

UW Oshkosh Credit Union News

UW OSHKOSH CREDIT UNION

ADOPT A FAMILY



The credit union is adopting a family for Christmas – and you can help!

There will be Christmas trees up in the lobby at the main and branch office with tags with items that the family is requesting for Christmas. The trees will be up on Tuesday,

December 2nd, and the unwrapped gifts need to be returned to our office by Friday, December 13th. A gift list will be available at each office as well as on-line.

Please don't wrap the gifts – it makes it easier for us to keep track of what was

purchased. We will take care of wrapping the gifts and getting them to the family for Christmas, all you need to do is buy the gift and bring it back to either office.

More information will follow on the website as we get it.

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INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

Why 177 Million People Worldwide Choose Credit Unions

On October 15, credit unions members around the world will join together to celebrate International Credit Union Day and this year's theme: **Your Money. Your Choice. Your Credit Union.** Do you remember why you chose UW Oshkosh Credit Union to be your financial services provider? It may be among many reasons shared by the 177 million people in 96 countries who have also chosen credit unions, but it most likely has something to do with the common philosophy of people helping people.

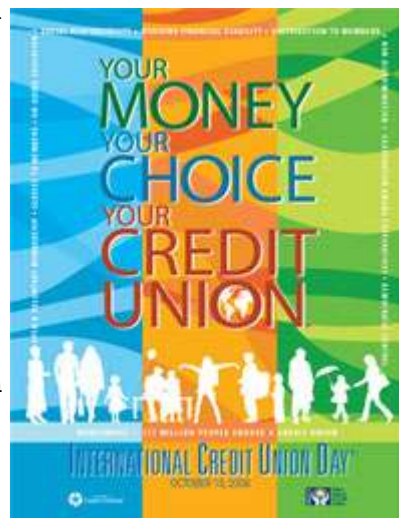
Unlike most other financial institutions, credit unions are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-run, member-owned cooperatives. They exist to serve their members, and that level of service remains high even during even the toughest times. Instead of issuing stock

or paying dividends to outside shareholders, credit unions provide value to their members by returning earnings in the form of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits, and lower or even no transaction fees.

This year's theme celebrates the advantages of credit union membership. Value, trust and service are just some of the many benefits of being a credit union member. You are in charge of your money and your credit union. At UW Oshkosh Credit Union, we are proud of our heritage as a cooperative financial services provider and our connection to the 49,000 credit unions worldwide. On October 15, we'll join credit unions and their members around the world to celebrate International Credit Union Day in recognition of the benefits those institutions bring to their members.

Check out our Web site uwocu.com for more information about International Credit Union Day and prepare to celebrate the credit union difference.

Help us celebrate on Thursday October 15th. **In honor of International Credit Union Day we will be having refreshments at both locations.**



Officers & Directors

- Scott Chicoine / *President/CEO*
- Susan Patchak / *VP-Senior Lender*
- Laura LeRoy / *Operations Officer*
- Rick Van Drisse / *Board Chair*
- Ted Balsaer / *Vice Chair*
- Bunny Hansen / *Treasurer*
- Morris Hampton / *Secretary*
- John Willinghamz / *Director*
- Ashay Desai / *Director*
- Shawn Kelly / *Director*

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BEWARE OF TEXT-MESSAGING

Unethically creative identity thieves have a new trick up their sleeves: sending text messages to your cell phone as if they were a financial institution and asking you to 'confirm' your account number, PIN, or other pieces of information.

As a member of UW Oshkosh Credit Union, you should know that we will never ask for your personal information by email or text messaging. NEVER give information that is private and confidential over your cell phone's text feature, and don't call the 800 number that spam text messages ask you to call. Here are other steps you can take to ensure that you don't become an identity thief's next victim:

* Be careful when asked for your telephone number. Giving your phone number in response to contests or online promotions can lead to unwanted calls and messages.

