

UPDATE

Your MECE Credit Union
Newsletter

Summer 2006

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People
prefer to
follow those
who help
them,
not those that
intimidate
them.

C. Gene Wilkes



MECE CREDIT UNION

The Bright Choice P.O. Box 1586, Jefferson City, MO 65102

E-mail mececu@mececu.com

MECE Credit Union Offers Free "Bill Pay"

Are you tired of paying bills? If so, let MECECU pay them for you! Okay, so we can't actually supply the funds to pay your bills, but we can eliminate the stress and time associated with doing so. Electronic Bill Pay (EBP) is a new service provided by MECECU which makes paying bills simple and convenient.

With EBP, you maintain the right to verify the billing amount is correct. When you are ready to pay the bill, log-on to www.mececu.com and click on the "Bill Pay" option under the E-Services tab.

The EBP system offers unique features designed to save time when scheduling payments. For example, you may schedule recurring payments of the same amount (such as a



mortgage payment) to be paid automatically each month. Also, you can establish payee profiles to avoid entering contact information (payee address, account numbers, etc.) each time a bill is to be paid. Payee profiles streamline the bill paying process, even if the amount to be paid varies from month to month.

To ensure payments are received on time,

we recommend scheduling payment five days prior to the bill's due date.

MECE Credit Union's EBP service is FREE! No more writing checks, filling out and sealing envelopes, buying stamps and driving to the post office to mail the bills.

Enroll in MECECU's electronic bill pay service by going to www.mececu.com, drag the cursor to E-Services and click on Bill Pay or call the credit union at (573) 634-2595.

Something to Think About . . .

Garth Brooks sings a song called "If Tomorrow Never Comes". The song is about letting the people in our lives know how much they mean to us before it is too late. While we need to take these steps in our personal lives, we need to also translate this to our financial lives.

Many of us go through our busy lives putting off protecting our family members financially through adequate life and disability protection. We think that the unexpected will always happen to someone else. We need to be prepared for our families, our assets, and our credit.

The credit union offers two forms of payment protection to help complete your planning portfolio. This protection can be applied to all of our personal and collateral loans and this includes our home equity program. What does this mean? Let's start with the credit life protection. The truth is that most families rely on more than one income to support the lifestyle that they are accustomed. Credit life protection can cover each party that is financially responsible for a loan. In the event of an unexpected death, this will pay the loan, therefore, eliminating a financial hardship for the other party responsible for the repayment. If there is only one party responsible for the repayment, then the estate will not be responsible for the payoff of the loan. This way more of the estate can go to your loved ones.

The second form of payment protection is disability protection. Many times people think



that they have long-term disability coverage through their employer. Did you know that in most instances this type of long-term coverage will only pay 66% of your salary? If your loans are covered with payment protection, you can use the money that had been going to pay for vehicles or personal debt to make mortgage payments, pay utilities or child care providers. The disability protection will protect you in the event of injury or illness.

The process for obtaining payment protection is easy. In the loan process we can add the payment protection to your loan at its origination simply by answering a yes or no health question. The payment protection is billed to the loan at the first of every month and it is built into the loan payment. This way if you are ahead of the game and payoff your loans early, you only pay for the protection while you have the loan.

If tomorrow never comes, will your family be prepared? It is something to think about.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Account Safety Tips

1. REVIEW JOINT ACCOUNT OWNERS AND BENEFICIARIES

MECE Credit Union recommends that you contact us to verify who current joint owners and beneficiaries are on your account. Joint owners have equal access to your account while beneficiaries only have access to your funds upon the death of all owners of the account. If these names are not up-to-date we will send you a new account card to update your account.

2. ACCOUNT PASSWORDS

MECE Credit Union recommends adding a password to your account for an additional layer of security. We will ask for this password every time you or the joint owner calls to access your account. Information will not be given if the password cannot be provided. Please keep your password stored in a safe, secure place in your home.

3. RESPONDING TO E-MAILS

MECE Credit Union recommends never giving personal account information when responding to an E-mail. Identity thieves use methods such as "Phishing" to gain personal information about you. They do this by sending E-mails that look just like a company you may do business with. Their E-mails may state that your account needs to be updated or is about to be closed and asks you to click on a link to update personal information. Do not click on the link as this is how they gain your information. If you receive an E-mail from a company asking for personal information, find a previous statement and call the company directly for more information.

