

Memberlink

Winter 2018

Your Quarterly Guide To Connecting You



Protect your Identity with  IDShieldSM

Our WCCU members have been reaching out to us since Equifax recently lost control of customer data that included Social Security numbers, home addresses, credit card numbers, driver's license numbers and birth dates. The company estimates that the data of 143 million people was exposed, which equals roughly half the US population.

At WCCU we are committed to help our members fight identity theft and fraud. We recently researched several ID Theft protection services. In November, we selected IDShield, a nationwide leader in identity theft services to provide our members affordable protection against these crimes.

IDShield Protection

IDShield monitors your identity from every angle, not just your Social Security number, credit cards, and bank accounts. If any change in your status occurs, you will receive an email update immediately. IDShield also offers you a mobile app so that you can track your identity and have on-the-go access, 24/7.

IDShield Specialists

Identity specialists are available 24 hours a day, every day, in the event of an identity theft emergency. They are also available to help interpret and analyze your credit report.

IDShield Restoration

IDShield is the only company with an exclusive partnership with Kroll, the worldwide leader in theft investigative services.

If a compromise occurs, you can simply contact your Licensed Private Investigator who will immediately begin restoring your identity to pre-theft status.

Black Market Website Surveillance

IDShield monitors global black market websites, internet relay chat channels, chat room, peer-to-peer sharing networks, and social feeds for a member's information looking for a match of name, date of birth, SSN, e-mail addresses, phone number, driver's license number, passport number, and/or medical ID numbers.

Affordable Individual and Family Plan Coverage

There are a lot of different services that offer similar protection. However, we are confident that IDShield can provide you with great protection at an affordable rate. We also offer you the convenience of having the monthly premium paid directly from your WCCU account. The Individual Plan is just \$8.95 per month. The Family Plan is only \$18.95 per month and includes parents/guardians and up to 8 dependents under the age of 18 to monitor for potential fraud activity associated with their children's SSN.

See plan details for complete terms, conditions, and exclusions.

For more information or to enroll in the IDShield program through WCCU, contact any of our offices or enroll online at wccucreditunion.coop



Brandi Walton,
Investment Professional

Managing Debt While Saving for Retirement

It's a catch-22: You feel that you should focus on paying down debt, but you also want to save for retirement. It may be comforting to know you're not alone.

According to an Employee Benefit Research Institute survey, 18% of today's workers describe their debt level as a major problem, while 41% say it's a minor problem. And workers who say that debt

is a problem are also more likely to feel stressed about their retirement savings prospects. Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that the largest proportion (21%) of those who have taken a loan from their employer-sponsored retirement plans have done so to pay off debt. Borrowing from your plan can have negative consequences on your retirement preparedness down the road. Loan limits and other restrictions generally apply as well.

The key in managing both debt repayment and retirement savings is to understand a few basic financial concepts that will help you develop a strategy to tackle both.

Compare potential rate of return with interest rate on debt

Probably the most common way to decide whether to pay off debt or to make investments is to consider whether you could earn a higher rate of return (after accounting for taxes) on your investments than the interest rate you pay on the debt. For example, say you have a credit card with a \$10,000 balance that carries an interest rate of 18%. By paying off that balance, you're effectively getting an 18% return on your money. That means your investments would generally need to earn a consistent, after-tax return greater than 18% to make saving for retirement preferable to paying off that debt. That's a tall order for even the most savvy professional investors.

And bear in mind that all investing involves risk; investment returns are anything but guaranteed. In general, the higher the rate of return, the greater the risk. If you make investments rather than pay off debt and your investments incur losses, you may still have debts to pay, but you won't have had the benefit of any gains. By contrast, the return that comes from eliminating high-interest-rate debt is a sure thing.

Are you eligible for an employer match?

If you have the opportunity to save for retirement via an employer-sponsored plan that matches a portion of your contributions, the debt-versus-savings decision can become even more complicated.



Let's say your company matches 50% of your contributions up to 6% of your salary. This means you're essentially earning a 50% return on that

portion of your retirement account contributions. That's why it may make sense to save at least enough to get any employer match before focusing on debt.

And don't forget the potential tax benefits of retirement plan contributions. If you contribute pre-tax dollars to your plan account, you're immediately deferring anywhere from 10% to 39.6% in taxes, depending on your federal tax rate. If you're making after-tax Roth contributions, you're creating a source of tax-free retirement income.

