

Happy New Year from all of us at Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union!



We are excited to begin this New Year together...and we hope you will join us in celebrating a very special milestone!

Celebrating 60 years together

Sixty years ago, a small group of educators and other school employees came together to form a credit union in Clinton Township. Today, MSGCU is over 98,000 members strong.

While we have grown significantly since that landmark day in December 1954, we remain dedicated to every single member, every day.

The communities we serve have been so welcoming to MSGCU over the years, and we are grateful. We are celebrating 60 years of service with our Giving Back Program. Each month, an MSGCU branch will partner with their community, donating time and resources.

To learn more about MSGCU over the years and our Giving Back initiative, see the special insert in this issue of Common Interest.

Financial fitness in the New Year

MSGCU is also dedicated to helping you with your financial New Year's resolutions. If your goal is to improve your financial wellness, we will be offering a series of workshops to help you plan for the years ahead. Likewise, if college is on your radar, our scholarship application period begins this month for our Rudolph Heino and Larry Swantek scholarship programs. Learn more in this newsletter.

There are plenty of other exciting things in store for 2015. We look forward to serving you in what promises to be an eventful year.

Yours truly,

Peter D. Gates
President/CEO

GIVING
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE
BACK 

Visa Balance Transfer: Special Offer Begins January 12!

Turn a balance transfer into up to \$500 cash

Did decking the halls make your wallet say "Ho Ho -- oh no?" Mark your calendar and contact us on January 12. You can transfer your balances from other high interest credit cards to an MSGCU VISA and get an instant 2% cash back rebate!* Beginning January 12, visit msgcu.org/visa or call 586.263.8800 for more information.



*Transfer balances to an MSGCU credit card and get 2% cash back, up to \$500 maximum, deposited into your share account. Limited time only. Some restrictions apply. The 2% incentive (cash payment) is considered income and may be reported on IRS Form 1099-MISC to federal, state, and local tax authorities, if required by applicable law, and the member is responsible for any taxes due. See Member Service Representative for details.

ANNUAL MEETING:

*Thursday, April 16, 6 p.m. at the
Main Office in Clinton Township.*

NOMINATION FOR THE BOARD BY PETITION

Members who wish to be included on the ballot for the Board of Directors should:

1. Submit a written request to the CEO for a nomination package
2. Collect verifiable signatures of at least 3% of the current membership supporting your candidacy
3. Forward the signatory document along with a candidacy notice and résumé to:

*Michigan Schools and
Government Credit Union
Attn: President's Office
40400 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038*

Include the following in your candidacy notice:

Your name, address, Credit Union account number, and daytime phone number

A brief note on how your skills can assist the Credit Union.

**Completed submissions
must be received by Monday,
February 2, 2015.**

Board of Director Nominees

Edward D. Callaghan (Incumbent) received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan, M.B.A. from Wayne State, and B.S. degree from the University of Detroit. Dr. Callaghan serves as a board member for a variety of organizations, including Henry Ford Health System, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals, Motor City Lyric Opera, Walsh College, and The Alliance for Excellence in Online Education. Dr. Callaghan also chairs the Michigan Employment Relations Commission. He is employed by Oakland Community College as a Business Faculty Member, after serving as President of Orchard Ridge Campus and as Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and College Communications. Dr. Callaghan strongly believes in serving the members by providing them with the most competitive financial services.

Douglas J. Smith (Incumbent) received his B.S. degree from Lawrence University followed by his M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. He serves as the Senior Vice President of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. He has an extensive background in statewide and local economic development and educational public policy. Mr. Smith's goal as a Board member is to contribute to the continued oversight of policy development of the Credit Union with emphasis on having MSGCU become a leader in financial literacy initiatives.