ATM/Debit Card Conversion

In November 2005 we began a partnership with Fifth Third Bank Processing Solutions. After six months of work we converted our ATM/Debit cards to Fifth Third Bank.

How does this partnership benefit you? First of all you were able to continue using your current ATM/Debit card which helped the transition go smoothly. In the future, new cards and re-issued cards will have a new look to them. The new system allows you to change your PIN and activate your card by phone. It will also give you access to more than 100 ATMs that will not have a surcharge to withdraw money. You will be able to view the nearest surcharge free ATM in your area by going to our Web Site and viewing the ATM locator links.

We are always listening to you, our owners, and this conversion is the direct result of requests for more surcharge free ATMs and convenience when using your card. Please call Pam Oxley (573) 659-3407 x3464 if you have any questions regarding this new program.

Children's Certificates of Deposit

When it comes to choices in saving for your children or grandchildren, our Children's Certificate of Deposit offer greater flexibility with higher earnings potential.

This certificate is available to children under the age of 18. A minimum deposit of \$100 is all that is required and you can choose terms from 3 to 60 months, all at very competitive rates. *Contact MECE Credit Union for more information.*

Brain Teaser

A frog jumped into a well 12 feet deep. He could jump 3 feet but every time he jumped 3 feet, he fell back 2 feet.

How many times did he have to jump to get out of the well?



From the desk of _____

Randy Marks, President, MECE Credit Union



Numbers Don't Lie!

It seems as though more time is spent each year looking at numbers while forecasting, analyzing ratios and reviewing peer comparisons. These numbers reveal several key indicators which you should know as an owner of MECE Credit Union.

MEMBERSHIP AND ASSETS ARE GROWING.

Membership grew 4.65% and assets grew \$6.79 million over the last year while the average credit union had 1.95% membership growth and \$2.3 million asset growth.

QUALITY IS BEING MAINTAINED.

Delinquent loan totals were \$45,000 while the average credit union has a delinquent loan total of \$373,000.

OPERATING EFFICIENCY IS MONITORED CAREFULLY.

\$1.37 million in expenses compared to \$2.4 million at the average credit union.

DIVIDENDS ARE PAID BACK TO THE OWNERS.

\$1.78 million was given back to MECE Credit Union members while only \$1.05 million was paid back to the members of the average credit union.

LOAN RATES ARE COMPETITIVE.

Average loan yield is 6.12% while the average loan yield is 6.64% at other credit unions.

SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS ARE CONTINUALLY MEASURED.

MECE Credit Union has \$5.9 million in reserves and the accuracy of the financial statements are proven each year with outside audits.

These numbers sound very impressive but someone might say, "I saw a lower loan rate at my local bank or there was a higher dividend rate on a certificate of deposit in the newspaper." This may be true but as stated earlier "numbers don't lie". In today's complex market there are strategies using fees and rate sensitivity analysis which make it hard to discern the true value of what your financial institution is offering. Look at the totals rather than just one special and it will remain clear that MECE Credit Union is the "Bright Choice".

The numbers above were calculated on the national credit union asset-based peer averages of 3-31-2006.

All in the family

Amy Wright, Loan Officer, MECE Credit Union



Have you checked into the loan information offered through our Web Site www.mececu.com? Several lending options are available for our members who prefer to do their personal financial business at home in the evening, on the weekend, or are unable to phone us from work.

Members can check current loan rates, complete a loan request form, use our loan cost calculator, and run NADA Guide auto values, all from mececu.com. Members now have the ability to advance funds from their opened home equity loans and line of credit loans directly into their credit union checking or savings accounts. The advance funds are deposited immediately into the checking or savings account and if the monthly payment requires adjustment after the advance, a credit union staff member will contact the member within a couple of business days. In order to complete an on-line loan advance, members must sign up for on-line access to their credit union account at mececu.com. A \$500 minimum advance is required. Please contact the MECECU loan department for more details.

ANSWER TO LAST BRAIN TEASER — The letter "e", which is the most used letter in the alphabet, is missing from this paragraph.

How quickly can you find out what is so unusual about this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you would think that nothing is wrong with it at all, and, in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and think about it, you may find out, but I am not going to assist you in any way. You must do it without coaching. No doubt, if you work at it for long, it will dawn on you. Who knows? Go to work and try your skill. Par is about half an hour.