



MONTANA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION

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COME JOIN THE FUN IN GREAT FALLS, MT 2008 MTA ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 4-6

TELCO INFORMATION

The 2008 MTA Annual Meeting is fast approaching! This year's Meeting will be held in Great Falls, at the Best Western Heritage Inn.

The Annual Meeting will open on Monday, August 4th with both the annual golf tournament headed up by Master of Ceremonies Bill Squires (SVP, Blackfoot and MTA President) and the annual fly fishing expedition, "guided" by Master of all Rivers Geoff Feiss (GM, MTA). Proceeds from the golf/fly fishing events support MTA's Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year we were able to award two \$1000 scholarships due to wonderful contributions received from our members! **Please note: this year's golf outing is being held at the private Meadow Lark Country Club and the number of participants will be limited due to club rules.**

The President's Reception will be held on Monday evening, August 4th at the C.M. Russell Museum, home of one of the West's most prominent artists. We'll load a bus and head over to the Museum for a reception. There you can enjoy the free self-guided tour of this famous museum. The museum is filled with over 12,000 pieces including the world's largest collection of Charlie Russell art and personal objects, other famous artists of the American West, as well as contemporary western artists.

The General Sessions begins on Tuesday, August 5th and continues until noon on the 6th. Speakers from Congress, the FCC, Executive and Legislative Branches of Montana State Government, and industry leaders are on the Agenda. They will focus on public policy issues, regulation, technology, economic development and other important issues facing the telecommunications industry.

The Annual Banquet will be held on-site at the Best Western Heritage Inn, August 5th, featuring entertainment by *Greg Bennick*. Greg is an outstanding performer and motivational speaker, and he combines juggling, mind reading, comedy, and--our favorite--audience participation into every show. Please join us pool side for our hospitality hour before retiring to the convention center for the banquet.

MTA, in its 53rd year, represents independent telecommunications service providers throughout Montana, offering local residential and business phone services, as well as a full spectrum of other services. MTA members have over \$500 million of plant (telecommunications infrastructure assets) in service and invest over \$50 million each year in new facilities and services serving primarily rural Montana. They provide affordable, quality essential telephone service throughout rural Montana, and have pushed broadband telecom capabilities to the edges of their networks, providing the tools for Montana's commercial, social, health care, educational and other economic development opportunity.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Heritage Inn at special group rates. This block of rooms will be released to the general public on **July 15th** and rates will go back to their normal levels at that time. To make your reservations, call the hotel directly at 406-761-1900 - **be sure to ask for the "MTA" room block**. Sleeping room rates: Single/Double Occupancy: \$81 plus tax.

REGISTRATION DESK

We are departing at 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 4th (via bus) for the President's Reception which is being held at the C.M. Russell Museum. Please plan to stop by the registration desk prior to this 6:00 p.m. departure time to pre-register and to retrieve your name badge(s) which is your admission to all meetings and events. The registration desk will be held in the hotel lobby and will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and again from 4:00 p.m. until we depart at 6:00 p.m.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Company substitutes of attendees are acceptable at any time. Fees collected are non-refundable except in extenuating circumstances, which will be determined by MTA. NO refunds will be made AFTER July 28th without documentation of a medical emergency or flight cancellation by the airline. A \$25.00 fee, plus any applicable bank charges, will be charged for any checks or credit cards returned unpaid.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Be sure to stop by the Registration Desk and purchase your MTA raffle ticket (\$1.00 each or arms length for \$10.00). These raffle items will be on display in the back of the meeting room. The raffle drawings will take place on Wednesday, at the end of the General Session (*must be present to win*). All proceeds from the raffle are directed to the MTA Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year MTA awarded two \$1000 Memorial Scholarships to Daniel W. Browne and Taisha M. McWilliams.

As always, MTA appreciates your participation and continued support of MTA. To register, please return the enclosed registration form to MTA no later than Friday, July 25th.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Joki at 406-442-4316 or by Email: ajoki@telecomassn.org.