Consider the types of debt

Your decision can also be influenced by the type of debt you have. For example, if you itemize deductions on your federal tax return, the interest you pay on a mortgage is generally deductible — so even if you could pay off your mortgage, you may not want to. Let's say you're paying 6% on your mortgage and 18% on your credit card debt, and your employer matches 50% of your retirement account contributions. You might consider directing some of your available resources to paying off the credit card debt and some toward your retirement account in order to get the full company match, while continuing to pay the mortgage to receive the tax deduction for the interest.

Other considerations

There's another good reason to explore ways to address both debt repayment and retirement savings at once. Time is your best ally when saving for retirement. If you say to yourself, "I'll wait to start saving until my debts are completely paid off," you run the risk that you'll never get to that point, because your good intentions about paying off your debt may falter. Postponing saving also reduces the number of years you have left to save for retirement.

It might also be easier to address both goals if you can cut your interest payments by refinancing debt. For example, you might be able to consolidate multiple credit card payments by rolling them over to a new credit card or a debt consolidation loan that has a lower interest rate.

Bear in mind that even if you decide to focus on retirement savings, you should make sure that you're able to make at least the minimum monthly payments on your debt. Failure to do so can result in penalties and increased interest rates, which would defeat the overall purpose of your debt repayment/retirement savings strategy.

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SPECIAL NEWSLETTER INSERT



2018 Election of Board of Directors

Eligibility

You are eligible to vote if you are the primary owner listed on the account (the primary owner is defined as the person whose Social Security Number/Tax ID# is on the account), have been a member for 90 days, your account is in good standing and you are over the age of 18.

This year you will have the option of voting with an assigned Personal Identification Number (PIN) or by using your account number. Both methods are secure. PIN numbers will be sent to all eligible voting members. Members with an e-mail address will receive them via e-mail. All others will receive their PIN numbers by standard mail.

We have once again partnered with CU Ballot to conduct our election. CU Ballot has the resources and expertise to conduct large credit union elections. They are able to offer our members confidentiality as WCCU is provided with only the tabulated results - WCCU is not provided with any information regarding individual ballots. With the use of their technology and expertise, they are able to conduct an election that is cost effective, compliant, and fair. Our WCCU bylaws state that all ballots need to be verified to ensure they are from eligible voting members. Through the use of technology and automation, CU Ballot has the capability to verify all ballots by using either your assigned PIN number or your account number.

Vote Now: Election Open January 2nd - February 12th, 2018

Four Ways to Vote:



Vote in any WCCU Office

Electronic voting will be available at all WCCU offices. WCCU staff will be happy to assist you!



Online (Electronically)

The electronic (internet) voting will be handled by CU Ballot, an independent, secure website. Members will receive easy to understand instructions on how to vote when visiting this site: <https://wccucreditunion.cuballot.com>



By Phone

Call Toll-Free to vote: **1-888-213-6188**

Telephone voting allows members to cast votes by dialing the above toll-free number which is specifically assigned for this election. Members may simply follow the prompts of an interactive voice response system.



By Mail

Paper Ballots are available in all WCCU Offices. Paper ballots will be mailed directly to CU Ballot for tabulation.

Annual Meeting Notice

Tuesday, February 20th, 2018
Westby Community Center
206 N. Main Street, Westby
(Bekum Memorial Library Lower Level)

6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Informational Tables & Prizes

Visit each table to receive tickets into our drawing for special prizes - including VISA Gift Cards.

7:00 pm

WCCU's Annual Meeting

Meeting will be followed by a light supper and BINGO.

As an owner of WCCU Credit Union, it's not only your credit union right to vote for our volunteer-based Board of Directors, it's your duty. Control of our credit union and its management is in the hands of you...our members. This is one of the fundamental differences between credit unions and banks.

Please take a moment now to vote! Election results will be announced at WCCU's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 at 7pm at the Westby Community Center, 206 N. Main Street in Westby.



Overdraft Privilege

At times, unanticipated expenses or unforeseen problems can leave you with too little cash in your checking account. Having a check returned due to insufficient funds can be a costly, inconvenient and potentially embarrassing experience.

At WCCU we do not encourage overdrafts. As always, we encourage you to manage your finances responsibly. However, we want to save you from the additional merchant fees and possible damage to your credit history that might result if a check is returned. That is why we provide a discretionary service called “Overdraft Privilege” to eligible accounts in good standing. (For example, we typically do not pay overdrafts if your account has not been positive within the last 35 days, you are not making regular deposits, or you have a past due loan, garnishment, or levy).

