

Members Memos

Spring 2018



Boost Your Credit Score

Spring is in the air, and it's time to do some spring cleaning of your credit score. If yours is suffering, there are several ways to make strides in raising your score.

Remember, the higher your credit, the lower the interest rate you'll receive on loans. So, start working on getting your credit up, so you will have a nice, low rate when you make your next large purchase.

Pay off debt

The more debt you owe, the lower your credit score is. So, if you can buckle down and get loans and credit cards paid off, you'll see a jump in numbers. Make a plan to tackle those credit cards, auto, personal and student loans. As you pay off one debt, reallocate those funds to another to get them paid faster. Chances are you'll continue to use credit cards even after you pay them off. That's not a problem. Just be sure to keep balances low and not rack up unmanageable debt.

Pay bills on time

One of the easiest ways to keep your credit on track is to pay bills on time. Late payments ding your credit, and over time, that can add up! Utilizing MACU's online bill pay can help. Setup auto-pay, so you're never late again. Or, if you don't want to automate payments, set calendar reminders on your smart phone or computer. Do whatever it takes to make sure you're not late.

Diversify

Part of your credit score is built on your history and what is assessed as your ability to use and manage credit. Not having enough of a credit history with diversified accounts will have a negative impact on your score. If you're in debt, take care of that first, but then you can add something new in the mix to increase the breadth of your credit usage and history. Adding in a low-interest auto loan from MACU or a low-interest credit card are great ways to add to your credit history.

Be in the know and have a plan

The best thing you can do for yourself is to stay knowledgeable about your own finances. Know your credit score, your loan balances, credit card balances, etc. And, in a world of online hacking, be sure to regularly monitor your credit report. Fix any errors right away.

Finally, have a plan, and work your plan. Immediate gratification always pales in comparison to reaching your longterm goals.

Remember:

Your financial life is not a sprint. It's a marathon. It may seem slow moving to increase your credit score, but it can be done over time, and you will reap benefits for years to come!



The Perks of Credit Unions

Letter from the President

In the daily grind of doing our banking, we can lose sight of all of the benefits we have access to, especially when you bank with a credit union like MACU. If you haven't yet discovered everything MACU has to offer, take the time to get to know us better and how we can help you achieve your financial goals. If you are already using multiple MACU products and are loving your credit union, you're not alone! According to CUNA, the number of credit union members across the US grew to 110 million last year!

Customer Focus

"Credit unions are cooperatives owned by their members," according to Pat Keefe of CUNA. "Their mission is to provide members with affordable financial services and not to gouge them as profit centers." Customers of credit unions report greater customer satisfaction than those at banks, and MACU is no exception. We work hard to provide you with a great experience every time you do your banking.

Low Rates

As a credit union, we are a non-profit. We aren't trying to maximize profits like a bank, so

we can offer some of the best loan rates around. And, we look at you as an entire person, not just a score when approving loans.

Before you shop for a large purchase like a new car, it's always best to come in and let us get you pre-approved for a low-interest loan so that you can have the best financing available to you at the time of purchase.

Convenient Locations throughout the US

By being part of a network, credit unions like MACU have joined forces to provide our customers a location near them almost anywhere they are. Members of MACU can bank at any of the 5,000 shared branches or use any of the over 5,000 surcharge-free ATMs throughout the US.

Accounts to Meet Your Needs

MACU cares about you and what you need from an account and your overall banking. That's why we offer Kasasa accounts that give rewards. With three to choose from that have rewards from high interest to cash back, there's sure to be an account that would fit almost everyone! And, if you're in need of a little extra financial help, we have partnered with GreenPath to provide counseling services free of charge.

If you haven't been taking advantage of everything we have to offer, now is the time. Call us, or stop in to find out how easy it is to join.

Frank Beachnau, President

Banking on the go with the MACU app

You shouldn't have to slow down to take care of your banking, and with MACU's app, you don't have to! Take care of all your banking on-the-go just like you would at home.

- Check account balances and histories
- View transactions
- Transfer money
- Schedule bill payments
- Locate the nearest ATMs
- And more

To download the app, visit the app store and search for MACU Mobile.

MACU Scholarship Winners

We are proud to announce the winners of our 2018 MACU scholarships!

The \$1,000 **Gail Walker Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to Maria Dunn, who is studying Veterinary Science at Purdue University Northwest.

The \$1,000 **Leona Bruno Scholarship** was awarded to Adam Gasaway, who is pursuing Biomedical Engineering at Marian University.

Congratulations and best of luck with your academic careers! Everyone at MACU is proud to play some small part in your futures!



