



### This Week's Headlines

West Central Telephone Hosts Senator Klobuchar

Your Chance to Provide Input On Legislative Initiatives

Registration Info Coming Next Week for 'Day On Hill'

Early Registration Deadline Next Week for Exhibitors

MTA Foundation Granting Scholarships In 2009

HickoryTech Opens New Mankato Data Center

Report Says FCC Chairman Abused His Powers

**Taking Orders for MTA Centennial Picture Book**



To Order - [Click Here](#)

December 12, 2008

## COVER STORY

### [Praises Company's Green Initiatives](#)

#### **West Central Telephone Hosts Senator Klobuchar**

President-elect Barack Obama and Congress are busy developing a plan to lead the nation into sustainable economic recovery with newly created green jobs, infrastructure projects, and greater energy independence. US Senator Amy Klobuchar serves on a number of committees involved with this plan, and is helping lay the groundwork by gathering ideas from Minnesota business leaders, economic development agencies, elected officials and workers with a focus on renewable energy projects. West Central Telephone Association (WCTA) entered the residential renewable energy arena earlier this year with their newest service—Zenergy—and was very pleased to be included in Klobuchar's Main Street Tour.

"As an environmentally conscious company rooted in bringing cutting edge technology and economic development to the communities we serve, West Central strongly supports the green jobs initiative," said Tony Mayer, CEO of WCTA. "West Central is honored to have shared our story with Senator Klobuchar and trust that her support will resonate not only through Minnesota, but across the nation as well."

Klobuchar wanted to see for herself what WCTA has accomplished on the renewable energy forefront. During the 45 minute visit at WCTA headquarters on December 3, WCTA staff and board members shared the story of how the company became involved in renewable energy, and the opportunities they've discovered it can bring to the region. "In our first pilot project alone we identified over twenty business opportunities for our area, from manufacturing to services and administration," said Mayer. The group also shared their observations on which renewable energy government programs are working well, and which could use some redesigning.

---

***"I'm impressed with the work West Central has done, and with their goals to bring green jobs to their communities."***

**Senator Klobuchar**

---

Klobuchar's stop in Sebeka was part of a 5-day, 17 county excursion called the "Main Street Job Tour", focused on visiting with companies that support

## 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***

Today, 85,000 teenagers in Minnesota are using tobacco, 12,000 fewer than three years ago, according to the latest survey by the Minnesota Department of Health. In the past eight years, smoking dropped by 63 percent among middle school students and 41 percent among high school students.

## 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 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

infrastructure and renewable energies. "We all know the economy is in deep trouble," said Klobuchar. "I want to go back to Washington and advocate for this recovery plan based on what we're already doing in Minnesota and what more needs to be done." She added: "Obama's economic recovery plan should be especially good for Minnesota, with his focus on infrastructure and renewable energy. I'm impressed with the work West Central has done, and with their goals to bring green jobs to their communities." The Senator told Mayer that she would like for him to come to Washington, D.C. to address a congressional committee on the innovative work being done by WCTA in renewable energy.

## MTA UPDATE

### Your Chance to Provide Input On Legislative Initiatives

The Legislative Committee is in the process of putting the details onto each of its legislative initiatives for the 2009 Legislative Session. This year, the committee is reaching beyond the membership of the committee to draw in others who are interested in or have some knowledge of any of the issue areas that are being developed. If you would like to serve (a very limited commitment of time) on any of the Issue work groups listed below, please contact [Randy Young](#) at 651-288-3724.

#### 1. Enhancing Broadband Use in Minnesota

- Building code requirement for broadband capable inside wiring
- Tax incentives to telcos and consumers for broadband inside wiring in existing homes and buildings
- State income tax credits for student and telework broadband

#### 2. Regulatory Parity

- Deregulation of 1-4 line business customers
- Deregulation of Business Promotional Offerings

#### 3. Telco protection in retransmission negotiations

#### 4. Streamlining verification process of customers in the Lifeline Program

#### 5. Electrical interference with telco transmission facilities

#### 6. Revisions to power limited licensure program

#### 7. Potential taxes that may be imposed on the industry to help solve the deficit

### Registration Info Coming Next Week for 'Day On Hill'

Registration information for MTA Day on the Hill will be distributed to members electronically next week. In the meantime, you can reserve your room online at the [Embassy Suites St. Paul](#) and receive the MTA room rate. The annual legislative gathering is Tuesday, February 3 and Wednesday, February 4. Make your room reservations now at 651-224-5400 or for online reservation [click here](#). Tuesday's briefing session will begin at 2:00 p.m. and appointments will be on Wednesday.

