

Member Connections

By



President's Message



On behalf of our team at MC Federal, I want to extend wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season to you and your families. As we start a new year, we have so many things to be thankful for. As a community, we continue to do our part and stay safe as the virus continues to taunt us. We are so fortunate to have those frontline workers that provide services we all depend on to survive.

Our Healthcare Heroes unselfishly deliver the life-sustaining care we all depend on. Our teachers, grocery, retail, transportation, and food service workers are there each day, providing the essentials we need to stay strong. Thank you all for lifting us up in this time of crisis.

A special thank you to the group of men and women that I have the privilege to work with, witnessing their acts of kindness and empathy every day. They are your financial first responders, working with you, our members, and in the communities we serve. They provide compassion and financial stability that has been challenged by this pandemic. Thank you, Team MC, for making a difference in so many people's lives. Your commitment and kindness has lifted so many; it has made a difference.

The start of a new year is a great time to reflect. You must admit the previous year has been a roller coaster with the virus and its variants, inflation that we haven't seen for decades, gas prices up a dollar per gallon, remote education, and many of the essentials we all depend on in short supply. The stress both mentally and financially we experienced and survived is a testament to our resiliency. We can all admit that the pandemic has changed life as we know it.

The word pivot has moved from the back pages of Webster, to a business essential. I want to share some exciting pivots that have been driven by the past year.

The first pivot is the revision of our Mission Statement. In the past, we focused on low loan rates, low or no fees, higher dividends, and great service to our member owners, leveraging our people, products, and services. The pandemic made us pivot, shifting our focus to the financial health and well-being of our members. Many of you have been impacted with our outreach through this very difficult time. Our commitment to you remains steadfast, in good times and in bad. As we navigated through the last 21 months, one thing became clear. Our low fees and great loan and dividend rates were not the mission; they were simply a benefit of your membership. Our new mission statement captures why we do business. Educate, Enlighten, and Celebrate! To be a catalyst that positively impacts the financial health and well-being of our members, and the communities we serve. Our old mission statement provides part of the how.

Another way we will execute this new mission is to offer each of our members a financial wellness checkup. I encourage you to speak to a member of our team today. They are excited to discuss your goals and provide solutions to help you succeed financially.

Set up your financial wellness check up by calling 800.834.0082, stopping in your local branch, or using the chat feature within our digital banking platform.

The second pivot was focused on our digital platforms. Our digital banking, and mobile wallets, utilizing your debit and credit cards, are the new standard. You are always welcome in our branches, but the pandemic has changed that behavior. Digital solutions have replaced many branch visits. We will continue to upgrade and protect this convenient way to bank. Our digital services offer a 24/7 branch anywhere, anytime banking solution. If you have not used our digital channels, stop in and let us show you just how easy and safe they are to use.

The final pivot I want to cover in this message is related to the adage "the best defense is a good offense." Bad actors are skillful, persistent, and have no ethics. They prey on the most vulnerable, and we need to heighten our defenses. I want to share two simple offensive steps that are easy to take and will provide you with a great defense.

First "Lock your credit report." If you are not applying for a loan or credit card, put a lock on your credit with the three credit agencies. If your identity is compromised, a fraudster can take your personal information and open unauthorized loans and credit cards. With your credit report locked, creditors will not be able to access your credit report which is required to make a loan decision. This will send a red flag to the creditor to reject your application. If you decide to apply for credit, it is very easy to unlock your report. Instructions on how to do this can be found on page 2. So, if you are not in the market for a loan, lock out the bad actors.

The second great offensive action is Account Alerts. You can sign up for alerts within our digital banking and online credit card management services. Account alerts will notify you of activity on your accounts, including low balance alerts and payment due notifications. This is a great way to keep track of your accounts in real time.

I want to let you know that your partnership with MC is appreciated and respected. 2022 will be a year of financial challenges driven by the pandemic variants, economic recovery, and the heightened passion of bad actors to take something that is not theirs. We must be vigilant and do our part to deny their unlawful acts. As partners, we both can take action to achieve your goal of strong financial health and well-being. Please join us and establish a strong offense; it is our best defense.

Thanks for being an important part of our success. Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy New Year.

Jim Barbarich

Jim Barbarich, President & CEO



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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 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

01/01 - Branches Closed - New Years Day

01/17 - Branches Closed - MLK Jr. Day

February

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

02/02 - Happy Groundhog Day

02/14 - Happy Valentine's Day

02/21 - All Branches Closed - Presidents Day

March

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27	28	29	30	31		

03/13 - Daylight Savings - Turn Clocks Ahead

03/17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day

03/20 - First Day of Spring

April

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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

April - Credit Union Youth Month

04/06 - Annual Meeting

04/15 - Good Friday - Branches Close at Noon

04/17 - Happy Easter

04/22 - Happy Earth Day

Keep Your Money Safe

Scammers are constantly looking for new ways to steal your hard earned money. You can protect yourself by knowing what to look out for and how to protect yourself from fraud.

