



MARATHON COUNTY EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION



www.mcecu.org

May 2006

Annual Meeting Update

Our 40th Annual Meeting was held April 25^h at the VFW:
Your elected Board of Directors are:

- Philip Valitchka, Chairman*
- Robert Bruss, Vice Chairman*
- Jackie Bethel, Secretary*
- Kathy Kainz, Treasurer*
- Lorraine Beyersdorff, Director*

Jackie and Robert were re-elected to three year terms.
Please congratulate Jackie and Robert on their re-election.

The board of directors is responsible for directing and controlling the credit union. If you have any questions or concerns about your credit union, please feel free to contact any of the board members. Remember, you own the place!

Get a ¼ % Off Your Next Loan

The next time you need a loan, apply online at www.mcecu.org and save ¼ % on your rate.

Just visit our secure web site, click on “Loan Application” and apply online. The web site is secure and the application will go straight to Julie.

Membership Has Many Advantages!

As a member/owner of the credit union, you can take advantage of our many convenient services!

- Direct Deposit/Payroll Deduction
- CU Online Home Banking
- MARS 24 Hour Audio Response
- Checking Accounts
- Money Market Account
- IRAs
- Savings Accounts for all reasons
- Mortgages of all types
- Loans for any reason
- A staff that cares!

We're ready to meet all of your financial needs!

Beware of Email Scams

Many criminals are using a technique called PHISHING to gain your personal information to conduct fraudulent account transactions. 5012

"Phishing" is the use of e-mail and fraudulent Web sites to trick recipients into disclosing personal financial information, such as credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, account names, passwords, and addresses. An email with a company's logo and other branded information is sent to a consumer, asking the consumer to click the included web site link to verify information. This link directs the victim to a fraudulent web site that may look similar to the company's web site with response boxes to fill in "required" information. Many familiar companies have become victims of "phishing". The people attempting to gain personal information are focusing on smaller companies and credit unions.

Typical "Phishing" Tactics:

- A generic greeting "Dear customer"
- Refers to an urgent problem with an account
- States an account will be shut down unless private information is confirmed by going to a web site and submitting it. 3901

In general, if you receive an email that looks suspicious, please call the financial institution referred to in the email using information you have on file in your home, not from the email. This gives the financial institution vital information that their company is a target for fraud.

If you do not have an account at the financial institution sending you the email, delete the email and report suspicious activity to the FTC at www.ftc.gov

MCECU will never ask for personal account information in an unsolicited email.

What's Up WithRon

I work part-time at MCECU. I enjoy surfing the internet, playing computer games, watching sports, reading and helping out at home. After being in the Mount View Apartments, I am back living with my parents. 6966



Check out our great rates on our mortgage

loans

With mortgage rates at affordable levels, the home of your dreams may be within your reach. And with MCECU, you can take advantage of these great features:

Get preapproved. You'll know exactly how much home you can afford. Plus, home sellers may prefer bids from preapproved buyers.

Low rates and closing costs. MCECU offers some of the most competitive mortgage rates and closing costs around.

Flexible terms. Choose from 15-year fixed, 30-year fixed, 1/1 and 3/3 adjustable rate mortgages.

Real people at real places: Visit or call Joan to apply for a mortgage loan. 847-4732.

Not in the Market for a new home?

Consider **taking advantage of the equity** you've built up in your home with a home equity loan or line of credit. A home equity loan is ideal for financing home improvement projects, debt consolidation and other one time costs. A home equity line of credit allows you to access your approved credit line as needed for ongoing expenses, such as college tuition, or as an emergency source of credit when the roof leaks or the car needs repair. Plus the interest you pay on a home equity loan or line may be tax deductible. *

To learn more about our first mortgage and home equity products call **Julie at 261-7685.** 1545

*Consult a tax advisor for deductibility in your situation.

Credit Union News

Credit Union Nights at the Ballpark are July 26th and 27th. We will have tickets available in the lobby in July. Free admission. 2792

There is a link on www.mcecu.org to Member's Financial Network where you can check out stock market stuff.

There are seven hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If your number is one of them, call 261-7680 to claim your \$10.00 prize. Good luck!



President's Message

Four Key Elements Set Credit Unions Apart

From the start, credit unions have focused on people, dreams, and results. The credit union difference manifests itself in four key ways: how credit unions are governed, their purpose, the benefits they offer their members and the values they bring to their communities.

Governance: Credit unions are locally owned by you, our members, and the board of directors is elected by you. Credit union boards are made up of volunteers who understand member needs and focus on ways to meet those needs.

Purpose: While maximizing profits for share holders drives other financial institutions, credit unions are not-for-profit. The money your credit union makes does not pay dividends to stockholders. It is invested in you, our member. The not-for-profit cooperative structure helps to drive down costs in all financial sectors, helping consumers of for-profit entities save money as well. 5375

Member Benefits: Research has shown that the average financial consumer will save hundreds of dollars a year doing business with credit unions over for-profit financial providers. Your credit union is always striving to add new services for you. We are available 24 hours a day via telephone at 877 678-1016 or on the internet at www.mcecu.org.

Values: The values of credit unions reflect the values of their member owners. This is good for communities that are stronger because individuals and families are able to build a better quality of life. Financial education continues to be at the forefront of our social mission. Our new "Teen Club" is an example of how we are teaching kids to save through financial education. 651

There are over 2 million credit union members in the State of Wisconsin sharing in the unique benefits credit unions can offer consumers. We are glad you are one of them.

**BETTER SERVICE IS
ALWAYS A BETTER VALUE!**

**See us for all of your borrowing needs!
Apply online at www.mcecu.org
Or call Julie at 715 261-7689**