#### [MTA Centennial Convention](#)

#### [Early Registration Deadline Next Week for Exhibitors](#)

[www.mnta.org](http://www.mnta.org)  
Tel: 651-291-7311  
Fax: 651-291-2795  
E-mail: [info@mnta.org](mailto: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

To save \$150 on the booth rental fee exhibitors must register by December 19. To date, the number of companies reserving booths is ahead of last year at this time. The MTA Centennial Convention is March 2-4, 2009 in Minneapolis. The exhibitor prospectus is available on the [MTA Web site](#). The theme for this historic event is, "Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future." The Centennial Planning Committee has been working for nearly two years to celebrate this once in a lifetime event. On schedule is a centennial museum filled with interesting items from telco members, a historical presentation that chronicles the growth of the telephone industry in the state, and the unveiling of the centennial picture book. To obtain a copy of the exhibitor prospectus and register online, [click here](#).

## **MTA Foundation Granting Scholarships In 2009**

### ***Members Urged to Participate***

The MTA Foundation will award five scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2009. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$2,000.00. Scholarships will be awarded after the student demonstrates successful completion of the first year of college or technical school.

At this time the Foundation needs to know which member companies want to be a partner with the MTA in this scholarship program. To be a partner you must let MTA know how many high schools there are in your serving area, be willing to personally deliver and explain the scholarship forms to the high schools this first year of the program and publicize the scholarships within your service area. The scholarship application is on the MTA Web site (consumer page) for school officials and potential applicants to download. Member companies are being asked to deliver the scholarship applications to the high schools in your area by December 19, 2008. Contact [Mike Nowick](#), director of member services, at 651-288-3723 if you will be participating in the scholarship program and to receive additional information.

## ***MTA Peer Groups Meeting Calendar 2009***

<b>Peer Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Video</b>	<b>January 13</b>	<b>diversiCOM, Melrose</b>
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>February 4-6</b>	<b>TBD, Minneapolis</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, St. Cloud</b>
<b>Customer Service</b>	<b>March 11-12</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, St. Cloud</b>
<b>Plant Managers</b>	<b>April 1-2</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, St. Cloud</b>
<b>Plant Managers</b>	<b>December 2-3</b>	<b>Holiday Inn, St. Cloud</b>

## **INDUSTRY UPDATE**

### **HickoryTech Opens New Mankato Data Center**

HickoryTech has opened a data center in downtown Mankato. The secure facility is available to businesses to host their mission-critical data, off-site storage, disaster recovery servers and networking gear. The Mankato data center offers more than 2,000 square feet of raised floor space, cooling, fire suppression and dedicated UPS with generator back-up. The data center is configured with secured 45U cabinets and is available in a variety of customizable configurations for business customers. The secure, environmentally controlled and monitored facility is staffed around the clock and is available to customers 24 x 7 x 365. Customers can rent dedicated

floor space, full secured cabinets, or fractional rack space. [Read more...](#)

### **Verizon Gets FTC Approval to Purchase Alltel**

The Federal Trade Commission this week gave its approval of Verizon Wireless' purchase of Alltel, which will create the country's largest wireless carrier. Verizon Wireless is paying \$5.9 billion and assuming \$22.2 billion of Alltel's debt. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Justice Department had already approved the deal. Verizon has secured a \$17 billion loan to help pay for the \$28.1 billion deal. [Read more...](#)

### **Report Says FCC Chairman Abused His Powers**

A Congressional investigation released this week accuses FCC Chairman Kevin Martin of abusing his powers, according to media reports. The report on Martin found "egregious abuses of power" by suppressing information and manipulating data to serve his agenda. It stopped short of accusing him of breaking any rules or laws. The probe was led by Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) Chairman of the subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation. [Read more...](#)

## **In Case You Missed It**

[\*Reprinted from Last Issue\*](#)

### **Qwest Proposes Tariff Changes**

Qwest has recently filed changes to its state access tariffs throughout its 14-state area. The Qwest tariff change establishes a floor for the Percent of Interstate Usage (PIU) on unidentified Feature Group D (FGD) terminating traffic. The change allocates unidentified terminating traffic exceeding 6% as 50% intrastate and 50% interstate.

In Minnesota, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) assigned Docket 08-1351 to address the tariff change, and established a comment period. Comments must be filed by Wednesday, December 10, 2008 and reply comments are due by Friday, January 9, 2009.

The MTA Inter-carrier Compensation Task Force (a subcommittee of the Regulatory Tariffs & Services Committee) discussed the issue on a conference call on November 20, 2008, and determined that the tariff changes were not adverse to MTA positions on traffic jurisdictionalization, or handling of unidentified traffic. The Task Force is recommending that MTA does not need to file comments on this tariff change.

### **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**

**Dec. 8:** MTA Foundation Board of Directors

**Dec. 9:** MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee

**Dec. 11:** MTA Centennial Committee

**Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events**

**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

