

October  
2018

*Building lifelong  
relationships...  
one member at a time.*



## President's Message

Plan "B". Do you have one? **What if.** What if what? Sound familiar? If you are not a risk manager or strategist this may be something you have never heard; but at Members Choice it is what we do. It is the behind the scenes scenarios we consistently go through every day.

Let me explain. Plan "B" is the plan you execute when things don't go as you originally planned. **What if** is the exercise we go through to create a plan "B" when we plan a new product, service, address a threat or change a process. You may be asking, "Jim, what does it matter to me?"

Let's look at plan "B" first. Frankly, we all should have a plan "B" for the major items in our life. You all probably have one but just don't call it your plan "B". Some plans warrant a formal approach, some do not. Let's look at some examples:

**Insurance:** I remember my first mortgage; \$40,000, 14.50% interest, 20% down (wiping out our savings) and a new payment of \$450 per month. It may not sound like a lot today, but in 1982 for a 24 year old with two children in a two income family, it was a heavy burden. On paper it worked, but **WHAT IF? What if** Carol or I lost our jobs? We could not afford the mortgage on one salary. **What if** one of us became ill and could not work, or worse passed away? **What if** one of our children became seriously ill? The list of what ifs can go on. **Our plan "B" was insurance.** We purchased Term Life Insurance to insure our family could limit the disruption if a serious life event occurred. The objectives of the plan were to protect the home our family lived in, avoid the disruption that selling it would cause, and replace the income stream lost by the event. Sound familiar? Today we offer insurance that can cover you if you lose your job, something not available in 1982. I could go into my what if I lost my job Plan "B" but they only allow me 500 words here!

The purpose of the example was to start the conversation on the importance of **A Plan.**

Some **What if** topics you may want to think through are:

- Life events: sickness, death, child birth, adoption, care of our parents, income loss
- Asset events: storm damage to your property, power outage, big ticket maintenance/ replacement of home components, vehicle repairs
- Happy Events: education, weddings, grandchildren, vacation, transporting the kids
- Retirement / Estate Planning
- Identity Theft of Personal Data

We provide many solutions to assist you to be prepared for the things that ultimately happen. We offer insurance, identity protection, and retirement savings products, in addition to all of the traditional products and services. But most importantly, we offer our time to help you start the conversation that will prepare you to handle these events.

As always, thank you for being an important part of Members Choice.

*Jim Barbarich*

President and CEO Members Choice



## Financial Safety Tip



Delete messages that ask you to verify account information, such as for a bank, a credit card or PayPal. The message often states that failure to verify the information will result in an alarming consequence, such as account closure. You should not respond to these e-mails and should go to your financial institution directly to make any changes to your account. The e-mails are likely a scheme to steal your account number and password.

# October- Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This October, Members Choice is proud to participate in National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common kind of cancer in women after skin cancer. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point.

The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early.

- If you are a woman age 40 to 49, talk with your doctor about when to start getting mammograms and how often to get them.
- If you are a woman age 50 to 74, be sure to get a mammogram every 2 years. You may also choose to get them more often.

Talk to a doctor about your risk for breast cancer, especially if a close family member of yours had breast or ovarian cancer. Your doctor can help you decide when and how often to get mammograms.



## Members Choice Animal Rescue Month 2018

The Members Choice Annual Animal Rescue Month held in July was a success once again. Thank you to all who participated in our raffles and events. Many needed items, as well as cash donations were received and will be put to good use for our furry friends!



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**2018 National Night Out - August 7, 2018**  
**Lewisburg & Mount Carmel**

## Danville Fall Arts & Crafts Festival

On Sept 8th our team participated in the annual Danville Fall Arts & Craft Festival. This was a fantastic and fun opportunity for us to connect with the community and raise money for The Peyty Foundation.