Stay Up to Date on Common Schemes

Mail fraud, employment scams, phishing attempts, lottery scams, and romance schemes. These are just a few of the types of fraud we see every day. The best way to combat fraud is to know what to look for. Consumer Finance Protection Bureau(CFPB) as the most up to date information on common and current fraud scheme. Visit their website, <https://www.consumerfinance.gov> to learn more.

Freeze Your Credit Report

Did you know that you can freeze and unfreeze your credit record for free at the three nationwide credit reporting companies – Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax? A credit freeze stops new creditors from accessing your credit file and opening accounts in your name, until you lift the freeze. You must contact each credit reporting company individually if you would like to place a freeze with all three nationwide credit reporting companies.

Because most businesses will not open credit accounts without checking your credit report, a freeze can stop identity thieves from opening new accounts in your name. If you freeze your credit report and decide to apply for a credit account yourself, you will need to place a request to have your report unfrozen. The freeze does not apply to someone who requests your credit report for employment, tenant-screening, or insurance purposes.

Be mindful that a freeze doesn't prevent identity thieves from taking over existing accounts. You will still need to be vigilant and monitor for fraud.

Know Who You are Speaking With

The government will never call, text, or contact you on social media saying you owe money. Say "NO" to anyone claiming to be from a government agency asking for cash, gift cards, wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or personal and financial information, whether they contact you by phone, texts email, or by showing up in person. Don't share your Social Security, Medicare ID, driver's license, bank account, or credit card numbers.

Turn Your Card "Off"

MC Federal puts card controls in your hands! If you misplace your debit card, simply log into our digital banking and turn off your card. If your card turns up, turn the card back on and continue to use it. If your card is truly lost or stolen contact the credit union to have your card cancelled and replaced. If it's your MC Federal credit card that has been misplaced, use our online credit card management tool - DXO - to turn your card off and on. You can access DXO from within digital banking or on our website by visiting mcfcu.org/card-services/creditcard.

Keep Private Information Private

Do not share your Social Security, Medicare ID, driver's license, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, PIN number, or online banking log in information with anyone.

If you think you may have fallen for a fraud scheme or have been taken advantage of, call us immediately. Do not be embarrassed. Fraud happens to everyone and your quick action will help allow us to put a stop to the fraud before it gets out of control.

New Year, New Money Habits:

Small Changes for Improving Your Financial Health in the New Year

The New Year is a time for powerful new beginnings. It also presents an opportunity to look at our everyday habits – whether those habits relate to our health and fitness or our money habits as we manage any financial challenges.

What is a habit? A good working definition is that a habit is a routine behavior that is repeated regularly and tends to occur without a lot of conscious thought.

Many of us already have healthy habits that we do by routine – like brushing our teeth or washing our hands.

We might also have healthy money habits. Carefully reviewing your credit card statements each month could be a habit you already have in place, for example. As the year gets underway, there are opportunities to reinforce healthy money habits that already work for you. And it's an opportunity to create new habits like writing down financial goals or building savings.

Make It a Habit

Building positive money habits can affect your entire wellbeing. Here are a few ideas to try as the New Year gets underway.

1. Make a Goal (and Write It Down)

Goal-setting gives you direction. You can decide on your destination and make a plan to get there. This action might seem small, but it's not. Make it a habit to look at monthly finances and jot down one or two goals. The goal could be taking a bite out of your credit card balances or setting aside a small amount each month for a large purchase.

2. Set it and Forget It

You likely have many of your outgoing bills set to “automatic payment,” which is a positive money habit. Setting up “auto pay” on monthly utilities, cable, and other bills lets you be sure bills are paid on time. Consider setting up “auto save” as well. If you set a goal to save for a big purchase, like the down payment for a car, automate monthly savings to help you achieve your goal. Set up automatic transfers or use direct deposit from your paycheck to automatically place funds in your goal account.

3. Spend with Care

Mindful spending is a powerful financial habit to build. If you don't already have one, build the habit of using a monthly spending or budgeting plan. You'll learn how much money you have to work with, the amount that is going out each month for bills and expenses, what you need to set aside for other bills and living expenses, and how much you can devote to your goal from each paycheck.

4. Deal with Debt

Think about your habits when using your credit card and when considering your total debt situation. Are most of your purchases made with consumer credit cards? What are your current credit card balances and other debt balances? Listing out all your monthly debt payments helps you stay aware and act if needed. If you are in the habit of only making minimum payments on your credit card balances or experiencing collection calls, consider learning about how a Debt Management Plan can get help support healthy money habits.

5. Celebrate Your Progress

As we noted, you likely have many positive habits already. That's something to be proud of, as you can apply those lessons to building new money habits. Make it simple. Tackle one habit at a time and celebrate your wins. The New Year is sure to be a success when you tackle one habit at a time and make it work for you.

Ready to build new money habits?