James S. McCann (Incumbent) received his B.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University and his M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. He retired from his position as Superintendent of Lamphere Schools in 2006 after 20 years of service. While he was Superintendent, Mr. McCann served on the Board of Directors of Oakland County Superintendent Association, Michigan JASON Foundation, Metro Bureau Services, St. John Health Systems – Oakland, and Madison Heights/Hazel Park Chamber of Commerce. Mr. McCann currently serves as Treasurer on the MSGCU Board. He strongly believes that it is important to give back to the community and its organizations. His number one priority as a Board member is to ensure that the Credit Union continues to provide the best possible financial opportunities and services to its members.

Milo J. Perreault (Incumbent) Retired Physics teacher (Fraser High School). Mr. Perreault has received several Director Education awards from the Credit Union National Association: Roy F. Bergengren Award, Board of Directors Award, Credit Union Services Award, Edward A. Filene Award, Credit Union Leadership Award, Supervisory Committee Award, Technology Award, Louise Herring Award, Dora Maxwell Award, Desjardins Award, and Friedrich W. Raiffeisen Award. He has a passion for serving the membership and is looking forward to the excitement and challenges that will be a positive part of Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union.

Stephen E. Thomas (Incumbent) received his B.A. degree and Graduate Certificate from Central Michigan University and holds an M.B.A. degree from La Crosse University. He is a retired Sergeant of the Macomb County Sheriff Department and retired as the Administrator of the Special Investigation Unit for Michigan Basic Property Insurance Association. He served as President and Board Member for the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and Board Member of the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units. Mr. Thomas is currently Board Member and Co-Chairman of the Training and Education Sub-Committee for the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee. He values having the opportunity to be a part of the growth of our Credit Union and serving the members.

What's New?

Justice Day

On December 3, MSGCU partnered with the Macomb Immediate School District and Michigan Works to present Justice Day. More than 130 at-risk students were invited to participate in a number of sessions, including a demonstration from Macomb County K-9 Division, interactive “what would you do” sessions and Q&As with community mentors.



Judge Kathryn Viviano speaks about making good decisions on prom night.

Reinventing Mi Retirement

In October, MSGCU was a proud sponsor of Reinventing Mi Retirement, a statewide initiative to increase financial knowledge among those retiring—or thinking about it.



Financial Advisor George Johnson spoke to a full house about different landmarks on the road to retirement.

Courtesy Pay Changes

Courtesy Pay is a service MSGCU provides to interested members, giving them the benefit of having check, debit, ACH and ATM transactions processed when there are not enough funds available in the account. MSGCU recently enhanced its Courtesy Pay program to limit the number of daily fees charged to a member. Members with Fresh Start checking accounts are now also eligible for immediate enrollment in the Courtesy Pay program. For details, contact MSGCU.

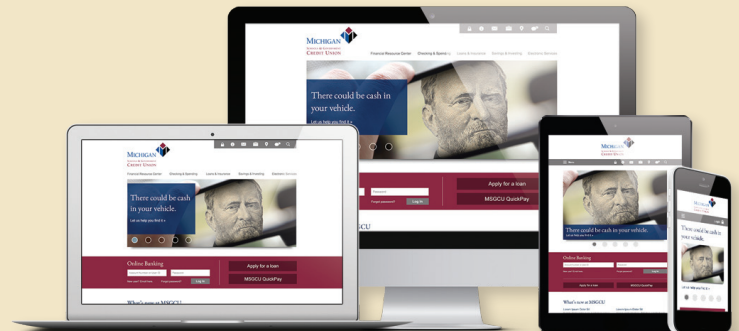
Long-Standing IRS Rollover Interpretation Changing

Effective January 1, 2015, the IRS will apply a new interpretation of the IRA Rollover Rule. Currently, members may roll over one IRA distribution for each IRA the member owns, within any 12-month period. When the IRS applies the new interpretation, a member may roll over only one IRA distribution within any 12-month period, regardless of how many IRAs the member may own. This rule applies for any rollovers done on or after January 1, 2015. NOTE: This change only applies to funds moved from IRA to IRA. Direct Rollovers from Qualified Retirement Plans such as 401Ks (i.e. Macomb County 401K funds) and 403Bs are not affected. Direct transfers from one financial institution to another remain unlimited. You should consult a skilled tax advisor if you are rolling over a tax distribution.

