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New Board Members and New Data Unveiled at TeleMessaging Industry Association Annual Meeting

The following press release was launched to
TMIA's 212 media contacts on March 20, 2002:

Birmingham, AL – March 20, 2002 – The TeleMessaging Industry Association (TMIA) has elected its new Board of Directors and unveiled its latest research on Unified Communications (UC). The Association's annual meeting included over 70 industry-expert attendees representing more than 30 member companies, with guest companies that included BT, T-Mobil, ACS Alaska, CT Communications, InterVoice-Brite, Magically, Neubond and Zer Communications. Also present were TMIA's two newest member companies, IP Unity and Tornado.

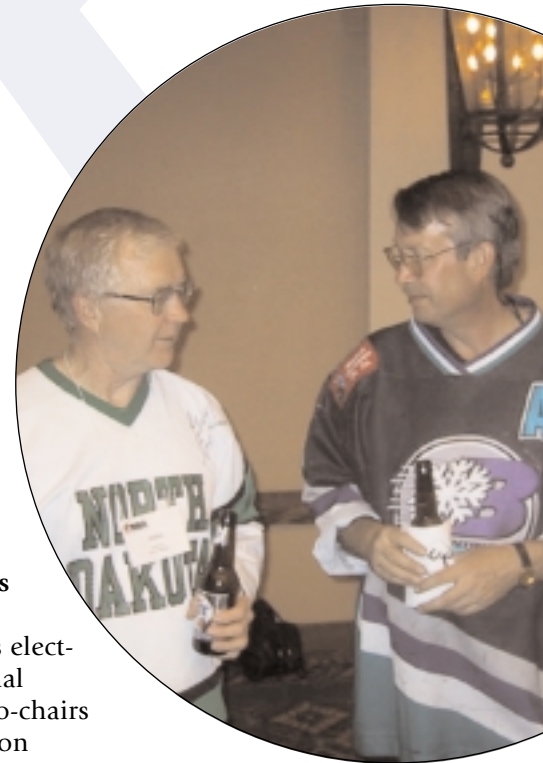
TMIA members and guests wore their favorite team jerseys at "Rocky's Sports Bar," sponsored by uReach. Here John Leikness and Tom Harper yuck it up over a cold adult beverage.

More pictures on page 3

New Board Members for 2002

New Board members elected at the TMIA Annual Meeting included: Co-chairs Don Katz from Verizon Communications and Valerie Beliak from Telus; Treasurer Beth Bass from Sprint; Secretary Courtney Spears from SBC Communications; and

continued on page 3



inside

- More photos from the Annual Meeting
- TMIA Board Report
- Update on the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act

Sponsors Make it Happen

The TMIA Annual Meeting was a resounding success in part because of the generosity of the sponsors, who included Unisys for Monday, Lucent Technologies for Tuesday, Glenayre for the printing of binders and contents, and uReach for the Monday night breakout session.

In addition to these sponsors, Converse has generously donated its exhibit booth to TMIA after the annual meeting. This will enable TMIA to have its own booth when exhibiting at trade shows and functions. The organization sends its grateful recognition to Shereen Abuzobaa, David Fisher and the rest of the Converse team.

Next year's annual meeting will feature a few additional entertainment specials. Based on the introductions at

this annual meeting, which featured brief summaries of each participant's "road not taken," a few TMIA members have volunteered to offer special training courses focusing on their favorite missed opportunities. Courses will include:

- go-go dancing for beginners
- ski instructing for the foolhardy
- history teaching for intellectuals
- beach-shack for relaxers
- and, nunnery for novices



Update on the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act

At the TMIA Annual Meeting, Karen Barr, TMIA's General Counsel, provided an update on recent activity in Congress and the Federal Communications Commission on the question of whether or not to regulate the Bell Operating Companies ("BOCs") in their provision of broadband services. If the BOCs are permitted to enter the broadband services market without regulation, then the BOCs would be able to send inter-LATA voice messages over the Internet without first meeting the market-opening criteria set forth in section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

By way of background, some legislators believe that a major limiting factor to broadband deployment throughout the U.S. is the restrictions on BOCs from sending voice and data across Local Access and Transport Area or LATA lines. The LATAs were created by the 1982 AT&T Consent Decree or MFJ, which settled the antitrust action that the government brought against AT&T and resulted in the divestiture of the BOCs from AT&T. Pursuant to the MFJ, in 1983 the Bell System's territory was divided into 163 LATAs spread across the then-7 Regional Bell Operating Company's regions. Although Congress superseded the MFJ with the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the inter-LATA restrictions remain intact. These restrictions are set forth in section 271 of the Act.

