

focuspoints

A publication for the members of Little Giant Federal Credit Union



January 2012

Annual Shareholders Meeting

Date: May 6, 2012



Credit unions, unlike other banking institutions, are owned and operated by members? That's right; as long as you are a member, you hold shares in the Credit Union!

As a Shareholder, we encourage you to participate in our Annual Meeting. This is a great opportunity for you to ask questions, review the past year and take a look at what is planned for the upcoming

year. You'll be able to get to know and vote for the Board of Directors and really have an impact on the Credit Union's future.

This is one meeting you won't want to miss!

Loans and Savings: You Can't Have One Without the Other

Belonging to a Credit Union is a good deal. Otherwise, why would you belong? There's a wealth of benefits in store for you, but only if you really use all your Credit Union has to offer you! That's how your Credit Union can continue to be a "good deal"!

As a member, we need both your savings dollars and your loans. We can't succeed any other way. The funds you save and keep on deposit at the Credit Union in the form of share accounts make up the pool of money we use to provide member loans. So you see, without those savings, we have no money to lend!

We also need your loan business to generate income to pay bills and allow us to operate. Since the Credit Union is a not-for-profit cooperative, income over our operating needs is returned to our members in the form of dividends on shares, lower rates on loans and new and better services. So when you borrow from your Credit Union, you're not only making the right personal financial decision, you're helping the Credit Union and all of its members. It's a win/win situation for all of us!

We can continue to win as long as you keep turning to your Credit Union for all your savings and borrowing needs!

Special Notice

PNC has just informed us that in order to cash checks for our members you will now be required to have two forms of I.D. This is being required for the protection of our members as well as your Credit Union. Should you have any questions about the new requirements please feel free to contact our office. Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.



'Tis the Season for Holiday Club Accounts

It's never too early to start saving for the holidays! If the thought of high credit card bills after the holidays has you feeling cold this winter, stop in to Little Giant Credit Union and open up a Holiday Club Account. Save as much or as little as you want, as often as you'd like.

Tell your high interest rate credit cards to take a vacation this winter and open a Holiday Club Account today. Checks are mailed out in the middle of October.

Holiday Closings

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
DAY**

Monday, January 16

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Monday, February 20



The Credit Union Your Financial Partner

When you join the Credit Union, your membership benefits last a lifetime. Whether you move away or change jobs, you and your family members will still be able to take advantage of everything we have to offer.

From loans to savings at more, we have just what you need to fulfill your personal banking needs. Our friendly member service representatives are ready to guide you down the road to financial success, so no matter what your needs, stop in to Little Giant Federal Credit Union today!

Still Checking at a Bank?

Why not open a Share Draft Account today at your credit union? Little Giant FCU offers members a checking account with:

- No monthly service charges
- No minimum balance
- No ATM surcharge fees at any credit union or PNC location
- Direct Deposit
- First order of 50 checks FREE
- Debit Card

Stop in to the Credit Union today and get a checking account that's really free!

Think of Little Giant FCU FIRST for the Financial Products and Services You Need!

Share Accounts
Share Draft (Checking) Accounts
VISA® Credit Cards
IRA Accounts
Christmas Club Accounts
Travelers Checks
Vacation Club Accounts
Loans For:
Cars and Trucks • Home Improvements
Bill Consolidation • Vacations
Moving Expenses • Appliances
Weddings • Pay Day Loans
...or any other worthwhile purpose

Better Choice Loans*

\$500.00 – No credit check required.
\$20.00 Application fee. Must be repaid in 3 months.
Contact the Credit Union office for more information.

*15% with Payroll Deduction. 18% with coupon book.

Why Not Get a Credit Card from Your Credit Union?

Great Fixed Rate of **9.9% APR***

Just contact the Credit Union for an application to see if you qualify. Limits up to \$7,500.00. Take a vacation, do home repairs, or use it to consolidate high-interest rate credit cards with no balance transfer fee. Already have a credit card with us and need a higher limit? Just contact us and we will let you know how to get your credit line increased. Contact the Credit Union for details.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rate current as of date of publication and is subject to change. Listed rate based on individual creditworthiness; your actual rate may be higher.

New and Used Auto Loans



Do your home work first before shopping and be sure that Little Giant is a part of your checklist.

In most cases we can either meet or beat what most dealers have to offer.

Need a loan – Look no further than your credit union. It is the best place in town and looks out for you interest.



Why throw away your money?

Save big with Sprint's Credit Union Member Discount Plan.

Click www.SprintSave4CU.com
Call **877.SAVE.4.CU**
Visit **your local Sprint retail location**



Getting a Tax Refund In 2012?

Are you getting a tax refund and wondering what to do with that extra cash? Here are some suggestions on how to use your tax refund:

- Start a rainy day fund or if you have one, you could jump-start your IRA contribution for 2012.
- Pay down credit card debt.
- Invest in yourself by signing up for a class that will improve your job skills. Or, think about signing up for the type of class that will remove some stress from your life, such as a cooking class, craft class, photography, etc. If you enjoy exercising, then consider joining a gym.
- Tend to some of the things that you have let slide because you didn't have the money. Schedule that overdue appointment to the dentist, eye doctor, or veterinarian for your pet's check-up.
- Pay extra on the principal of a mortgage or other loan.

"Funny" Money

How to Spot a Scam and Protect Yourself from Fraud

What could be better than opening your mail and finding a check for thousands of dollars? Unsolicited mail with seemingly valid checks has been showing up in increasing numbers around the U.S. in the past year. But those checks are not only fake – they also could cost you hundreds of dollars.