COMING SOON:

Updated Website Layout

We are working to improve the msgcu.org website. The updated site will offer users an improved visual layout, as well as increased readability on all electronic devices (including tablets). While the site will be easier to interact with, no major changes are being made to the navigation. We expect to introduce this updated site in the spring. Watch for more information!



MSGCU
SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for one of our scholarships.

msgcuscholarships.org

Beginning January 12, members can apply for our scholarship programs online at msgcuscholarships.org.

Rudolph Heino High School Scholarship is designed for high school seniors who embody the Credit Union philosophy of “people helping people.” This includes school involvement, community outreach and inspiring others through leadership. There are five \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded.

Larry Swantek Educational Studies Scholarship is for students who plan to study education. Applicants are asked to share the lessons they plan to teach their students, both in and out of the classroom. There are two scholarships to be awarded, each for \$2,500.

Deadline: March 13, 2015 for scholarship applications. Visit msgcuscholarships.org or call 586.263.8800 for more information.



This year, be confident your taxes are done right and get a chance to win big! TurboTax® coaches you to the biggest refund you deserve, double checking as you go and searching over 350 deductions and credits. Try TurboTax Online starting in January for free at msgcu.org and be entered into the TurboTax \$25K Giveaway!

1 TurboTax \$25K Giveaway. NO PURCHASE OR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia, 18 years of age or older at time of entry. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Giveaway ends 2/26/15. Subject to complete Official Rules and all applicable federal, state and local laws. For Official Rules including odds of winning, alternate method of entry, and prize descriptions, visit <https://turbotax.intuit.com/go/sweepstakesrules>.

 **Homebuyers Workshop**
Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. — Troy Office

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Our Mortgage Experts will walk attendees through the entire process, step-by-step. Learn the secrets of successful home buying, including budgeting, pre-qualification, inspection, closing, and other valuable home purchasing tips. This free interactive session is great for both first-time buyers and those looking to step into the market again. Bring your questions!

Holiday Closings

■ **Presidents' Day**
Monday, Feb. 16

Upcoming Workshops

■ **Youth Checking and Lending**
Wednesday, Jan. 28 — 6 p.m.
Wednesday, March 25 — 6 p.m.

■ **Homebuyers**
Wednesday, Feb 11 — 6 p.m.

For workshop locations and additional details, please visit msgcu.org/workshops.

■ **Retirement Planning**
Wednesday, March 11 — 6 p.m.

*All workshops are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Please call 586.263.8800 or email workshops@msgcu.org. Events may be added or dates may change.

MSGCU OFFICE LOCATIONS

Clinton Township - Main Office
40400 Garfield Road

Chesterfield
34700 23 Mile Road
45120 Market Place Boulevard

Madison Heights
480 W. 12 Mile Road

Royal Oak
31805 Woodward Avenue

Shelby Township
48945 Hayes Road
8770 23 Mile Road

St. Clair Shores
24515 Little Mack Avenue

Sterling Heights
2356 Metropolitan Parkway

Troy
4555 Investment Drive

Warren
13602 E. 14 Mile Road

COMING SOON
8 Mile & Farmington, Livonia

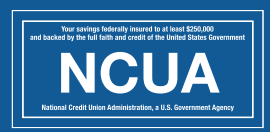
**All branch lobbies,
drive-thrus and the
Call Center are open...**

M-W: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Th: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Fri: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 586.263.8800
Toll Free: 1.866.MSGCU4U
Website: msgcu.org



Find surcharge-free access to more than 30,000 ATMs nationwide through the CO-OP Network, including ATMs in 5,500 7-Eleven and Costco stores. Visit msgcu.org, and click on “Locations & ATMs” to search for a surcharge-free ATM near you.





