

Member Connections



Winter 2021

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President's Message



Happy New Year! I think it would be safe to say we are all "Happy" that 2020 is over and we look forward to the "New Year". I hope you are all in good health and embrace this new year with an optimistic view of what is ahead of us. The COVID-19 vaccine is on its way. I plan to and encourage all of our members to be a part of the solution; please get vaccinated. We will continue our limited lobby hours until the department of health officials indicate it is safe to return to the normal schedule.

Our mobile and home banking products, remote deposit, and ATM network allow you access anywhere, anytime. More information on these great products is available online at mcfcu.org or by calling our member service center at 800.834.0082.

It's time to set those new years resolutions. At the top of the list for this year is to "be kind". It is joined by the traditional weight loss goals, exercise focus, and be a better Spouse/Parent/Child. Why do we all focus our resolutions on these topics? Its simple. They all have a positive impact on our health and our family, the two most important things we cherish.

In April we will convene our 67th annual meeting. As a part of that celebration we seat board and committee positions with members of our Members Choice Family. So perhaps you could craft one of your resolutions around volunteering for one of these rewarding positions. I was a volunteer board member for almost 20 years before becoming the CEO and cherish the great things we accomplished during that time. Our governance is one of the things that separates us from the banks. A volunteer board and committees are a key part of our structure. Our Audit Committee is a great first step to prepare members to serve on the board. If you have an interest in serving, we would love to have that conversation.

Speaking about conversations, have you had one with any of our member service representatives or loan officers? We are here for you to help you navigate through the financial maze that 2020 created. Loan rates are at historically low levels. We can craft a great solution to help you start this new year confident, and well positioned to achieve your plan.

I did want to share a few thoughts from our plan for 2021. We will continue to focus on delivering products and services that are transacted in a safe and secure manner with the convenience that works for you. We will follow the guidance from the CDC and Health Department to keep everyone safe when you are in our branches. You can always make an appointment until we restore full-service hours.

Our financial literacy programs have benefited so many people in our community. We will continue to offer this important program in 2021. Over the next decade there will be a huge transfer of wealth as we continue to move along life's path. I recently had one of those proud grandparent moments when my grandson shared his excitement around a personal finance class he was taking in school. I was entranced with his enthusiasm and quest to learn about budgets, spending, savings and debt. More importantly, it opened my eyes to a great opportunity for us to engage our young members and join them on their journey to financial readiness. Thank you Braylan for the inspiration.

I want to close with a sincere thank you to our team for enduring this challenging year. They have been ready to provide support to all of you, as we have battled the virus and the financial and emotional havoc that it has created. The words " what can I do to help you" resonate with every member interaction in a caring tone and a commitment to you. From all of us at Members Choice, we wish you a safe, healthy and prosperous new year. Thanks for being an important part of our success.

Jim Barbarich

Jim Barbarich, President & CEO



Calendar

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

01/01 - Branches Closed - New Years Day

01/18 - Branches Closed - MLK Jr. Day

February

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

02/02 - Happy Groundhog Day

02/14 - Happy Valentine's Day

02/15 - All Branches Closed - Presidents Day

March

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

03/14 - Daylight Savings - Turn Clocks Ahead

03/17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day

April

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

04/02 - Good Friday - Branches Close at Noon

04/04 - Happy Easter

04/22 - Happy Earth Day

Three Automatic Ways to Create Healthy Financial Habits

By GreenPath Financial Wellness

It can be tough to stick to healthy financial habits, especially the ones that relate to long-term goals. The great news is that we can make some relatively small changes that “nudge” us along in the direction of financial wellness.

In behavioral economics, the study of how people make choices, small changes that alter our default behavior are called “default nudges.” Automation enables us to enforce our intentions and priorities, and creates a barrier for spending decisions that fall outside those priorities.

Here are three ways to automate your financial life:

1. Meet your savings goals by setting up an automatic deposit for your savings account. As legendary investor Warren Buffet puts it, “Don’t save what is left after spending; spend what is left after saving.” Set a savings goal and decide what percentage of your income you want to put toward that goal for every pay period. An automatic transfer puts that money into your savings account every time you get paid, making it easier to meet your savings goals and less tempting to spend that money on something else.
2. Simplify bill paying, save time, and avoid late fees by setting up auto-pay for your bills. Another simple way to automate your financial life is to setup auto-payments for your bills. If you have recurring bills that you budget for every month (like a cellphone bill or a monthly loan payment), you can use auto-pay to make sure those bills are always paid on time. If you have the option to choose your payment dates, set them up shortly after your paycheck is deposited into your checking account. You can also use a service, such as GreenPath’s Simple Payment Plan, which helps consumers automate their monthly payments and schedule them around payday. With savings and bills withdrawn early in the month, you’ll have a better sense of what’s available for other expenditures. An added benefit: you’ll never be hit with late fees again!
3. Plan ahead and maximize your tax benefits by signing up for automatic contributions to a retirement account. If your employer offers a retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b), sign up to have your contributions automatically deducted from your paycheck. These plans place a portion of your pre-tax income into a retirement account, giving you a lower taxable income during your working years, and growing your long-term savings to provide you income during your retirement. If you don’t have access to a retirement account through your employer, you can make automatic contributions into an IRA account instead. Automatically depositing part of your paycheck into a retirement account means that money never lands in your checking account, so you won’t be tempted to use it elsewhere.

All of these strategies are based on the idea that our spending rises to meet our income. We somehow always find a way to spend the money that is available to us. By using automation to transfer money toward meeting financial goals, we can ensure that we spend our money on what we intend to. It limits the resources that are available to spend on things that don’t line up with our goals and enables us to stay on track.



TIME TO REFINANCE?

ASK ABOUT OUR LOW RATE MORTGAGES!

Powered by:

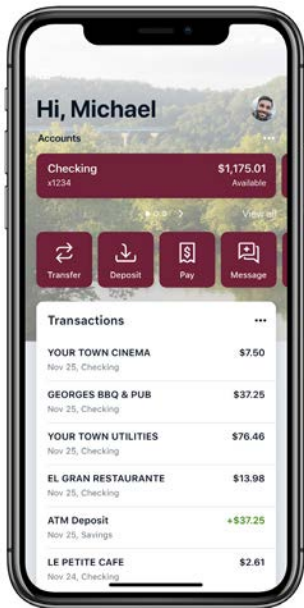


© 2020 First Heritage Mortgage Services. All loans are subject to credit qualification, credit worthiness and other factors. Contact the credit union for complete rate information. Federally Insured by NCUA.

Stay Home, Stay Connected

Digital Banking & Bill Pay

Members Choice offers online and mobile banking with Bill Pay as part of our digital banking package to safely access your accounts wherever you are. Anywhere your computer or mobile device has Internet connection, you can connect to us. As we continue to fight Covid-19, having access to your finances without leaving your home is so important.



Our digital banking suite has the same look across the board, making it easier to navigate. You can personalize your dashboard, look at check images, and do internal transfers from either device. To reduce our carbon footprint, online banking offers e-statements which allow members to view their monthly statement faster and reduces paper consumption.

Accessing your account is simple, safe, and secure and will allow you to view and manage your account in the following ways:

- Verify withdrawals, deposits, payments, and pending items
- Make payments on loans anytime, day or night
- Track spending habits and learn how to save money
- Pay bills with free Bill Pay
- Apply for a loan, credit card, or mortgage
- Mobile Deposit checks with your smart device and our Mobile App
- Set up account alerts and notifications
- Turn your debit card on and off with the click of a button
- Self-service: enroll and reset yourself without ever having to come into a branch
- Chat with a Member Service Representative
- Two Factor Authentication for an added layer of security

To learn more about Online and Mobile banking, Mobile Deposit, and Bill Pay visit us online at mcfcu.org/resources/online-services. There you will find instructions, answers to frequently asked questions, and our commitment to you. You can access online banking by clicking 'log in' on the top right corner or by visiting my.mcfcu.org. Our mobile banking app can be downloaded in the App Store for iPhone and the Google Play Store for Android devices by searching for *Members Choice PA FCU*.

Youth Corner

Building Financial Skills for the Future

Research shows that students who receive financial literacy training tend to have higher credit scores, lower levels of loan delinquency, and better saving habits. To help parents educate their children on the proper handling of money, Members Choice provides services that both teach financial principles and give students practical experience. In addition children with youth accounts can learn the following skills:

Learn about goals. Setting and achieving goals is an important life skill. Saving money for the goal of being able to afford something like a new toy is a positive way to work on these skills and lessons.

Learn financial basics. Saving for a financial goal also instructs kids about the basics of income, expenses, and value. If a child begins saving for something but sees how much time and effort it will take to earn and save enough money to purchase the item, they might rethink their goal. This will teach them to think critically about what to spend money on and if it's worth the cost. This will also tie into the important lesson of wants vs needs. The value of money, as in cash or in an account, is an important lesson to learn at an early age, particularly when many kids observe adults using debit/credit cards and don't see an obvious exchange of money.