Election Results

At the March Annual Meeting held at Country Inn and Suites in Michigan City, incumbents Ben Neitzel and Jack Van Etten were re-elected to the board of directors.

Congratulations, Ben and Jack!

Deposit On the Go

AT MACU, we want banking to be as convenient as possible for you. Our ATMs are undergoing some programming updates during the week of June 25 at all three of our branches (Portage, Ohio St. and Woodland). After the updates, the ATMs will no longer accept deposits. However, you can still make deposits on the go! In fact, it will be faster than ever! Simply use our drop box. Drop in your deposit envelope, and that's it! No waiting. No punching in numbers. Just drop and go. It's that easy!



Why do people LOVE MACU?

The great service!

"MACU is a great place to do your banking, and they have some great people working here."

"It gives me great honor to say how pleased I was to receive help from Deanna! She helped me from start to finish...when I had a question that she didn't have the answer to, she would find out and personally call me back! I am so thankful for people in the world like her. She is truly a customer service representative...keep up the good work, Deanna!"



FREE Shred Day

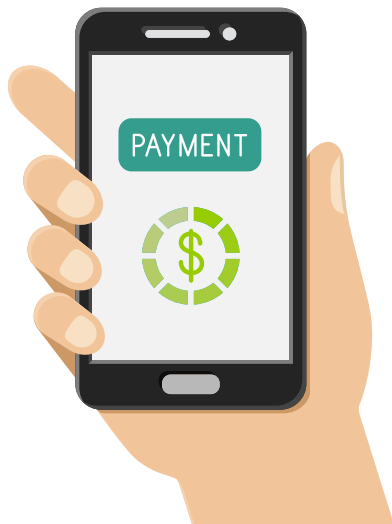
Save the date for this year's Shred Day! Help prevent identity theft by bringing your sensitive documents to

the Ohio Street branch on June 9 to be professionally disposed of.

June 9, 2018
Michigan City MACU branch
3064 Ohio Street
9am-12pm

We will have a second Shred Day later this summer. Stay tuned for details when it gets closer.

For more information, please visit macuonline.org/shredday.



Pay Bills Easier with MACU Online Bill Pay

MACU's Online Bill Pay takes all the stress out of paying your bills. After an easy setup, paying bills is effortless! Once logged into your online MACU account, you can securely add in your merchant information and setup auto

payments or one-time payments. Moving forward, you'll make payments straight from your personal checking account. You'll never miss another payment or need to mail another check! It's easy, and it's free. You can't beat that!

Need help setting up your accounts?

No problem! Give us a call, and one of our online specialists would be happy to assist you.



Financial Help

Did you know that as a MACU member you have access to financial resources and counseling?

MACU has teamed up with GreenPath Financial Wellness to provide you with free financial education and counseling services as a benefit of being part of the MACU family. Members can enjoy unlimited access to financial counselors who can give personalized answers to their individual needs.

Greenpath Services

- Debt and financial counseling
- Full-service debt management plans
- Credit report reviews
- Financial education tools and workshops
- And more!

Visit greenpathpartner.org to find out more, or contact us with any questions!

Community Impact

MACU recently donated \$1,500 to Michigan City's Salvation Army. The money will help further the Salvation Army's mission in Michigan City, which includes, among other outreaches, helping feed nearly 800 local families.

Frank Beachnau, MACU President said, "It's a privilege to be able to help facilitate donations that make such an impact on people's lives. We pride ourselves on being community-focused, and it's this kind of outreach that helps us put that focus into action."

Bob Havens, MACU Executive Vice President, added, "This is one example of why we are so proud to be a credit union. We are able to offer the same products and services as the big banks but still maintain our local community focus."



Michigan City

3064 S. Ohio Street
M-Th: 9am-5pm
F: 9am-6pm
S: 9am-12pm
 (219) 874-6943

Drive Up Only:

947 S. Woodland Ave.
M-F: 8:30am-6pm
S: 9am-12pm

Portage

6170 US Highway 6
M-Th: 9am-5pm
F: 9am-6pm
S: 9am-12pm
 (219) 762-6228

Holiday Closures

May 28: Memorial Day
 July 4: Independence Day
 September 3: Labor Day

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
 George J. Kazmierczak
 Ben Neitzel
 Michael D. Palmer
 Jack Van Etten

Supervisory Committee

Stephen Janus
 Sue Kieffer
 John Shebel

Anyone Can Join MACU

Spread the love. Refer your family and friends and receive \$25! Anyone who lives or works in Northwest Indiana can do their banking with MACU. Visit one of our branches or the website for more details!



MEMBERS ADVANTAGE
 CREDIT UNION

macuonline.org

