

MECU Gives Back \$600,000 In Special Patronage Dividend To Members.

REFLECTING MECU'S PHILOSOPHY OF PUTTING its members first, a Special Patronage Dividend was paid to MECU members on Dec. 31, 2011.

This marks the second year in a row that a substantial amount of money was returned to our members' pockets.

improve their financial lives," said John Fiore, MECU president and CEO. "In keeping with that, paying this Special Patronage Dividend is simply the right thing to do — because it rewards those who have supported the credit union over the past year."

"As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, we are dedicated to helping our members improve their financial lives."

JOHN FIORE, *President/CEO*



The latest \$600,000 Special Patronage Dividend represents the money that remained after MECU paid operating expenses and regular dividends for the year, and set aside an appropriate amount for reserves.

"As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, we are dedicated to helping our members

All credit union members with active accounts in good standing qualified for the Special Patronage Dividend, and received a minimum of \$5 deposited to their savings.

To see what qualifies as an "active account" that is "in good standing," visit MECU's Web site at mecu.org.

Wondering how your Special Patronage Dividend was calculated? You received:

- » A percentage of interest you paid on loans
- » A percentage of dividends you earned on savings
- » \$5 for an active debit card
- » \$5 for eStatements
- » \$5 for active bill payment
- » \$10 for an active credit card
- » \$40 for each first mortgage

MECU has enjoyed another highly successful year, and we're proud to share the results with you and other members.

Special Patronage Dividends happen only when members actively and fully support the credit union. So encourage others to join and move their financial business to MECU. [S](#)

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With MECU, your money and your privacy couldn't be safer.

IRAs Represent An Excellent Way To Set Aside Money For Retirement.

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR INVESTMENT TOOLS for consumers is the Individual Retirement Account.

There are two main types of IRAs — traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs — and both offer tax advantages.

Most people saving for retirement can contribute to a traditional IRA and, if you meet certain requirements, your contributions are tax deductible. Whether your contributions are deductible or not, your earnings accumulate tax deferred, so you won't owe income taxes until you make withdrawals. Deductible contributions and earnings are taxed at your regular income tax rate as you withdraw them.

With a Roth IRA, however, contributions aren't tax deductible when you make them. But in favorable contrast to a traditional IRA, earnings are free from income tax upon withdrawal if you meet specified conditions. A Roth

IRA also has more flexible early withdrawal rules than a traditional IRA, and you aren't required to begin withdrawals at age 70½.

In addition, with both traditional and Roth IRAs, the IRS allows people under aged 50 to contribute up to \$5,000 in their accounts in 2012. Those 50 and older can contribute \$6,000, with \$1,000 of that being considered a "catch up" amount.

Is your money working sufficiently hard to achieve your retirement and other financial goals? "We can help you determine if you are making the most of your investment dollars, whether you currently own an IRA or are looking to open a new one," says Michael Chatterton of MECU Investment Advisors.

To schedule a no-cost, no-obligation appointment with MECU Investment Advisors, call 877.270.6392, ext. 85124. ☎

"We can help you determine if you are making the most of your investment dollars."

MICHAEL CHATTERTON,
MECU Investment Advisor Representative

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Making Money Management Convenient.

TODAY, TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS US TO STAY ABREAST of late-breaking news, the stock market and sports scores. We can stay in constant touch with our family and workplace. Even a weather forecast is just a quick click away. Managing your money should be that convenient, too.

MECU offers you all kinds of ways to be in touch with your money, whether you're at home, halfway around the world, or anywhere in between.

- » 62,000 surcharge-free ATMs across the U.S. and abroad.
- » 24/7 mobile banking via MECU's mobile application (downloadable from the Android Market or App Store), the Internet (via phone with Internet access), or through texting from any text capable phone.

- » 24/7 online access via computer; simply log in to your account and conduct virtually any kind of transaction.
- » 24/7 telephone access — manage your accounts with MECU automated telephone banking.
- » 6,700 shared CU Service Center® branches nationwide.
- » 10 MECU full-service branch locations. To locate the branch nearest you, use the search tool online at mecu.org, or through the MECU mobile app.

MECU provides you the choices and flexibility to make managing your money easy and convenient — and a lot more reliable than the weather forecast. ☎

Recovering From The Holidays? A Personal Loan Can Help You Pull It All Together.

FOR MOST, THE HOLIDAYS ARE a time of joyous celebration. But for some, January can bring a financial hangover. A personal loan from MECU can make managing your accumulated expenses a whole lot simpler — especially if you're juggling balances on multiple credit or store-branded cards.

Why not simplify your life, and save money while you're at it? Simply consolidate your loans through a lower fixed-rate MECU personal loan and make just one monthly payment.



