

Members Memos

Summer 2017

Become a Savings Superhero



If you are like most Americans, having your finances completely buttoned up may not be your strong suit. In fact, the statistics about Americans and finances are downright shocking. But, you don't have to be a statistic. We're here to help.

Just 46% of Americans have a rainy-day fund.

While we hope that your life is always sunshine and roses, chances are that at some point, you will encounter a rainy day. Job loss, illness, financial downturns and other unexpected expenses happen, so we need to be prepared for them. By having a rainy-day fund, you can have money set aside for the occasional sprinkle or downpour preventing you from accumulating credit card debt just to survive. By opening a MACU savings account or a Kasasa® Cash above-

market interest rate checking account, you can begin to build your rainy-day fund and easily access it should you need it. Adding an automatic transfer every month can help keep you on track.

Two-thirds of Americans wouldn't be able to come up with \$1,000 to cover an emergency expense.

The fact is, expenses are going to arise. Not the "may" or "may not" expenses you are protecting yourself from with a rainy-day fund. We are talking about the absolutely-going-to-happen/how-are-you-going-to-pay-for-it kind of expense like a car payment, a new roof, a broken water heater, etc. This list is full of the "not if, but when" expenses that we all encounter but tend to not proactively save for. This can often lead to credit card debt.

If you don't already have an emergency fund, today is great day to start. Look at your budget for things you can do without. That Starbucks® drink you get every day on the way to work can add up to \$80 in savings monthly. Skip one family dinner out a month, and save \$30 to \$100. Before you know it, you will be on your way to an emergency fund and peace-of-mind.

You can save \$112,000 over a lifetime by bringing your lunch to work.

If this statistic doesn't make you break out the peanut butter and jelly, what will? Convenience certainly comes at a price, and by taking the time to pack your lunch every day, you can make a huge leap in your savings goals. By keeping a small stock of staple items in your office (think cans of soup, etc.), you can skip the drive thru even on those days you just couldn't get yourself to pack.

61% of Americans live paycheck-to-paycheck, with 20% of them earning over \$100,000 per year.

Americans definitely have a spending problem, and, on some level, most of us probably fall into that category. By following some of our tips above and by creating and sticking to a household budget, you don't have to be a statistic.

Sources: FINRA's National Financial Capability Study, The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, Economy Watch



A Message from the President

As the President of Members Advantage Credit Union, one of my primary focuses is on how we can bring you, our members, greater value. We want to offer you the best products and services that are being provided by larger, less personal financial institutions while maintaining the small-town customer service that is hard to come by these days. That is why I am so proud to announce that our new Kasasa® checking accounts have officially launched.

With Kasasa®, our members enjoy free checking accounts with some of the best benefits in the business:

- No monthly service fees
- ATM fee reimbursements nationwide
- An amazing 2.05% APY on balances up to \$5,000, 4% cash back on debit card purchases each month, or iTunes®, Amazon® or Google Play™ gift cards!

Our members who have already switched have rave reviews. You can join them and get one of the most rewarding checking accounts available by stopping by your local branch. Switching is quick, easy and, best of all...free!

I am also excited to share that we will be launching our new website this summer. We have worked hard to create a website that will be user-friendly, helping our members quickly find what they are looking for.

We sincerely appreciate each of our members and will continue to bring you great new advancements designed to make your life easier. Have suggestions? We'd love to hear them! Send your ideas on how we can serve you better to service@macuonline.org.

Frank Beachnau, President



Home Equity Can Pay for School

Trying to fund your child's college education can be difficult. But, we can help and save you thousands in the process!

A Members Advantage Credit Union (MACU) home equity line of credit (HELOC) will allow you to send your child to college with freedom from financial stress. And, with no origination fees and rates as low as 1.99% APR*, you can save thousands on college tuition.

With convenient and easy access to your HELOC on the mobile app and online banking, you can borrow as much or as little as you need up to your pre-set limit.

Lower APR than a Parent PLUS loan

Unlike the Parent PLUS Loan with an APR of 7% and a 4.276% origination fee for the 2017-2018 school year, a MACU HELOC will give you financial flexibility with an APR as low as 1.99%*.

Easy access to funds

Conveniently access your funds with a MACU Visa card, transfer funds into your checking account or make a withdrawal at any MACU shared branch or ATM.

Tax deductible interest payments

The interest you pay may be tax deductible, while other education loans are not.

Flexibility in how you spend your money

Schedule and make payments, see your line of credit activity, transfer funds and pay bills using MACU Online Bill Pay and the MACU app for your smartphone.

No closing costs**

MACU does not charge closing costs on HELOCs – just another way we help you save big!

You can also use your HELOC for more than just college expenses. Many homeowners use it to make home updates or to pay off credit cards, student loans and medical debt, all while enjoying a low 1.99% APR* interest rate. Celebrate your child's milestone, and take the worry out of college financing.

