

## Members' Advantage Credit Union Proves that Financial Literacy is FUN AND GAMES!

Who says teaching financial literacy can't be all fun and games? Members' Advantage Credit Union proves that financial literacy can be fun with Money Mission.

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) reports that American teens get a failing grade when it comes to financial literacy. Teens are missing basic financial skills like how to manage a checking account and how a credit card works. Many attempts to promote financial literacy from different sources have failed, not because they weren't good lessons, but because they were unable to engage the group who could stand to learn the most.

Money Mission teaches personal finance basics through entertaining animated videos and game play—teens' preferred learning style. Money Mission is an online simulation, available to play through Members' Advantage Credit Union, that teaches real life financial skills. Teens create an avatar and live, work and make real life financial decisions in the game's simulated village, Mission Heights. Money Mission gives youth an opportunity to consider the financial obligations they face and how they will deal with them in real life.

During each playing session, players are encouraged to make a wide range of decisions, including buying a car, trading stocks, and holding down a job. The choices players make are tied to their avatar's happiness meter, a barometer designed to demonstrate how good financial decisions require life balance.

This financial literacy tool fulfills the need for financial education with an interactive, online gaming environment that also rewards players with scholarships to pursue a post-secondary education. College-bound high school seniors are encouraged to write a short essay about their experiences in Mission Heights. (The winners of the essay contest will be awarded scholarships.)

Historically, credit unions have provided attentive service, better rates, and lower fees, and have exhibited a strong commitment to the local community. Members' Advantage Credit Union strives to empower members by helping them make good financial decisions, and benefits the local community by striving to keep funds local. Money Mission is another example of Members' Advantage Credit Union's commitment to our community. With the increasing complexity of financial matters, it is imperative that teens learn how their financial decisions impact their lives, their happiness, their wallets, and their futures.



### **Wisconsin Rapids Office**

1610 Lincoln Street • Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494 • phone 715.421.1610

### **Plover Office**

1760 Plover Road • Plover WI 54467 • phone 715.344.7440

# LENDING CHANGE AHEAD

For the past seven years Members' Advantage Credit Union, along with many other credit unions, has offered members the convenience of borrowing using an Open-end Advantage Lending Plan. Once a member had an open end plan on file it allowed that member to take out future loans without coming in to sign loan documents. The Credit Union verified member information to determine continued creditworthiness and to determine a rate and at that time funds were deposited into the member's account or a check was picked up or mailed.

Unfortunately, in order to comply with current regulations, Members' Advantage will no longer be able to offer open end lending. We will be making the change back to closed-end lending sometime in the next several months. Going forward, borrowers will need to sign loan documents every time they borrow (with the exception of home equity line of credit and Kwik Cash overdraft loans). You can still apply on the phone as well as online and in person but be sure you allow enough time to come into one of our offices to sign, or for paperwork to be mailed back and forth. We realize this change may create more steps for some members, but we have no choice. Please be aware that if at any time regulations would allow us to return to an open end lending product, Members' Advantage Credit Union will certainly consider that option. In the meantime, we will be looking into using electronic signatures to allow members to sign their documents electronically. We will keep you posted as more news becomes available on this service.

# Members, Where Are You?

*Have you moved lately? Are you recently married or divorced? Do you have a new phone number, cell phone, or email address? Have you notified your Credit Union of these changes?*

We often receive "fraud alerts" from our credit card and debit card processors about suspicious activity on members' cards and accounts. We need to be able to contact you as soon as possible to minimize the risk of loss from fraud. While the United States Postal Service will send us address changes when they are aware of them, they do not have access to changes in your telephone or email information. If we can't reach you, we can't help you, and we may be required to block the use of your card until you contact us.

You need to be able to audit your account activity on a regular basis to ensure that our records and yours are in agreement. When your monthly or quarterly statement, or your credit card invoice, comes back to us because it can't be delivered, your financial security may be at risk. If you aren't receiving your credit card statement, you won't notice or be able to report fraudulent activity. If you can't see your loan information, you may become delinquent on your payments and damage your credit rating. And if there's no activity on your savings account after a period of time, we are required by law to send any remaining funds to the State of Wisconsin as unclaimed funds.

Change is a fact of life. But if we don't know about the changes in your life, we can't do our best to serve your financial needs. Please remember to keep us informed of any changes in your address, phone number, etc. We want to keep you posted on all the advantages your Credit Union has to offer, and to be sure you're not missing anything. So, let's keep in touch!