Sixty years ago, 12 school employees came together to create what would become Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union. The charter document was dated December 13, 1954, which is recognized as MSGCU's official anniversary.

From our humble beginnings in a residential home, to 11 branches that serve more than 98,000 members and counting, MSGCU has had an illustrious history. While fashion trends and building designs may have changed, one thing that has not wavered in 60 years is our dedication to our members and our communities.

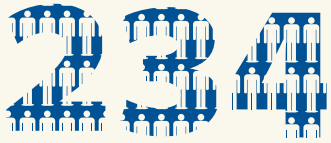
THEN HUMBLE BEGINNINGS



1954: MSGCU founded by 12 school employees, *STARTED IN A HOUSE* in Fraser.



Seymour Okun, founding member and music teacher, opened the first account. Champion of the credit union philosophy: *"PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE"*



MEMBERS

NOW HUMBLED BY SUCCESS



MSGCU still abides by the philosophy of *"PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE"*



MEMBERS AND COUNTING!



AWARDED *"OUTSTANDING CREDIT UNION OF THE YEAR!"*
—by the Michigan Credit Union League

GIVING

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

BACK

Throughout the year, we will celebrate our 60th anniversary. “Giving Back” will be our way of saying thank you to our communities for the past 60 years.

Each month, a different MSGCU branch will partner with a local non-profit within their community and donate time and/or resources. In each issue of Common Interest, we will be highlighting the upcoming branches and which organizations they are teaming up with. You can learn more about our Giving Back initiative at msgcu.org/givingback.

January — Main Office Clinton Township Library

The team at the Main Office will be purchasing books to donate to the Clinton Township Library. Staff will also be volunteering at reading events throughout the year.

February — Shelby Township Michigan Humane Society

The team at our 23 Mile Road office will be creating starter kits for families looking to adopt pets at the Michigan Humane Society. These kits include food, beds, leashes, bowls and toys. Team members will also volunteer time at the shelter.

March — St. Clair Shores Office Vision Hope

Vision Hope is an organization based in St. Clair Shores that helps less fortunate children across Metro Detroit. In honor of the 60th anniversary, the St. Clair Shores team will be assembling backpacks filled with toys and craft supplies for 60 boys and 60 girls to donate to Vision Hope.

“Outstanding Credit Union of the Year” awarded by the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL)

Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union has been recognized as “Outstanding Credit Union of the Year” by the Michigan Credit Union League. Three awards are given in three different categories, based on asset size. MSGCU received the honor for the top category.

Below is a sample of some of the related activities and recognitions in 2014.

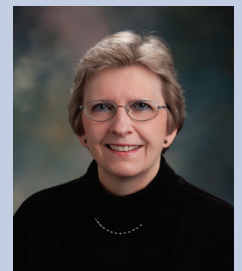
- Top 100 Workplace – Recognized as a Top Workplace in Michigan by the Detroit Free Press for two consecutive years
- Flood Restoration Loan – Offered special program to members in need
- Financial Fitness Challenge – More than 200 employees participated
- Classroom Cash Grants and Scholarship Programs
- Received first place in the Desjardins Youth Financial Education and Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service; second place in the Louise Herring Award
- Received Bauer Financial’s highest rating, five stars, for more than 20 years
- Member Satisfaction – Consistently receive high rankings in our annual member survey. In 2014, we received a 97% satisfaction rating.

MSGCU is excited to kick off the New Year with this “outstanding” designation. We are honored...and look forward to providing exceptional service to our members for the next 60 years.

Here’s what two long-term MSGCU employees have to say:

“Whether it’s saving someone hundreds or thousands of dollars in interest, leading them down a new financial path or repaving the old one, or extending a hand to someone in need and just being there for them, my most favorite part of working at the Credit Union is knowing that I make a difference every day.”

Sue N., Teller 30 years



“MSGCU looks out for everyone — internal and external members.”

Vicki L., Accounting 42 years