With Overdraft Privilege, transactions may be approved, up to the Overdraft Privilege limit when there are insufficient funds in your account. A \$20 fee will be charged for each item presented against insufficient funds and will reduce the amount of Overdraft Privilege that is available to you. Please be aware that Overdraft Privilege is intended for inadvertent or occasional use, such as a balance miscalculation. You are encouraged to use other overdraft protection services WCCU offers such as an automatic transfer from a savings account as your first line of defense against overdrafts.

Overdraft Privilege is automatically provided to eligible accounts and there is no charge unless you use the service. If you do not overdraw your account, you will never be charged an Overdraft or Return Item fee. If you prefer not to have Overdraft Privilege on your account, please contact any of our WCCU offices and we will remove it.

VERY IMPORTANT:

The above protection will cover only checks that you write and ACH items. If you wish to extend your Overdraft Privilege to cover ATM and everyday debit card transactions, the regulation requires that you give WCCU your consent by “Opting In”. To do this, simply contact any of our WCCU Offices and let us know that you want this protection for your ATM and everyday debit card transactions. If you have already given WCCU your consent to opt in there is no need to opt in again. Although you do not ever expect to use it, it will give you peace of mind knowing the Overdraft Privilege is there if you need it. And if you don’t, there’s never a charge.

**Subject to WCCU discretion. An Overdraft charge of \$20 per item will be imposed for overdrafts created by checks, in person withdrawals, ACH, Point-of-Sale, ATM withdrawals or by other electronic means. There is a cap of \$100 per day on the total fees we can charge you for overdrawing your account. Payment of your overdraft is discretionary and we reserve the right not to pay. For example, we typically do not pay if your account is not in good standing, you are not making regular deposits, or you have too many overdrafts. Overdraft Privilege balances must be paid within 35 days. WCCU has the right to require payment to bring the account current immediately after an overdraft.*

Making a Difference in 2017

As I reflect on 2017, I feel a great sense of pride knowing we made a positive impact in our communities. At WCCU, we are committed to supporting our local communities through financial contributions, in-kind giving, and employee volunteerism.

We Lent a Hand

In the fall, I announced that our 2017 staff education day would be dedicated to "giving back". We called it our "Lend a Hand Day". I am pleased to share with you some of the accomplishments from that day:

- With 140+ staff, WCCU provided over 1,000 hours of community service by lending a hand to a variety of organizations.
- Small teams spent the morning cleaning, painting, landscaping, organizing, picking up garbage, completing projects, and offering many other kinds of assistance to local organizations.
- The staff gathered in the afternoon to assemble donations and organize deliveries of food, personal care items, and fleece blankets. *(See blue box to the right.)*
- In such a short time, we were able to accomplish countless wonderful things. It was truly a heartwarming day for our volunteers and the recipients.

But wait...there's \$12,748 more!

In 2017, our staff helped raise money for the purpose of donating back to help others. Through our staff "Casual for a Cause" days and other fundraising efforts, we were able raise \$12,748 to support local programs. In addition to our staff contributing money to wear jeans to work, we sold candy bars, held bake sales with goods donated by our staff, coordinated a Christmas Adopt a Family program in several counties, and held a hat and mitten drive in each of our offices. With their contributions, our staff was able to make additional monetary donations to local food pantries, local cancer fundraisers, animal shelters, our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, as well as other local service organizations.

I take this opportunity to thank you, our members, for supporting our efforts. From buying candy bars and bake sale items, to taking tags off our tree to help brighten a neighbor's holiday, **I say thank you for helping us to build a better life in our local communities.** Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Kevin Hauser

Kevin Hauser
President



WCCU Staff Members Julie Doudna, Kris Felton, Brandi Walton, and Heath Kohlsted pose in front of a community building before they scraped and painted it (shown above right) for the Ithaca Lions Club.



(Upper Left) Cashton Cupboard & Closet receives a donation of hygiene care items from members of the WCCU Cashton Branch office. (Lower Left) Staff members Christa Conant and Georgene Revels (middle) deliver blankets to Hope through Christ Ministries Warming Center in Baraboo. (Upper Right) Dana Matz and Kristina Rego fill the Reedsburg Blessings Box with personal care items on their way home from Lend A Hand Day.

120 Hygiene Kits containing personal care items were assembled and delivered to local shelters.

250 Sack Lunches were put together and donated to local schools that provide weekend meals for students.

264 Fleece Blankets were cut and tied and sent to EMS and Fire Departments and shelters.

650 pounds of food and **400 pounds of litter** were delivered to our local humane societies and animal shelters.