*Mobile Banking.....coming to you soon!  
Keep watching for updates.*

# Investing for Retirement: Five Time-Tested Techniques

**How should you manage the money you're saving for retirement? Here are five time-tested principles you can put into practice now:**

1. Evaluate your investment mix. Because no one can regularly predict how investments will perform in the future, dividing your money among the different types of assets is a way to help reduce risk.
2. Review your portfolio. Annually evaluate how your investments are performing by comparing returns with their appropriate benchmarks.
3. Focus on the long term. Although history can't predict the future, despite downturns the market always has recovered. In fact, large-company stocks, as measured by the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, have outperformed all other types of investments since 1926.
4. Invest regularly. Despite market conditions, start or continue to invest regularly through employer-sponsored retirement plans or mutual fund automatic investment plans. Investing a fixed amount of money at regular intervals, called dollar-cost averaging, turns the market's ups and downs to your advantage. That's because your money buys fewer shares when prices are up and more when they're down.
5. Don't chase performance. Keep informed, but don't be swayed from your long-term investment plan based on market fluctuations or the barrage of conflicting commentaries from market analysts. Furthermore, don't be influenced by the latest trends, and resist the temptation to shift all your money into the winners of the day.

## IRA and 401(k) Contributions: A Quick Comparison

	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA	401(k)	Roth 401(k)
What's the most you can contribute?	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Catch-up contribution if age 50 or older	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,500	\$5,500
When do you pay taxes?	At withdrawal in retirement	Now: when you invest	At withdrawal in retirement	Now: when you invest
Income limits?	No	Yes	No	No
Where do you get it?	Your credit union	Your credit union	Your employer	Your employer

### Notes:

1. The total contributions allowed to all IRAs may be split between any number of traditional and Roth IRAs. For example, if you contribute \$3,000 to a traditional IRA, you may contribute \$2,000 to a Roth IRA if you're age 49 or younger.
2. The total contributions allowed to a 401(k) are independent of how much you contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA.
3. You can contribute to a traditional 401(k) and to a Roth 401(k) at the same time, but the contribution limits apply to both accounts combined.
4. Income limits for a Roth IRA phase out between \$110,000 and \$125,000 for single filers and \$173,000 to \$183,000 for those who are married and file jointly.

## Focus on... Leann Scheibe

Members' Advantage Credit Union is very pleased to introduce our members to Leann Scheibe, a recent addition to our Plover office. Leann has been added to our full-time staff as a Mortgage Processor, and has the background and experience to make a great contribution to our mortgage lending services in the Plover area and beyond.

Leann was born and raised in the Marshfield area, but has lived in Wisconsin Rapids for many years. Prior to joining MACU, Leann had worked in the financial field for over 23 years, beginning at the teller level and working her way through a variety of jobs in financial institutions. She finds she enjoys the work involved with processing mortgages, and has found her niche there with us.

Beyond the Credit Union, Leann has four children and is "Grandma" to one grandchild. The two kids still at home keep her busy with dance and sports activities. When she's not occupied with their extra-curricular adventures, she likes to spend her time walking, reading, enjoying music, and most of all, cooking.

MACU is very fortunate to have people like Leann working with us, so we can offer the most experience and best service to you, our members!



### Scotcheroo Bars

#### Ingredients

- 1 c. corn syrup
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. peanut butter
- 5 c. Rice Crispies
- 12 oz pkg chocolate chips
- 12 oz pkg butterscotch chips

Combine corn syrup and sugar in a large dutch oven on medium-high heat; bring to a low boil. Add peanut butter and stir until melted. Remove from heat and stir in rice crispies until well coated.

Spread mixture in a buttered 9 x 13 pan. Meanwhile, melt chocolate chips and butterscotch chips and pour over the rice crispy mixture. Let cool and cut into bars.



## Children's Miracle Network Update

February is "Credit Unions for Kids" month nationwide with credit unions and Children's Miracle Network (CMN) working together to raise money for the kids in our local area. Members' Advantage Credit Union will again be showing our support for CMN by doing a variety of fundraising throughout the month of February. We will be participating in the Share-A-Bear Program. This program allows members to "sponsor" a Beanie Bear for \$5.00 or a Beanie Buddy for \$10.00. These bears are given to the children at St. Joseph's Hospital who are admitted for either outpatient or inpatient surgery. You can choose the bear that you want to sponsor and send a message to the child along with the bear. This is a wonderful way to help ease the fear that these children are experiencing. Along with the Share-A-Bear program we will be hosting a bake sale/brat fry. Also, look for posters at the Credit Union for other fundraisers we will be doing in the month of February. So please stop in at either of our offices and see how you can help us help the kids in our area.