We've seen mail that says you have unclaimed lottery winnings or have been chosen for a mystery shopping assignment, perhaps after posting your resume or auctioning a product online. The enclosed check bears the name and address of a real business or financial institution that has no role in the scam, and may be labeled as a cashier's check or money order. Any phone number can be answered by a scammer.

You're told to deposit the check and send part of the proceeds to a third party for a reason that sounds legitimate, such as paying taxes on your winnings. The upshot? Weeks later, your bank tells you the check is bogus and demands that you return the amount you've withdrawn. Of course, the money you've sent the third party, often in Canada, has disappeared. Never deposit a check if it requires you to return money to the sender or a third party. If you've been scammed, there's generally no way to get your money back, but you can file a report with the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov), your local consumer protection agency, or the postal authorities. <http://www.fraud.org/tips/internet/fakecheck.htm>.

Source: www.consumerreports.com

Direct Deposit Your 2012 Tax Refund

Having your tax return directly deposited into your Credit Union account is quick, easy, convenient, and best of all, FREE! Why wait around for your refund check to be mailed when you can start spending (or saving) right away? According to the IRS, a refund check is issued to you within six to eight weeks of filing a paper return. By choosing direct deposit your paper-filed refund will be received in five to six weeks.

If you choose to e-file AND choose direct deposit for your refund, you should receive it within 10-14 days!

To have your tax refund directly deposited into your Credit Union account, simply provide your tax preparer with your account number and our routing number, #243084333. If you choose to e-file, you can always check the status of your refund online at www.irs.gov. To do so, you will need your Social Security number and your filing status.

Also, remember to keep your year-end credit union statement for tax reporting purposes.

Retire the Social Security Check

The U.S. Department of the Treasury is retiring the paper Social Security check for millions of baby boomers and others applying for federal benefits, a move that will save tax payers \$1 billion over the next ten years.

Anyone newly applying for Social Security, Veterans Affairs or other federal benefits must choose an electronic payment method. People currently receiving their federal benefits by paper check must switch to direct deposit by March 1, 2013. According to the treasurer of the United States, it costs 92 cents more to issue a payment by paper check than by direct deposit.

Want to have your check deposited into your credit union account? Contact us for more information.

Verified by VISA®

Verified by VISA® protects VISA® card numbers against unauthorized use online. This is a new service that enhances your existing VISA® card with a personal password you create. You get added safety, and the reassurance that only you can use your VISA® Card online.

To protect your Little Giant VISA® card, log onto www.usa.visa.com and in just a few minutes you can register your VISA® card and start shopping with added safety online.



Contact Us

MCKEES ROCKS OFFICE

600 Chartiers Avenue
Mckees Rocks, PA 15136
(412) 771-6400
Fax (412) 771-2478
8:00 am - 4:45 pm
Monday-Thursday
8:00 am - 4:15 pm
Friday

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY OFFICE



*Our Duquesne University Office
has moved to:*
Liebermann Bldg.
600 Fifth Avenue
Room 109
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Voice Response System:

(412) 771-1383

Web: www.littlegiantfcu.org

To report lost or stolen VISA® Card:
1-800-991-4961

Finance Your Fun

Financial institutions offer many types of loans, but which one is best for you? Each loan is different, and depending on what you need, one type of loan could be more beneficial than another type of loan. So which will make the most sense for you?

Home Equity Loan - A Home Equity Loan works for larger purchases and projects, such as home improvements, unexpected medical expenses, and tuition payments. Home Equity Loan interest can be tax-deductible just like your mortgage. The Credit Union offers low rates, low fees, and a variety of terms to fit your budget!

- ▶ **Home Equity Line of Credit** - A Line of Credit works similar to a Home Equity Loan in that you can borrow against the equity in your home. Unlike a loan, a line of credit acts like a credit card. Interest may still be tax-deductible, and you can borrow up to your credit limit whenever you want. Just like Home Equity Loans, the Credit Union offers low rates, low fees, and a variety of terms that fit your needs.
- ▶ **Credit Cards** - Credit Cards can also work for large (or small) purchases, but unlike Home Equity Loans, they generally carry a higher interest rate. With credit cards, if your balance isn't paid off at the end of the month, you can get hit with finance charges. Switch to a credit union credit card, we offer lower interest rates than most credit card issuers. You can also arrange to have your payment deducted through payroll deduction.
- ▶ **Auto Loans** - Whether you're looking for a new or used vehicle, an Auto Loan from the Credit Union is the best financing option to take. Our Auto Loan rates are generally lower than most dealer financing rates, and you can receive up to 100% financing. Low rates and a variety of terms come standard with your credit union membership.

Unsecured (Personal) Loans are perfect for everything else. Whether you're looking to take a dream vacation, make holiday purchases, pay college tuition, or finance a new home entertainment system, an Unsecured (Personal) Loan from the Credit Union can help relieve your payment worries. Like all other credit union loans, an Unsecured (Personal) Loan offers low rates, low fees, and a variety of terms to fit your lifestyle, no matter what path of life you choose.

Whatever you're looking to finance, the Credit Union is here to fulfill your needs. For current rates or more information, visit our website or talk to one of our loan specialists today. We'll help you figure out which loan works best for your situation. Plus, we'll set you up with the terms, rate, and repayment method that suits your needs best!

VISIT US ONLINE at
www.littlegiantfcu.org

Little Giant Federal Credit Union
600 Chartiers Avenue
Mckees Rocks, PA 15136

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