Our partner GreenPath specializes in helping people improve their financial wellness.

Learn more about building healthy financial habits here:
<https://www.greenpath.com/redesign-financial-habits/>

The Path to Financial Wellness Starts Here - [greenpath.com/mcfcu](https://www.greenpath.com/mcfcu) -

No matter what your goals may be, our partners at GreenPath can help you take control of your day-to-day financial choices to create more opportunities for achieving your dreams.



Create a Budget



Save More



Pay off Debt



Improve Credit



Buy a House



Plan for the Future

Connect with a GreenPath Counselor Today!
877-337-3399

ZAP YOUR DEBT

WITH AN MC FEDERAL CREDIT CARD!

4.999% APR*

LOCKED IN BALANCE TRANSFER RATE & NO BALANCE TRANSFER FEE!

NADA ZIP ZILCH

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Current rates range from 7.99% APR to 18.00% APR. This APR will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. Rates subject to change without notice. Qualified credit limit will be determined by certain underwriting criteria. 4.99% APR is a promotional rate. Rate applies to balance transfer amount only, for the life of the transferred balance. All other balances will be charged member's standard interest rate. To qualify for this promotional rate member must complete a balance transfer between January 1, 2022 and March 31, 2022, to their MC Federal Visa Credit Card. No minimum transfer amounts. Offer not valid for MC Federal Architect Visa Credit Card or MC Federal Cache Visa Credit Card. Existing MC Federal CU loans and credit card balances do not qualify for this promotion. Annual Fee- None. Balance Transfer Fee- None. For current rates, fees, and other cost information, please contact MC Federal at 800-834-0082. Cardholder benefits are subject to change without notice. Certain terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions apply. Membership eligibility is required.

Help Direct the Future

Board of Directors

Save on TurboTax® and H&R Block® This Tax Season

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 Doug Bastian and Pete Terrell, who have previously been filed with the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Doug Bastian is a resident of Danville and a retiree of Merck & Co, where he filled various positions. Doug received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Bucknell University. An active community member, Doug volunteers as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble and Shiloh United Church of Christ. He also serves as the Financial Secretary for the Penn State Extension - Master Gardeners. Previously, Doug served as the Board President for Merck Cherokee FCU from 1980-1988. Presently, Doug has served on the Members Choice, now MC Federal, board as Treasurer and subsequently as President since 2019.

Pete Terrell is a Lewisburg resident with an extensive background in Business Management. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Politics & Government and Philosophy from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master of Business Administration in Management from Eastern University. Using his education and experience, Pete owns and operates Terrell Enterprises, Inc. which is a contracting business based in Lewisburg. Pete has served on the Members Choice, now MC Federal, board of directors since 2021.

Other interested members may submit a petition form to the Nominating Committee which must be signed by one percent of the membership population (130). The deadline for receiving petitions will be February 21, 2022. Each petitioner must complete a biography and agreement form along with their signed petition. There will be no nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. The election will be conducted by ballot when there is more than one nominee for each position to be held.

Credit union members can get special savings this tax season. Whether you file on your own with TurboTax or get help from an H&R Block tax pro, you're guaranteed to get your biggest possible refund.

 
Visit <https://taxservices.lovemycreditunion.org> for TurboTax and H&R Block offer details & disclaimers.

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Attend Our Annual Meeting

Join Us!

Meeting will be held:

Wed. April 6, 2022 • Pine Barn Inn
Doors Open at 5:00 PM • 43 Pine Barn Place
Dinner Starts at 6:00 PM • Danville, PA, 17821

You will have the chance to visit with staff and hear from the Board of Directors and Jim Barbarich, President & CEO. This is a great opportunity to learn more about your credit union as well as sign up for a special door prize drawing! This event is free for all members. Please RSVP by March 30, 2022 by calling 800.834.0082 or by stopping in your local branch.

YOUR DREAM HOME STARTS HERE GET PRE-APPROVED TODAY!

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 FIRST HERITAGE MORTGAGE SERVICES

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Congratulations to our Newest Financial Literacy Graduates

Financial Literacy

On Thursday, November 11, MC Federal completed another round of financial literacy classes in partnership with Getting Ahead Foundation.

The 11 graduates attended our 6 week program and learned about topics including accounts and fees, lending and rates, budgeting, fraud, and credit reports and scores. Each graduate received a certificate for the achievement along with a tablet loaded with additional resources included the tools to create a personalized financial plan.

This round of classes were taught by Elba Arenas, CMEO, Brian Wiktor, CLO, Annette Welch, Regional Relationship Manager, Jared Cromley, Financial Analyst, and Ashley Pyle, Marketing Specialist.

Congratulations graduates, your eagerness to learn made these classes a lot of fun!

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



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-6pm
Sat: 9am-12pm

800.834.0082 mcfcu.org

Mobile App: MC Federal Credit Union

Social Media: @mcfederalcreditunion