* Never respond to unsolicited text messages - it only lets the sender know they've reached a working number and may lead to more messages in the future.

* Consider blocking all text message services for your phone. While this may be somewhat inconvenient if you like texting your friends, it will protect you from this growing form of identity theft.

* Be cautious about the services you subscribe to.

* Be wary of urgent messages that request personal information.

* Report any messages that seem 'too good to be true' or advertise illegal items to your local consumer protection agency.

Many unsolicited electronic ads and scams originate overseas, often making it extremely difficult to track the individuals who are responsible. Take initiative and protect yourself by never responding to spam text messages.

IMPACTED BY "THE FURLOUGH"

Have you been affected by the State of Wisconsin imposed furlough days?

Effective immediately, we will allow members to defer one of your loan or credit card payments with the UW Oshkosh Credit Union. You can choose one payment per year. This feature only applies to consumer loans: auto, signature, kwik cash, etc. Real

estate secured loans and commercial loans will not be included.

* Interest will still accrue during your deferment. Your loan or credit card must be current in order to take advantage of this offer.

You pick the month; it doesn't need to be the same month you take your furlough

day.

Stop by or call and speak with a loan officer to take advantage of this offer. (920)424-2379.

'BLOCKING' CAN TIE UP YOUR ACCOUNTS

Everyone's nightmare: You're at a restaurant with a business client or a date and your debit card is declined. No one wants it to happen to them, but it can--even if you have enough money in your account to cover the bill.

It's called "blocking" and it's perfectly legal. It works similarly to the way credit card blocking works. For example, if you check into a hotel or rent a car, the clerk usually contacts the company that issued your card to give an estimated total. A hold then is placed on your card for an amount that is sometimes greater than the actual purchase amount. This hold can block your use of the money for up to three days on a debit card and possibly 10 to 15 days on a credit card.

For debit card users, blocking happens most often at gas pumps, but can occur whenever you use your card before knowing how much you'll be spending.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), merchants use blocking to make sure you don't exceed your account balance before leaving a gas station or checking out of a hotel, leaving the merchant unpaid.

Some tips to avoid blocking are:

* Use credit cards, not debit cards, for hotel bills and car rentals.

* When you're traveling, stop at stations of major gasoline brands instead of older,

rural, or off-brand stations. Newer, better-known gasoline stations process debit/credit cards faster because of updated technology.

* When you choose a credit/debit card, ask issuers how long they block accounts for transactions involving hotels, rental cars, and gasoline stations.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH EVENTS

Reeve Union offers a wide array of opportunities for students to get involved around campus and throughout the community.

~ The **Student Leadership Involvement Center (SLIC)** has information for over 100 student organizations. There are many organizations to choose from: political, religious, academic, volunteer, and special interest groups. In addition, the SLIC offers many workshops on leadership, team building, resume building, plus much more! There is an open house on October 6th, from 11:30am-1:00pm, so stop by to see what the SLIC has to offer.

~ **Reeve Union Board (RUB)** has a big role

with Homecoming each year. Come to Titan Stadium on October 17th to see which activities they have planned this year; the theme is *Xtreme Titan Games!* Other RUB activities include: Major concerts, Winter Carnival, Battle of the Bands, comedians, dances, and movies every other week.

~ **University Speaker Series** brings speakers to campus a few times each semester. Speakers include former authors, athletes, and people who have a deep passion for sharing their stories. UWO's own alum Craig Culver, CEO of the restaurant chain Culvers, is amongst the speakers for this semester.

~ **Titan Nights** is held the first Friday of

every month from 9pm-2am. Festivities include movies, bands, crafts, dances, many different types of games, and a midnight breakfast.....all of which are FREE for students with their TitanCard.

~ There are many opportunities for **volunteering** in the area; a few include Hands on Oshkosh, Alternative Spring Break, plus a multitude of opportunities throughout the community. If you missed the volunteer fair, check out reeve.uwosh.edu/volunteerism to see what's available.

