

October 2015

NEWSLETTER

Get Some Extra Bucks

This Season!
With the Christmas Loan Special from Awakon

Federal Credit Union, it's easier than ever to get all the bucks you could ever want!

RATES AS LOW AS

2.99% APR*

LOAN AMOUNTS UP TO \$2,000
TERMS UP TO 12 MONTHS

It gets even better! We're giving members the opportunity to shoot down our already low interest rate by cashing in your ScoreCard Rewards Points! Every 5,000 points you cash in gets you 0.25% APR* off your interest rate.

Contact a loan officer to see how you can receive as low as 0.00% APR* for the Christmas Loan Special!

Stop by the Credit Union or visit

www.awakonfcu.net

to bag your trophy deal today!

* APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All rates are subject to Credit Approval. Some restrictions may apply.



We are excited to announce that, our Visa Credit Cards are no longer being serviced by a third party organization. Instead, the program is being handled internally by our staff here at Awakon Federal Credit Union. What does that mean for you, our member? The same great service you receive on all of our other products and services, you will now also receive on your credit card.

Changes to expect:

- For all credit card inquiries, questions, etc., call your local branch
- Payments can be mailed to P.O. Box 420 Onaway, MI 49765
- Alternative Payment Methods: Auto-Transfer, Phone Transfer, In-Person Payment, Online Banking Transfer
- Online Banking on It's Me 247
- If you make your payment via Bill Pay, please remember to update the mailing address
- Payment is applied and available immediately; no 1 to 2 day wait
- Statements will be included in your monthly member account statements
- You will no longer be able to access EZCARDinfo

Some important changes to be aware of:

- If you have an ACH set up for your payment, please give us a call to discuss an alternate form of payment.
- Payment due dates will be the 28th of each month.

Thank you for allowing us to meet your financial needs. If you have any questions, please call your local branch or email us at plastics@awakonfcu.net.

International Credit Union Day

People Helping People

Thursday, October 15, 2015

This year's International Credit Union Day theme, "People Helping People," embraces the longstanding credit union philosophy of putting people before profits. Thank you for continuing to choose Awakon Federal Credit Union. We value the opportunity to serve you!



Early Holiday Savings Bring More Comfort and Joy

With the sound of falling leaves filling the air, you may not be ready for a fa-la-la-la-la earworm. Yet early planning for the winter holiday season could be one of the best financial steps you take this year.

Gift-giving, decorating, entertaining and charity donations added together can wreak havoc on anyone's finances. Here's what you can do now to prevent a case of post-holiday empty-wallet syndrome.

Set a holiday budget

The national average for holiday spending by a family of four last year was \$877.22. Do you know what you spent, or what you plan to spend this year? Start by making a list of everyone you give to, and don't forget kids' teachers and service workers if you usually include them. Set a price limit for each gift, and total everything up. Sticker shock? You haven't even added wrapping paper, shipping costs and feeding visitors yet. If you're getting the feeling that all this is more than you can afford, work on reducing your current spending to begin saving for the season

Start a holiday savings account

Awakon Federal Credit Union offers Christmas Club accounts to help you save over the next few months. And money saved before you start holiday shopping will leave you headache-free in January — when other people's bills start rolling in.

Use a rewards credit card

One way to track your spending is to use a single credit card for all holiday purchases. So why not

choose a rewards card so you get something extra out of it? Awakon's low interest rate Visa Card makes it easy to redeem points with Visa ScoreCard Rewards. If you apply for a card now, you can start buying gifts as you find good bargains. By holiday time, you may even have enough rewards points to put toward a gift for yourself, too (or for someone you love just as much). But stick to your budget, and pay off the card balance as quickly as possible.

Consider a loan

There are a couple of factors to consider regarding a loan. First, interest rates on personal loans can be high, so find the best rate you can qualify for. Because we are a not-for-profit, member-owned organization, Awakon is able to offer better rates and terms on loans than other financial institutions. Second, you should only consider a loan if you can pay it off quickly. If you borrow \$1,000 at 8% interest, you could pay the loan off in 10 months with monthly payments of just under \$104. If the payments are in your comfort zone, your current circumstances don't allow you to save and you're sure income in the New Year will take care of your financial obligations, then a loan is something to consider.

So pull out last year's gift list and get started checking it twice. See how much money you'll need to make it through the coming holiday season financially intact. You can even work on your budget as you're out raking leaves — with or without carols running through your head.

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Board of Directors Election

In 2016 there will be three, 3-year positions available on the Board of Directors. Following a review of incumbents and additional qualified members, the Nominating Committee, consisting of Dave Havel, Tom Peterman, & Ted Getzmeyer, has made the following recommendations: Brian Janeczek, Tom Janes and Robert Blasius.

If anyone is still interested in running for the 2016 Board of Directors, nomination by petition is available until November 17th, 2015. For more information on this process and directorship qualifications, please contact President/CEO, Scott Pauly at 989.733.8557, ext. 2234.

Brian Janeczek has been a member of Awakon for 31 years, served on the Board of Directors for several years in previous terms, and has currently been a member of the Board for the past 3 years. He is the owner/operator of Norb's Auto Body located in Onaway. Brian and his wife Colleen reside in the Onaway area with their six children.

Tom Janes has been a member of Awakon for 15 years, served on the Board of Directors for several years in previous terms, and has currently been a member of the Board for the past 3 years. He is the owner/operator of The Village Corner Party Store, and has owned businesses between Millersburg and Onaway for the last 21 years. Tom and his wife Marla reside in the Onaway area.

Robert Blasius has lived in Gaylord for 43 years. Bob retired from the Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency after 35 years. He is currently a LUTCF and FICF designated insurance agent for Woman's Life Insurance Company of Port Huron, covering the Northern Michigan region. Bob graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor's degree in Education. He and his wife of 46 years, Sue plan to retire to a home they own on Lake Huron, west of Rogers City and spend time with their 3 grandchildren.



If You Love Specials, You're Really Going To Love This!

This holiday season, there's simply no smarter way to shop than with your Awakon VISA credit card!

Swipe your Awakon VISA for purchases anytime from November 24 to December 24 and get

0.00% APR*

for 6 months!**

If you don't have a VISA card from Awakon yet, stop by the Credit Union or visit us online





Onaway

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Rogers City **989.734.2772** Indian River **231.238.8331**

Indian River Lending Center 231.238.1278

Wolverine **231.525.8118**Gaylord **989.732.1500**

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