## Join Us for YOUR Annual Meeting

The entire Credit Union benefits when its' members participate. That's why we invite every member to attend our—YOUR—annual meeting. ALL members are equal owners of their Credit Union.

The annual meeting is an occasion for management and elected officials to report to you, the owners. It's also an opportunity for you to learn about the Credit Union's financial position, products and services, current business issues, and goals. You'll meet face-to-face with the people who operate your Credit Union.

Without your input, leaders can only guess what you and other owners want from your Credit Union.

Date: **Saturday, April 13, 2013**  
Location: **Ridges Supper Club**  
2311 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Bingo to follow business meeting  
Tickets will be available from March 1 – March 29, 2013.



Always borrow money from a pessimist,  
he doesn't expect to be paid back.

~Author Unknown

# ATM Annual Safety Notice

Using your ATM/debit card is the simple, hassle-free way to get cash, make deposits, check account balances, transfer funds, make purchases and more. To enjoy the many conveniences electronic banking offers, you should make ATM/debit card security a priority. Here are some important safety tips.

## ATM/Debit Card Security

Treat your card like cash. Always keep your card in a safe place. Keep your "PIN" a secret. ATM transactions and PIN debit purchases require the use of a secret code known as a personal identification number or PIN. Memorize your PIN, and never write it on your card or store it with your card. Never let someone else enter your PIN for you.

## Stolen Card

Promptly call your financial institution if your card is lost or stolen to reduce the chance that it will be used improperly. Prompt notice of lost or stolen cards will also limit your potential liability for unauthorized transactions.

## Review your account statements.

Review all account statements from your financial institution promptly, and report any errors (including transactions you believe may be unauthorized) as soon as possible.

Prompt notification will limit your potential liability for unauthorized transactions.

## ATM Security

Always observe the ATM surroundings before conducting a transaction. If anyone or anything appears to be suspicious, leave the area at once. If you drive to an ATM, park as close as possible to the terminal. Observe the entire area from the safety of your car before getting out.

If an ATM is obstructed from view or poorly lit, go to another ATM.  
If possible, report the problem to the financial institution that operates the ATM.

It is a good idea to take another person with you when using an ATM, especially at night. Minimize the time spent at the ATM when conducting a transaction.

Have your card out and ready to use. Do not allow a stranger to assist you in making a transaction, even if you have trouble or your card gets stuck. When your transaction is complete, put your card, money and receipt away and immediately leave the area. Never count your money while at the ATM.

## Block the view of others when using the ATM.

Stand between the ATM and anyone waiting to use the terminal. Shield the keypad as necessary when entering your PIN and transaction amount.

If you see anyone or anything suspicious, cancel your transaction and leave the area at once. If anyone follows you, go immediately to a crowded, well-lit area and call the police.

## Look for possible fraudulent devices attached to the ATM.

If the ATM appears to have any attachments or alterations to the card slot or keypad, do not use the ATM. If possible, report the potential problem to the financial institution that operates the ATM.

## savings corner

**Open Deposit**  
.30% APY\*

**Share Certificate**  
(\$1,000 minimum)

6 month term	.55% APY*
12 month term	.70% APY*
18 month term	.75% APY*
24 month term	1.00% APY*
30 month term	1.11% APY*
36 month term	1.25% APY*
48 month term	1.31% APY*
60 month term	1.56% APY*

**IRA Certificate**  
(\$1,000 minimum)

12 month term	.70% APY*
18 month term	.75% APY*
24 month term	1.00% APY*
30 month term	1.11% APY*
36 month term	1.25% APY*
48 month term	1.31% APY*
60 month term	1.56% APY*

**IRA Passbook**  
.60% APY\*

**Money Market Shares**  
From 0.20% - .50% APY\*

*Rates are subject to change.  
\*APY=Annual percentage Yield*

## office hours

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS**  
7:00-5:00 M-W Drive-up  
7:00-6:00 Th-F Drive-up  
9:00-5:00 M-F Lobby  
9:00-1:00 Sat. Drive-up Only

**PLOVER**  
7:00-5:00 M-W Drive-up  
7:00-6:00 Th-F Drive-up  
9:00-5:00 M-W Lobby  
9:00-6:00 Th-F Lobby  
9:00-1:00 Sat. Drive-up Only

**24 hr Drive-up ATM**  
*No Surcharge for Members*