PERSONAL LOANS
— As low as —
9.24%^{*}
APR

Personal loans can be used for debt consolidation, weddings, remodeling and more. To apply, visit mecu.org or call us at 877.270.6392, then dial options 3, 1, 2. ☎

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) reflects a .50% discount for Express Advantage members (those with MECU checking and direct deposit) who make automatic loan payments from an MECU savings or checking account. Your actual rate will be based on credit qualifications and underwriting factors.

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Putting Promises Into Action



A theme I consistently address, as you perhaps have noted, is how MECU truly is different from other financial institutions. We're different because we're a member-owned financial cooperative. That means what's most important to us are the people we serve, not profits. To put it another way, we're advocates for members.

The driving force behind our credit union is doing what's right for all our members. We are completely dedicated to doing whatever we can to help you improve your financial condition and give you more time to enjoy the things that are most important in your life.

Our commitment starts by offering a full range of excellent financial products, and providing outstanding personal service. It means making sure our rates are consistently among the most competitive in the financial marketplace. And it means adding convenience to your life through

services like online banking and mobile banking that let you manage your money whenever and wherever you want.

We prove our commitment not just through promises we make, but through the actions we take. For instance:

- » Last fall, some national and regional banks announced monthly usage fees on debit card transactions, then retracted their intentions after the public uproar. MECU has no plans for a monthly debit card usage fee. As a member-owned financial cooperative, we do everything possible to provide you the best rates plus the lowest and fewest fees.
- » After another year of excellent financial results in 2011, MECU members just received a Special Patronage Dividend totaling \$600,000. This is the second year in a row MECU has paid a Special Patronage Dividend. Returning money to members whenever possible is a prime example of how we fulfill our promise to put members first. (In fact, instead of charging to use a debit card, we actually paid MECU members \$5 as part

of the Special Patronage Dividend for having an active debit card.)

- » We now offer an online rate comparison tool that makes it easy to compare MECU's rates with those of major banks on checking, certificates, money market and savings accounts, plus vehicle loans, home equity loans and home equity lines of credit. In addition, this new tool shows how much you'll earn by entering your expected daily balance for checking and money market accounts.

Every decision we make at MECU revolves around how we can best serve you and all our valued members. At MECU, we really do put you first. It's a promise we've been delivering on since our very first member joined the credit union more than 70 years ago.

JOHN C. FIORE
President/CEO

Sleep Better Knowing You're Fully Covered. The Total Protection Guarantee From MECU.

AT MECU, NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT than keeping your hard-earned money completely safe and secure. That's why we take extensive precautions to protect your funds as well as your privacy with every transaction you make.

Here are some of the ways MECU puts our members' worries to rest:

▶ ONLINE ACCOUNT SECURITY.

MECU's online banking service uses the highest level of encryption for financial transactions and communications over the Internet.

▶ PRIVACY PROTECTION.

Your privacy is very important and we will never sell information about members to a third party.

▶ FRAUD PROTECTION.

In the unlikely event there is unauthorized or fraudulent activity with your MECU account, we guarantee you will have zero (\$0) liability.



▶ HIGH INSURANCE COVERAGE.

Member savings are insured to \$250,000, and IRAs are separately insured to \$250,000, by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. government agency. An additional \$250,000 of coverage is provided by Excess Share Insurance.

Every member of MECU enjoys the comprehensive coverage of our Total Protection Guarantee.

As the trusted financial partner of every MECU member, we believe exceptional peace of mind is one of the most valuable benefits we provide.

“When it comes to protecting the money and privacy of our members, there's no such thing as being too cautious,” says John Fiore, MECU president and CEO. “At MECU, we're continuously looking for ways to make people's lives easier — including giving them one less thing to worry about.”

The Total Protection Guarantee is just one example of how MECU is doing exactly that.

As Fiore puts it, “Members can rest assured we will continue to focus on providing the most complete and proven security and privacy precautions every day, and for every transaction.”



Get Your Tax Refund Back Faster, Safer.

Direct deposit is the fastest, safest way to receive your tax refund, according to the IRS. Taxpayers who combine e-file of their tax return and direct deposit to MECU can get their refunds in as few as 10 days. Even those who file paper

returns can expect their refund quicker. To take full advantage of direct deposit, you must make sure you enter the correct account and routing numbers on your tax form. The routing number for MECU is 271984311.

CONNECTIONS

MAIN OFFICE

1205 E Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-4040
847.576.5199
Toll free 877.270.6392

EDITOR

Jennifer Patterson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Simms
Chairman

Raymond Schulenberg
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Larry Rosin
Executive Vice President/Secretary

HOLIDAY HOURS

All MECU offices will be closed Monday, January 16, 2012, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Although the credit union offices will be closed, you can still access your account online at mecu.org, through ATMs nationwide or through MECU automated telephone banking at 847.576.2100, or toll-free at 800.537.8245. To serve you better, we will be open earlier on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

Michael Murphy
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