)

Qwest Reports Lower Earnings, Job Cuts

Qwest announced this week that it is eliminating 1,200 jobs after revealing its third quarter earnings was down 93 percent from a year ago. The job reductions, scheduled for the fourth quarter, represent three percent of the company's workforce. The reductions will affect both management and union workers in Minnesota where the company has 3,900 employees, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune. A call center in downtown St. Paul will be eliminated as part of the reductions, the St Paul Pioneer Press reported. The Denver-based phone company, the country's third-largest, earned \$151 million, or 9 cents per share, in the three months that ended Sept. 30. [More](#)

Cox To Offer Wireless Services

Cox Communications is entering the wireless market in 2009, according to a company news release. The nation's third largest cable company said it will utilize the nationwide Sprint network for a quick entry into the market. At the same time, Cox said it will build its own 3G network for additional market launches in 2009. The company owns several wireless spectrums it purchased from in FCC auctions. [More](#)

In Case You Missed It

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 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](#)

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. 27: MTA Scholarship Foundation

Oct. 27: MTA Legislative Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Nov. 5: MTA HR Peer Group, Benton Cooperative Telephone Company, Rice, 10:00 a.m.

Nov. 6: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 10: MTA Scholarship Foundation conference call, 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 13: MTA Centennial Committee conference call, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 13: MTA Legislative Committee, MTA office, 1:30 a.m.

Nov. 17: MTA Board of Directors conference call, 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 18: MTA Safety Committee, Arrowwood, Alexandria, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 18- 19: MTA Video Forum, Arrowwood, Alexandria

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA

