



This Week's Headlines

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October 10, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Taking Orders for MTA Centennial Picture Book

The MTA is now accepting orders for the commemorative centennial picture book, "A Century of Connections." The photo filled, 126 paged, hard cover picture 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. Current active member companies are listed along with their founding date. The book contains the group photo taken at last year's MTA convention. Other members are included in the book as members in the Centennial Club. To obtain an order form, [click here](#).

New Contact Number for MTA Staff

You can call MTA staff members direct with the new phone system that was installed this past week. The new phone numbers 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.

Got A Pressing Issue For Next Legislative Session?

The MTA Legislative Committee is in the process of developing its proposed legislative agenda to recommend to the MTA Board of Directors on December 4th. If there are any issues that you would like the Legislative Committee to consider, please contact [Randy Young](#) via e-mail or call 651.291.7311.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Video Forum Coming In November

If you have responsibility for video in your company, don't miss the upcoming MTA Video Forum, 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

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@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

Stat of the Week

More than 60% of Americans now watch video online, according to a new study from ABI Research.

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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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.

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.

Viodi Putting On Video Content Workshop for Telcos

Viodi LLC is providing a local content workshop for local telcos in Edina on Oct. 20, 2008, from 1:00pm to 5:30pm. One of the highlights of the half-day workshop will be the presentation by Ira Livingston from the 48 Hour Film Projects and Minnesota Historical Society's Greatest Generation Film Project, which is about Minnesotans. Other sessions will look at marketing with Margaret Hines Inspire Marketing, production methods and hardware and what other telco's are doing. You may recall that Viodi TV provided the daily broadcast of the MTA convention last year on the hotel television stations. The workshop is being held in the Harry Cooper Room at the Braemar Golf Course in Edina. For registration details [click here](#).

INDUSTRY UPDATE

TDS Lawsuit Against Monticello Dismissed

A district judge this week rejected the TDS lawsuit against the city of Monticello, according to media outlets. TDS contended that Monticello was illegally using revenue bonds to finance its fiber optic network. A Wright County District Judge ruled that the city has the authority to use the money for public services such as a high-speed network, the Minneapolis StarTribune reported. [More](#)

Verizon Willing to Divest More Markets for Alltel Deal

In an effort to move the acquisition of Alltel forward, Verizon Wireless this week offered to divest 15 additional markets to gain Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval. According to Arkansas business.com, the company made the voluntary offer in a letter to the Commission. Minnesota is one of the 15 markets, which also includes Iowa and Nebraska. [More](#)

Cox Wins Patent Suit

Cox Communications has been cleared of patent infringement claims brought by Verizon Communications. A federal jury in Virginia ruled this week that Cox Communications did not infringe on six of Verizon Communications' patents related to Internet telephony. Verizon received a reported \$117.5 million from Vonage last year to settle a similar case. [More](#)

In Case You Missed It

Reprinted From Last Week

PUC Approves ETC Status for Telcos

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted 5-0 to approve the requests of petitioning wireline Eligible Telecommunication Carriers (ETC's) for continued annual ETC certification. The PUC is charged with annually

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

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certifying to the FCC that the petitioning carriers will use universal service support in 2009 only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

As a condition of their approval, wireless carriers were asked to file a supplemental report on June 1, 2008 updating the status of any mergers affecting their company and to also include an affirmative statement about their continuing ETC status. A total of 92 Minnesota telephone companies were certified by the PUC to the FCC to receive federal high-cost support.

[Reprinted From Last Week](#)

Consumers Prefer Telcos for Bundled Services

By a margin of 2 to 1, consumers prefer to get their bundled communication services from the local phone company, according to CFI Group. Cable still provides bundled telecom services to twice as many customers. The survey of over 1,200 households found that customer satisfaction provides telecom companies with a competitive advantage. [More](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

OCTOBER 20: FCC FORM 497, LIFELINE & LINK UP WORKSHEET:
Filing due to USAC

OCTOBER 31: FCC FORM 499Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS
REPORTING WORKSHEET: Filing due to USAC

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

Oct. 9: MTA Board of Directors
Oct. 9 - 10: MTA Fall Conference

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Oct. 16: MTA Centennial Committee meeting, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

MTA Fall Conference Sponsors

Thanks to these supportive companies for their sponsorships of the MTA Fall Conference.

Networking Break – Midwest Data, LLC and John Staurulakis, Inc.

Reception – Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Breakfast – Moss & Barnett and Onvoy Voice Services

Networking Break – Finley Engineering, Stellar Billing
and Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.

Networking Break – Calix, Interstate Telcom Consulting Inc.
and Farmers Union Insurance

