



This Week's Headlines

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November 14, 2008

MTA UPDATE

MTA Offering All Event Sponsorship Bundle

The MTA has established an additional sponsorship program that allows members to bundle their annual sponsorships rather than being solicited for each individual event. Information on the all events sponsorship program was sent electronically this week to associate members. The program covers all events, such as convention, fall Conference, golf day and various peer group events. The old sponsorship opportunities will continue to be available as well. MTA members will continue to have individual sponsorship opportunities at various levels throughout the year. For more details and sponsorship form, [click here](#).

Deadline Next Week for Breakout Sessions Proposals

The deadline to submit ideas for breakout session topics for the MTA convention is November 21, 2008. 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. 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, Superintendents Meeting in Dec.

Plant managers and superintendents are gathering in St. Cloud in December for their annual meeting. Those with similar job functions are invited to the two-day event December 3-4, 2008 at the Holiday Inn. 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](#).

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) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

Stat of the Week

A recent Nielsen study reported that U.S. consumers now use their cell phones for text messaging more often than for talking.

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.

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MTA Officers: John Finke, Chairman; Robert K. Eddy, Vice

Next MTA-U Covers Home Theatre, Industry Topics

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

St. Louis Park Settles Wi-Fi Dispute

City of St. Louis Park will receive \$1.05 million from ARINC Inc. as part of an agreement to resolve their dispute over a failed wireless broadband network project that ARINC contracted to install. The City will have ownership of the approximately eight miles of fiber, handholes, and conduit installed by ARINC as part of the contract. Also, the city will remove all equipment from all the poles by Jan. 31, 2009 and will begin removing the pole in the spring. The parties' agreement resolves both the city's claims against ARINC and Federal Insurance Company, and ARINC's claims against the city. No party admits wrongdoing and all parties are pleased to have the dispute resolved. [More](#)

CWA Ratify Qwest Agreement

Qwest Communications workers represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) have ratified a tentative agreement reached between the company and the union last month. Key provisions of the latest tentative agreement included wage increases totaling more than 12 percent over the term of the contract, modest changes to health care benefits and an increase in pension benefits for new retirees. On Oct. 10, the CWA and Qwest reached a new agreement on the terms of a proposed four-year contract covering about 20,000 Qwest workers. The agreement followed the CWA's refusal on Sept. 30 to ratify a tentative agreement reached between the company and the union last August. The new contract will expire Oct. 6, 2012. [More](#)

AT&T to Acquire Centennial

AT&T announced this week that it plans to acquire Centennial Communications Corp, a regional provider of wireless and wired communications services, for \$944 million in cash. AT&T said the transaction will enhance its wireless coverage for customers in largely rural areas of the Midwest and Southeast United States and in Puerto Rico

Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen, Secretary-
Treasurer;
Randy Young, President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Centennial has 1.1 million wireless subscribers — many of them in rural areas Centennial also provides switched voice and high-capacity data for business customers in Puerto Rico. [More](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Reprinted from Last Week](#)

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.

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. 10: MTA Scholarship Foundation

Nov. 13: MTA Centennial Committee

Nov. 13: MTA Legislative Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

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

HickoryTech Corporation this week announced it has enhanced its SuiteSolution[®] premier billing software to integrate with ClickIMRS, a workforce scheduling solution. HickoryTech entered into a strategic alliance with ClickSoftware Technologies Ltd. as a certified channel partner to sublicense the product and provide ClickIMRS in North America. ClickSoftware is the leading provider of mobile workforce management and service optimization solutions. [More](#)

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