(Above) Bruce Shroeder, Dennis Johnson, Angie Toomey, Kelly Ragan-Paske, and Greg Wagner build a wall for Habitat for Humanity. (Below Left) Terri Menne, Dawn Lewis, and Julie Dunnum spent their morning cleaning up the flower beds at Westby's Bekkum Memorial Library. (Below Middle) Diana Slack, Linda Mustio, and Mary Martin weeded and planted new flowers at Bethel Home in Viroqua. (Below Right) Jodi Vogel, Becky Jennings, Stephanie Dunse, Deb Dooley, and Jennifer Lagoda deliver blankets at the Lake Delton Fire & EMS Departments.



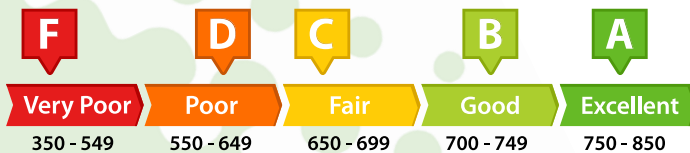
Commit to be Financially Fit

New Year's Resolution: Understand Your Credit Score

You may already know that your credit score is a 3-digit number between 301-850; however, did you know how much this 3-digit score can impact your life:

- **Insurance** companies use it to determine your rates.
- **Cellphone** providers and utility companies use it to determine eligibility and fees.
- **Lenders** can use it to determine the interest rates on your credit cards, auto, and home loans.
- **Employers** (in most states) have the right to check credit on prospective employees.
- **Landlords** may use it to decline renters.

Federal law allows you to get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each credit reporting company. You can use a website such as www.annualcreditreport.com to receive yours. Reviewing your credit report also helps you catch early signs of identity theft.



How Can You Improve Your Score?

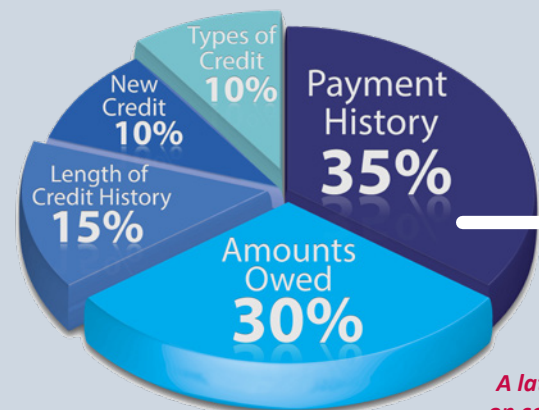
If your score is not where you want it to be, now is the time to take action. Some people may think that by closing unused credit cards, you can raise your score. This can actually have a negative impact.

WCCU's Financial Counselors are available for free confidential consultations. Our certified financial counselors can provide you with tools and resources aimed directly at improving your score.

"The WCCU Credit Counselor (Greg) helped me understand my credit score and I'm currently on a path to repair it".

-Tanya, WCCU Member

What Determines Your Credit Score?



A late payment on certain types of loans could drop your score by almost 100 points.

Financial counseling and education can be beneficial to help you set and achieve your financial goals in 2018 and beyond.

Contact any WCCU office to set up your free confidential appointment with a WCCU Financial Counselor.

Privacy Notice: Federal law requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Our privacy policy has not changed and you may review our policy and practices with respect to your personal information at wccucreditunion.coop or we will mail you a free copy upon request if you call us at 608.634.3118.

Member Link is published quarterly for our credit union members. To contact us call: 608-634-3118 or write the editor, Kerri Theige - P.O. Box 70, Westby, WI 54667-0070 or katheige@wccucreditunion.coop

Westby & Viroqua	Coon Valley Cashton	Richland Center East	Richland Center West (Mobil Mart)	Baraboo	Reedsburg and Lake Delton
Lobby Mon.-Friday 8:30am-5pm Saturday 8am-noon	Lobby Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5pm	Lobby Mon.-Friday 8:30am-5pm Saturday 8am-noon	Lobby Mon.-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm Saturday 7:30am-noon	Lobby Mon.-Friday 8:30am-5pm Saturday 8am-noon	Lobby Mon.-Friday 8:30am-5pm Saturday 8am-noon
Drive-up Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am-5:30pm Friday 7:30am-6pm Saturday 7:30am-noon	Drive-up Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am-5:30pm Friday 7:30am-6pm Saturday 7:30am-noon	Drive-up Mon.-Thurs. 7:30am-5:30pm Friday 7:30am-6pm Saturday 7:30am-noon	Drive-up Mon.-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm Saturday 7:30am-noon	Drive-up Mon.-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm Saturday 7:30am-noon	Drive-up Mon.-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm Saturday 7:30am-noon