MECE: What's in it for me?

As an employee (or family member of an employee) of a Missouri rural electric cooperative, you've probably heard of MECE Credit Union. However, you might not know exactly how a credit union works or how to join. Keep reading to find out!

What is a credit union?

A credit union is a nonprofit financial cooperative that serves a specific community, in this case, the Missouri rural electric employees and their families. Credit unions offer the same services as banks but often have much lower interest rates. Like rural electric services, credit unions operate as cooperatives, with member-owners working together to make the organization successful.

Sounds pretty nice right? A cooperative with low interest rates. But not everyone can see the benefits of credit unions. According to The Financial Brand, 45 percent of Americans believe that credit unions don't offer as many services as banks. However, MECE offers a wide variety of loans, online banking, checking accounts, savings accounts, investment options, and even special services unique to MECE Credit Union.

What's in it for me?

Joining a credit union (especially MECE) can have many benefits. Because credit unions operate as a cooperative and serve a limited community, they can provide high dividend savings accounts to all members. In addition to high dividends, credit unions provide lower interest rates, and more personal, community-oriented customer service than banks. MECE even offers special services such as the Christmas and Vacation Clubs. These clubs help you save up for a dream vacation or perfect Christmas gifts over several months so you don't have to face a hefty bill all at once. MECE works to support all members' financial goals, from vacations to paying off debt, in a way that only a cooperative can.

So how do I join?

After checking your membership eligibility [here](#), fill out this [Member Application and Agreement](#) and return it to MECE with a minimum $25 savings account deposit to start earning dividends!