Section 271 provides that before a BOC may provide interLATA services originating in a State in its region, it must first satisfy a so-called "competitive checklist" and thereby open up its markets to competition. If de-regulation of the broadband services market passes Congress, consumers would be able to make interLATA calls or send interLATA voice messages over the BOCs' DSL services, which use regular copper phone lines to transmit both voice and data. There is no technology available today that can discern voice from data in digital form.

At the annual meeting, Karen discussed in some detail a bill called the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act, H.R. 1542 (also known as the Tauzin/Dingell bill). On February 27, 2002, this bill passed the House by a vote of 273-157. This bill is one of the most hotly debated and visible pieces of technology legislation that Congress has ever considered.

As introduced in the House Energy and Commerce Committee by its Chairman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-Louisiana) and Rep. John Dingell (D-Michigan), the bill would have allowed the BOCs and other incumbent local exchange carriers to send messages over their DSL services without first having to satisfy the competitive checklist set forth in section 271. It also would have prohibited the FCC and the States from regulating high-speed data or Internet backbone or access services.

The House, however, passed an amendment offered by Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisconsin), providing that a BOC may not offer any inter-LATA services originating in a State in its region without the Attorney General's approval, which could only be given once the BOC has satisfied the competitive checklist in section 271. Although this does not negate the requirement that the BOCs satisfy section 271 before sending inter-LATA voice messages over their broadband services, it changes the regulatory gatekeeper from the FCC to the Department of Justice, which is perceived as more lenient than the FCC with respect to overseeing the BOCs.

Another amendment that was passed by the House increases the enforcement penalties for violations of the Communications Act of 1934. Finally, the last amendment passed by the House requires each incumbent local exchange carrier to provide Internet users with the ability to subscribe to and have access to any Internet service provider that interconnects with such carrier's high speed data service.

The bill has now been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, chaired by Senator Fritz Hollings (D-SC). As a long-supporter of the competitive local exchange carriers, Senator Hollings has announced dedicated opposition to the Tauzin/Dingell bill. He has agreed, however, to allow Representative Tauzin to come before his Committee this week to discuss the status of telecommunications regulation. There may be room for negotiations. Δ



TMIA Annual Meeting

continued from page 1

Directors Dan Corcoran from ServiceSPAN, Joanne Giusto from Bell Canada and Greg Vaudreuil from Lucent Technologies.

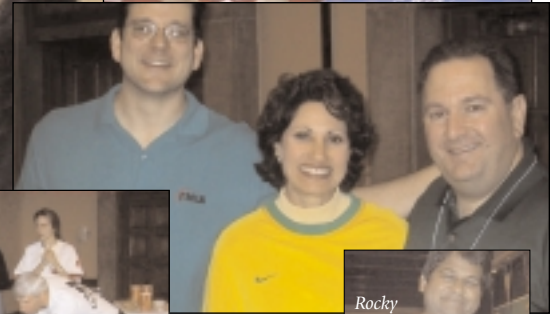
Directors Report: New Focus on Wireless

Jeff Schlueter of Cingular and Dave Tilford of Bell Canada, both of whom are leaving the TMIA board, reported on the goals, results and highlights of 2001 for the Association. The Association will continue to offer education, speaking opportunities, and a forum for representation at industry events and other venues for its membership. In addition, the Association will seek additional participation from wireless service providers and technology vendors who are seeing sharp increases in services and demand for wireless messaging.

UC Committee Research Highlights New Findings

The TMIA UC Committee's research, presented by Chairman Dan Corcoran, was the result of queries to over a thousand US consumers. Among its findings, the survey uncovered the following new information:

- 50% of those surveyed are interested in sending voice messages to friends and family;
- 53% of those surveyed are more interested in dialing by speaking than by pushing buttons;
- 40% of those surveyed are interested in having combined home and mobile voice-mailboxes;
- and 42% of users would prefer speaking to pushing buttons when retrieving information from their voice-mail systems. Δ



A good time was had by all at Rocky's Sports Bar.

TMIA Board Report

The TMIA Board of Directors reported on the Mission and Goals of TMIA, including specific goals from 2001. The organization's mission was reiterated:

The TMIA is an organization responsible for advancing the adoption and use of all messaging services, in order to increase the profitability of all industry participants.

From raising public awareness to lobbying of legislators, the TMIA's goals are increasing in breadth and depth as the organization continues to grow. Awareness of TMIA and its membership is at an all-time high, with Web site hits having multiplied by a factor of 10 compared to 2000. In 2001, TMIA members contributed to several industry articles, and TMIA spoke at a large user forum for the Multi Media Educational Council.

Among the goals for 2002 is increased participation from wireless product and service companies. The wireless arena is currently seeing the most growth, and like other communications sectors it counts voice messaging among its critical components.