



McPherson Co-Op Credit Union

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January 2020

MCCU Members Donate to

McPherson County Christmas Project!

A total of 439 cans of green beans and 207 boxes of tuna/hamburger helper were collected at the credit union! Mike Divelbess was the winner of a Top Golf gift package for donating at least five items. These food items were added to other donations collected and then distributed to families in the county.



MCCU members also picked 67 Angel Tree tags from our Angel Tree. Each tag was labeled girl or boy, size, and what clothing items were needed. These gifts were also distributed to families in the county. Thanks to everyone who helped with our Christmas projects!

Tax information is located on the last page of your December statement. This includes form 1099-interest income and form 1098-mortgage interest paid.

International Credit Union Day was celebrated in October with our annual tailgate party. Prize winners included Dave Hill, Bob Reissig, Billie Schoen, Dan Jennings, Mike McElwain, Merissa Bowman and Robin Stucky. Hourly prizes included 'tailgate' items. The grand prize winner was Nadine Allen! The grand prize included a hotel stay and tickets to a Kansas City Chiefs football game.

Once again, we had a full house! Thanks to all who came out to celebrate with us. We've been here for you since 1946 and we want to continue to serve

you with great service, a safe place to save money and affordable loans!



Your Savings
Federally Insured to
\$250,000
NCUA
National Credit
Union Administration,
a U.S. Government
Agency

Board of Directors

Bob Deister

Jim Bontrager

Pam Shoemaker

Ben Oard

Bryce Zerener

Supervisory Committee

Jill Kruse

Linda Smith

Credit Committee

Brenda Kliever

Beth McVicker

Pat Mead

MaryAnn Cram

Staff

Brenda Kliever - President/CEO

Marilyn Friesen - Assistant Manager

Beth McVicker - Loan Officer

Pat Mead - Account Processor

MaryAnn Cram - Loan Officer

Courtney Estes - Mortgage Loan Officer

Lisa Goering - Member Service Rep.

Jerri Kaufman - Teller

Becky Tatro - Loan Processor

Brenda Shober - Teller



Happy New Year from the staff at MCCU!!

Lisa, Becky, Jerri, Marilyn, MaryAnn, Brenda S, Courtney, Brenda K (not pictured, Beth and Pat)



Tips to Raising Your Credit Score

Check your reports annually. Everybody is entitled to a free copy of their credit report from all three reporting agencies once every 12 months. To request a copy, visit the authorized website - AnnualCreditReport.com - or call 1-877-322-8228. You will have to provide your address, Social Security number and birth date to receive the reports. Taking advantage of the annual credit report checks allows you to keep an eye out for any account activity you don't recognize and gives you a barometer on your borrowing habits.

Be wise about opening and closing accounts. Think about how it might affect your credit score before opening or closing credit accounts. While it positively affects credit scores to have a wide array of accounts - including credit cards, personal loans, home equity lines of credit, etc. - it can be much more harmful to open more lines of credit than you can keep up with. Falling behind on payments can quickly drag down a healthy score.

Make on-time payments. Payment history, or how reliably you make on-time payments, is the most important factor considered in calculating your credit score. This information indicates to potential lenders how likely you are to pay them back should they choose to lend to you. Consider using automatic bill payments or setting up alerts to avoid missing payments.

Optimize your credit utilization ratio. Your credit utilization ratio is your debt-to-limit ratio; it measures the amount of the credit card limit you're using. High credit utilization ratios may cause potential lenders to think you're overextended and unlikely to make timely payments on future debts.

Dispute errors. If you see something on your report you don't recognize, don't assume it should be there. Contact both the credit reporting company and the organization or company that provided the information (that would be your lender or credit card company). [The Federal Trade Commission recommends](http://TheFederalTradeCommission.com) sending a hand-written letter with copies of all relevant documents via certified mail.

Consumers who regularly check their credit reports are also more likely to catch identity theft before it becomes a major problem. An unusual change in a

Credit Score Tips

- Check reports yearly
- On-time payments
- Optimize credit utilization ratio
- Dispute errors



credit score or report could be the first indicator of identity theft, a crime which affected 16.7 million victims in 2017. By regularly checking credit reports, consumers may be able to catch credit inquiries they don't recognize - catching a potential fraudulent new account before it's even opened.

Holiday closing-Martin Luther King Day-Monday, January 20

Save the date! MCCU Annual Meeting-March 29, 2020

Avoiding Identity Theft-You may be able to avoid identity theft by following a few simple steps: Shred all documents with personal information before discarding. Protect your social security number. Don't carry your card in your wallet or include it on your checks- give out only when necessary.

Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or online unless you know who you are dealing with.

Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails. Don't use an obvious password like your birth date, mother's maiden name or the last four digits of your social security number. Keep your personal information in a safe place at home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help or are having work done in your home.

If You're Thinking of Buying a Car...

Calculate which car buying option is best for you. Will you buy new or used? Will you lease? Choose the option that best fits your specific transportation, mileage and budgeting needs.

Don't buy more car than you want or need. Don't pay extra dollars for expensive equipment or options you don't need. Just because a particular car - without all the bells and whistles - is not on the lot you're shopping at doesn't mean the dealer can't order it for you.

Negotiate a lower price - or find a ready-made deal. Go into your car-buying experience knowing the price you want to pay by using one of the top car pricing websites such as [Kelley Blue Book](http://KelleyBlueBook.com). Such sites reveal MSRP sticker prices, dealer invoice prices and average sale prices so you know the true value of the vehicle you're shopping for.

Shop all your options. With online inventories- car buying services and more- dealers are no longer your only option. Make sure to shop different vendors, compare the cars you're shopping and compare associated pricing.

Decide what to do with your current vehicle. Selling your car to a private party can be cost-effective but trading in your current car at the dealer might be easier. If you trade in your car, make sure you know its current value and then evaluate the trade-in offer against a private sale to see which option would be the most beneficial to your situation.

Apply for your auto financing from your credit union ahead of time. With a pre-approval, you'll know exactly how much car you can afford which can give you buying power AND prevent you from over-spending.

Don't forget the coupons! Many car manufacturers offer rebates and cash back incentive programs on new or used cars. Others offer additional specials such as student and military discounts. Research these incentive programs online at the manufacturer and dealership.

Certificate Rates January 2020

Less than \$10,000.00 deposit

6 month certificate	.90%	APY .904%
12 month certificate	1.15%	APY 1.156%
24 month certificate	1.30%	APY 1.308%
48 month certificate	1.90%	APY 1.917%

\$10,000.00 or more deposit

6 month certificate	1.15%	APY 1.156%
12 month certificate	1.60%	APY 1.612%
24 month certificate	1.75%	APY 1.764%
48 month certificate	2.00%	APY 2.018%

Savings Accounts

.25% APY .250%

Checking Accounts

.10% APY .100%

Christmas Club

.25% APY .250%

IRA Accounts

Up to \$49,999	1.300%	APY 1.308%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1.750%	APY 1.764%
\$100,000 and above	2.000%	APY 2.018%

Money Market

Minimum balance	\$2,500	.50%	APY .501%
Minimum balance	\$10,000	.60%	APY .602%
Minimum balance	\$25,000	.75%	APY .753%

