



#### This Week's Headlines

#### MTA Centennial Picture Book



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Economic Development to Increase Visibility at MTA

Still Time to Submit Breakout Sessions Proposals

Plant Managers Meeting Coming In December

Next MTA-U Tailored for Service Reps, Technicians

FCC: Delays Big Vote But Plenty of Action At Meeting

AT&T to Put Cap On Internet Usage

#### **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;

November 7, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### **Economic Development to Increase Visibility at MTA**

MTA is creating a group to work on economic development issues that affect our telco members and their communities. For these companies to be viable, their communities must be viable. If the communities understand the economic development opportunities that the networks and services can foster they will be less likely to decide that they need their own infrastructures. In this economic down turn, it is more important than ever to work with communities in maximizing the assets that are already available. If you are interested in working on this issue, contact [Randy Young](#) by email or at 651.288.3724.

### **Still Time to Submit Breakout Sessions Proposals**

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.

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### **Plant Managers Meeting Coming In December**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> bi-annual meeting of the MTA plant managers and superintendents is December 3-4, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. The agenda topics include a presentation from the Office of Pipeline Safety and conclude with an entertaining presentation by James Wedgwood, a comic ventriloquist. For more on the agenda and the registration information, [click here](#).

### **Next MTA-U Tailored for Service Reps, Technicians**

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](mailto:info@mmta.org)) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

### **Stat of the Week**

In Minnesota, an estimated 2.91 million citizens voted on Tuesday or 77.87 percent of eligible voters. That was short of the state record 83 percent turnout of 1956.

### **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

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 is designed for both front office and technicians to help them better understand the interrelation between your company network and your customer's home theatre as well as the sales opportunities that exist there. The course is taught by expert instructors from the Minnesota State Community and Technical College System who have already delivered this training to assist some of your neighboring telcos.

The session will also cover several key industry topics to help employees keep pace with industry developments and job expectations. Designed especially for customer service representatives and Installation 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](#).

## **INDUSTRY UPDATE**

### **FCC: Delays Big Vote But Plenty of Action At Meeting**

The Federal Communications Commission was very active at its meeting this week but the action it didn't take is the big news. After getting pressure from many aspects of the telco industry, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin dropped plans to overhaul the intercarrier compensation system and Universal Service Fund. He received strong opposition from fellow Commissioners, consumer groups, lawmakers and some telco industry groups. [More](#)

**In other action**, the FCC voted to approve Verizon Wireless' acquisition of ALLTEL. The Commission also approved Sprint Nextel plans to combine its WiMax broadband network with that of Clearwire Corp. in a new spinoff company to be called the New Clearwire Corporation. The U.S. Justice Dept. approved the Verizon/ALLTEL deal last week.

In both instances, the Commission placed conditions on the approvals. The companies must voluntarily phase out requests for federal high-cost universal service support; and commit to use counties for measuring compliance with the Commission's wireless E911 location accuracy rules. [More on Sprint Nextel](#). [More on Verizon/ALLTEL](#).

**Also this week**, the FCC adopted rules to allow new, sophisticated wireless devices to operate in unused, unlicensed portions of the broadcast television spectrum known as "white spaces." Tech companies such as Google and Microsoft have been pushing for the Commission to open up the unused spectrum which will become available when the nation transitions from analog to digital television signals in February 2009. The ruling was seen as a blow to the TV broadcast industry which argued that the use of this spectrum will disrupt over the air signals. Several broadcast and entertainment-related groups have raised concerns that use of this spectrum would interfere with existing broadcast channels as well as wireless microphone transmissions. [More](#)

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.

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## AT&T to Put Cap On Internet Usage

AT&T is the latest company to test the idea of limiting the amount of data that customers can use each month, according to media outlets. The company, which is the largest Internet provider, will initially run tests in Reno, Nevada. Based on the results, it could be expanded to other areas. AT&T said that 5 percent of its customers take up 50 percent of the capacity. The company didn't say what action it will take against those who go beyond the caps.

## In Case You Missed It

### [Reprinted from Last Week](#)

### **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.

## FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

**DECEMBER 30:** FCC FORM 507, Universal Service Quarterly Line Count Update

**JANUARY 19:** FCC FORM 497, Low Income Quarterly Report

**FEBRUARY 2:** FCC FORM 499Q, Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

### **MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week**

**Nov. 5:** MTA HR Peer Group

**Nov. 6:** MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee

### **Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events**

**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

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