There are too many fun events that take place during the semester to mention, so to find something you're interested in, head to Reeve's website reeve.uwosh.edu.

THINGS YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO WITH HOME BANKING

- You can check your balance any time online or from your cell phone if you have text banking
- You can be alerted if your balance falls below a specific amount or if a specific transaction happens on your account
- You can't pay bills or avoid those late night pizza orders, but you can check to see how much you spent on them
- Ever wonder "how much did I spend last night?" you can log in and find out
- You can send a secure message to the credit union with questions about your account
- You can view up to 90 days of history on your account AND see images of checks that cleared
- You can view your e-statement the evening of the last business day of the month
- You can transfer money within your account and take advances on your Kwik Cash loan as well as pay on your loans.
- If you have more than one account number – we can link them so you can view them with just one log in and you can transfer between your accounts



DISASTER PLANNING GUIDE

If catastrophe struck, would your family be ready? Taking simple steps today could save lives and prevent suffering later. Follow the tips and checklists in this special guide to protect your loved ones—whatever tomorrow brings.

8 WAYS TO PREPARE NOW!

1. Set a family strategy
2. Pack vital supplies

3. Assemble a first aid kit
4. Practice storm safety
5. Map out escape routes
6. Review insurance policies
7. Safeguard documents
8. Make a home inventory

As a member of UW Oshkosh Credit Union, you are eligible for a discount on your auto, homeowners and renters insurance through

the convenience of electronic fund transfer or direct billing at home with Liberty Mutual's Group Savings Plus® program. For a consultative review of your insurance needs, please call Chris Schliepp at (920) 749-9799 ext. 56959 or visit www.libertymutual.com/lm/ChristopherSchliepp

UW OSHKOSH CREDIT UNION

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Oshkosh WI 54901
(920)424-3283

Web: www.uwosh.edu/creditunion
Email: uwoshcu@uwosh.edu

ATM's

Radford Square
Reeve Memorial Union
Clow Social Science Center



The Highest Quality Commitment
to Your Financial Needs



Do to lack of participation we
will no longer have a Kidz Kash
quarterly drawing.

Don't miss out on the great
rates on Auto Loans 4.99%!
Toy loans 5.99%!

New money only. Some
restrictions apply.

Call the loan department at
920-424-2379 for more
details.

- Thursday & Friday
November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving
- Thursday & Friday
December 24 & 25
Christmas
- Thursday & Friday
December 31 & January 1
New Years



SIX RULES FOR MANAGING CREDIT CARD DEBT

If you want to be the master of your credit card debt load, follow these key rules:

1. Take inventory. How many credit cards do you have? What's the balance and minimum monthly payment on each? What's the total balance? If it's more than you thought or can afford, it's time to pare down.

2. Check out the cost of your credit cards. What's the interest rate on each card? What's the annual fee? Does your card offer a grace period? If the card doesn't have a grace period, or if you carry over a balance, or take a cash advance, you're usually charged interest right away.

3. Get one low-fee or lower-interest card and use it wisely. Make UW Oshkosh Credit Union your first stop when starting your search. Check to see if you

can transfer existing debt from your various credit cards to your new lower-interest credit card.

4. Make the largest monthly payment you can afford. Even though you may not be able to pay your balance in full, paying the monthly minimum may do little more than cover the accrued interest.

5. Watch out for "teaser rates." Your mailbox may be brimming with unsolicited credit card offers that promise attractive low-interest rates. But if you read the fine print, you'll see that after six months or so the issuer may double the low introductory rate.

6. If you get in over your head, don't bury it in the sand. If you're having trouble making your monthly payments, contact your creditors before they contact you. If you're already screening

calls from bill collectors, or refusing to open your mail, you need help.

Contact UW Oshkosh Credit Union at (920)424-3282, or call the Consumer Credit Counseling Service at 800-873-2227, a nonprofit organization offering financial counseling, debt management, or educational services to consumers.