Visit macuonline.org or swing by a branch for more information.

*Based on personal credit history. Other restrictions may apply. All rates quoted are subject to change without notice. **On new HELOC limits of \$10,000 or more.

Simplify.

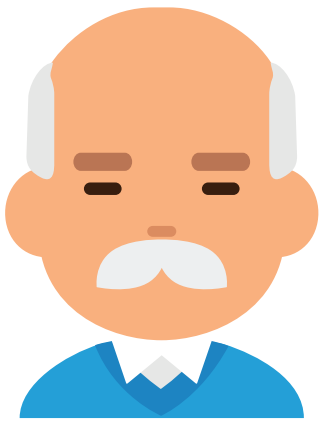
Simplify your payments by transferring balances from high-rate credit cards to a **low-rate MACU Visa.**

1.99% APR* balance transfer rate for 6 mos.

macuonline.org for more information.



*All credit card limits are based on your personal credit history. Other restrictions may apply. All rates quoted are subject to change without notice. APR rate reverts back to assigned rate after six months.



Live Larger in Retirement

According to AARP, embracing your inner retiree can save you money. By shopping on certain days or asking for a discount, you can save a bundle. Here are great tips to get you started.

Save on clothing.

Kohl's offers a 15% discount to shoppers age 55+ every Wednesday. Sign up for the Every Tuesday Club at Ross and save an extra 10% off when you shop on Tuesdays.

Get moving.

If you are a group retiree or on Medicare, you may be eligible for a free SilverSneakers membership, which gets you free access to more than 13,000 participating fitness facilities around the US.

Enjoy nature.

If you are 62 or older, you can get a lifetime pass to more than 2,000 national parks and federal recreation sites good for you and up to three other adults.

Become an AARP member.

Maximize your AARP perks. An AARP member can get up to 30% off rental cars and up to 20% off hotels.

Catch a movie.

Cinemark offers discount ticket prices for those 62 and older on Mondays.

Save on fast food.

Restaurants from Burger King to Papa Johns offer senior discounts that can save you up to 25% off the cost of your meal. Before you head out to grab your next dinner, visit macuonline.org for a list of other discounts.

Have more suggestions on stretching your money during retirement? Send us your suggestions on Facebook and Twitter.

Member Appreciation Days

Keep an eye out for an official announcement about upcoming Member Appreciation Days at MACU!



NEW! **KASASA**[®]
A NEW KIND OF CHECKING ACCOUNT

Kasasa[®] Cash Get an above-market interest rate	Kasasa[®] Cash Back Earn 4% back on your purchases	Kasasa[®] Tunes Get rewarded for your purchases at Amazon [®] , iTunes [®] and Google Play [™]
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Plus, there are no minimum balance requirements and no monthly fees on all Kasasa[®] checking accounts! And, you can be reimbursed for up to \$25 in ATM fees!

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Community Shred Days

This year's Shred Days were a success! Thank you so much to everyone who not only utilized the free shredding service, but also for donating to the Salvation Army of Michigan City and Lakeshore Paws! We had great weather and a fantastic turnout, and we cannot wait to see everyone again next year for these free events!

Michigan City

3064 S. Ohio Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

M-Th: 9am-5pm
F: 9am-6pm
S: 9am-12pm

(219) 874-6943

Portage

6170 US Highway 6
Portage, IN 46368

M-Th: 9am-5pm
F: 9am-6pm
S: 9am-12pm

(219) 762-6228

Special Holiday Hours

Monday, Sept. 4 – Labor Day: Closed

ET (Electronic Teller)

(219) 874-6943, Ext. 6
Toll Free (outside 219 area code)
1-877-874-6943, Ext. 6

Board Members

Frances Brennan
Craig Hinchman
Stephen Janus
George J. Kazmierczak
Ben Neitzel
Michael D. Palmer
Jack Van Etten

Supervisory Committee

Sue Kieffer
Robert Turner
John Schebel

CONGRATS

to **John Schebel** for being elected to serve on the Supervisory Committee at the Annual Meeting!



Your Friends Add Up

Every time you refer a friend or family member to MACU and they become a member, we'll add \$25 to your account. Your friends will appreciate you sharing the benefits of membership, and you'll reap some extra rewards for yourself.



Sign Up for Our Newsletter

Visit our website to sign up for e-newsletters so that MACU special offers and promotions will be delivered straight to your inbox!

AUTO LOAN RATES AS LOW AS

1.99% APR*

Get pre-approved by visiting our website, calling us or by stopping in one of our convenient locations today.

macuonline.org for more.



*APR = annual percentage rate. Note: the current APR is described as a "beginning as low as" rate. You may or may not receive the "beginning as low as" rate advertised because all loans and rates are subject to your own personal credit history. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice.



MEMBERS ADVANTAGE CREDIT UNION

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