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# Financial Literacy Classes



Starting in September, our Regional Managers, Elba Arenas and Beverly Cooper, will be traveling to Mount Carmel high school and St. Paul's U.C.C. Circles of Love (in the greater Milton and Lewisburg area) to conduct classes on financial literacy. With topics like credit vs. debit cards and household budgets, attendees will touch on some financial basics that will help them with their future endeavors. They will meet with students over a 6 class series to go over the lessons and help them with any questions they have regarding their financial situations. Our goal is to educate both adults and our youth so they can make smart financial decisions when they are presented with them in life. **If you are interested in Financial Literacy classes, please contact either Bev or Elba at 800-834-0082.**



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On Sept. 20th, our team attended the Health Fair for employees at ConAgra in Milton. What a great group of people! We were glad to be in attendance!



On Sept. 29th, our team attended the Miller Center Children's Health Fair. We love educating our youth on financial health and were proud to be a part of this event!

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## Calendar Of Events

**October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

**Oct. 8 - Columbus Day - CLOSED**

**Oct. 18 - International Credit Union Day**

**Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day - CLOSED**

**Nov. 30 - No NYC Bus Trip Refunds after this day**

**Dec. 16 - NYC Bus Trip (from Danville Branch)**

**Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve - CLOSE AT NOON**

**Dec. 25 - Christmas Day - CLOSED**

**Jan. 1, 2019 - New Year's Day - CLOSED**



### MCA ThinkBIG Fundraiser

Throughout the month of September, our team at the Mount Carmel branch did a football themed fundraiser for Mount Carmel Area ThinkBIG.



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# PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S CREDIT FREEZE IT, IT'S FREE!

The best offense is a great defense. An emerging fraud trend is **"synthetic identity theft"**. The bad actors create a new identity from information they have acquired. One target has been children. With your child's birth date and social security number a new first time borrower is created. They create an employment letter with fake credentials and apply for credit. The youngest reported case: a one-month-old.

To stop this you can contact the credit reporting agencies and have them create and freeze their credit reports. When the fraudsters try to establish credit, the lender will not be able to get a credit report and you will be informed of the application for credit. Lenders will not lend without a credit report protecting them and your child's credit history. Seniors are also a target, so be vigilant.

**It is FREE and it is what you can do to protect your child's credit history.**

## Planning For The Holidays

The holidays always seem to be just around the corner. It won't be long before families are exchanging presents. Holidays and gifts can take a big bite out of your budget so planning ahead will help keep your budget under control.

It is important not to get caught up in the last minute emotion of the season and spend more than you planned. Holiday overspending ruins many festive occasions and can result in long repayment schedules.

Don't have a holiday credit hangover! Remember, credit obligations (excluding home mortgages and utilities) should not exceed 15-20 percent of your take-home pay each month.

The following are suggestions to help relieve holiday stress:

- Shop early for gifts. This allows you to take advantage of sales, specials and bargains. Don't over buy or forget you have already shopped for someone.
- Make your own gifts. Use skills you have to sew, bake, paint or make crafts.
- Don't be a "One gift for you...one gift for me" shopper! And don't be tempted to give your gifts early lest you buy more!
- Use layaway plans if possible. Most allow you to pay at a rate you can afford either weekly or monthly.
- If you have a large family, consider drawing names to exchange gifts.
- Shop your local craft fairs and shows for specialty items - you'll find some great ideas. Sometimes you can bargain with the vendor.
- Family members would appreciate an IOU to mow the lawn or wash the car in the spring.
- If you plan to fill stockings or bags for the children, try putting a few pieces of fruit (apples & oranges) in the bottom first. Also, coloring books and scratch pads make great inexpensive fillers.
- Know your merchants' return policies before buying.



Don't forget to plan ahead for expenses such as holiday decorations, special candies, baking supplies (especially if baking for gifts), increased utility bills, food consumption and wrapping paper. These expenses are rarely considered and can really add up fast.

Need help with a holiday budget? As a member of Members Choice FCU, you can take advantage of the GreenPath Financial Wellness program, a free financial education and counseling program. GreenPath counselors are available Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (EST), Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. To use this new service, simply call 1-877-337-3399 or visit them on the web at [www.greenpathref.com](http://www.greenpathref.com).

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