Learn responsibility. A saving or checking ledger will directly reflect a child's contributions and deposits as well as withdrawals and will help teach responsibility for their actions. This will also teach a valuable lesson of decisions and consequences. If they don't regularly contribute to their account or resist spending, they will never reach their savings goals! This is also a chance for children to feel a sense of fulfillment and pride when they reach their saving goal. These positive feelings will help reinforce proper savings and spending habits.

With these skills firmly in hand, your student will be prepared to face the financial challenges of saving for college and responsibly managing debt. Members Choice can provide help in both of these areas through our Scholarship Program, which awards up to \$1000 to matriculating seniors, and SMART Option Student Loans with competitively low interest rates.

We are happy to introduce our updated Youth Corner on our website! There you will find information about Youth Month, which takes place in April, the benefits of opening a youth account, and you will also find three fun financial themed games!



MEMBERS SAVE UP TO \$15

Visit Your Credit Union's
Website to Save Today!



Attend Our Annual Meeting

Join Us!

Meeting will be held

Wed. April 7, 2021

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You will have the chance to hear from the Board of Directors and Jim Barbarich, President & CEO. This is a great opportunity to learn more about your credit union.

At this time, it has not yet been determined whether our Annual Meeting will be held In Person or Virtually. Please visit our website, mcfcu.org and watch for additional communications about our 67th Annual Meeting.

HELP DIRECT THE FUTURE

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors at your credit union is made up of qualified, volunteer credit union members. We are "people helping people" succeed in their future and as a member of the board, you can shape the future of your credit union while using your skills to contribute to its mission.

The nominating committee has named incumbents Matthew Hoeger, William Anderson, and Brian Ulmer who have previously filed with the secretary of the board of directors. Interested members may submit a petition form to the committee and must be signed by 1% of membership population (134). The deadline for receiving the petition is 2/26/2021.

Community Outreach

Financial Literacy

Congratulations to our latest group of financial literacy graduates! Members Choice is happy to work with Getting Ahead Foundation to make this class possible.

For more information about financial literacy classes and for additional financial wellness tools visit our website at: mcfcu.org/resources/financial-wellness



Pictured from Members Choice are Jim Barbarich, CEO, Elba Arenas, CMEO, and Brian Wiktor, CLO along with members of Getting Ahead Foundation and the financial literacy class graduates.

Resolved to Pay Down Your Debt?



**Swap your High Interest Card Balance To
A Members Choice Visa® Credit Card!**

4.99%^{APR*}

Locked In Balance Transfer Rate

-PLUS-

- No Balance Transfer Fee**
- No Annual Fee**

**More Options • Great Benefits
Consistently Lower Rates**

*Terms and conditions apply. Visit mcfcu.org for details

Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Financial Wellness Tip

Unfortunately, there are always bad actors out there who seek to take advantage of a crisis and threaten your financial security. The events surrounding Covid-19 and the resulting rise in scams is no exception. Follow the quick tips below to avoid falling into a fraudsters trap.

1. Don't click links from unknown sources.
2. Don't respond to unsolicited calls, texts or emails.
3. Fact-check information before sharing.
4. Hang up on robocalls.
5. Ignore online offers for vaccines and home test kits.
6. Ignore suspicious emails claiming to be from the CDC.
7. Ignore suspicious solicitations for "investment opportunities".
8. Know who you're buying from while shopping online.
9. Research before you donate to any charity

And as always, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. To learn more about how to protect yourself from fraud visit us at mcfcu.org and review our Fraud and Security page.

Locations and Hours

Danville

390 Walnut Street
Danville, PA 17821
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm
Fr: 8am-6pm
Sat: 9am-12pm

Bloomsburg

599 East 7th Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm
Fr: 8am-6pm
Sat: 9am-12pm

Evangelical Community Hospital

1 Hospital Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837
M-Fr: 7:30am-4:00pm

Merck Cherokee Pharmaceuticals

100 Avenue C
Riverside, PA 17868
M-Tu-Fr: 8am-1pm

Lewisburg

1339 Saint Mary Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm
Fr: 8am-6pm
Sat: 9am-12pm

Mount Carmel

11218 State Route 61
Mount Carmel, PA 17851
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm
Fr: 8am-5pm
Sat: 9am-12pm

800.834.0082 mcfcu.org

Mobile App: Members Choice PA FCU Social Media: [mcfcumemberschoice](https://www.facebook.com/mcfcumemberschoice)

