

Limestone Federal CU

Newsletter



131 River Street • Manistique, MI 49854

January 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016 HAPPY NEW YEAR

By the time you receive this newsletter the holiday season will have passed and many of us will have already broken our New Year's Resolutions!

During the past year the Volunteers and Staff of the credit union have worked hard to become our members "1st Choice for Financial Services". When you enter the credit union you will be greeted with a smile and a warm hello, as well as a cup of cappuccino, if you like. We are not simply employees of the credit union; we are your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow community members.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2015 was an exciting year for Limestone Federal Credit Union. In April, Board Members & Staff traveled to Traverse City Michigan to the Annual Convention of the Michigan Credit Union League where we were awarded the "Outstanding Credit Union of the Year" Award for Credit Unions under \$50 million in assets. This is no small feat for a small credit union located in the Upper Peninsula. Directors and Staff were proud to represent our credit union and community at a spectacular awards ceremony, where our community and credit union was showcased for 400 attendees from credit unions around the state. What a proud moment for our small credit union. In conjunction with this award, state representative John Kivela, visited our credit union and presented us with a special tribute from Governor Rick Snyder.

We enjoyed taking part in numerous community events saying hello to our members and welcoming new ones along the way. Having a booth at Folk Fest for the first time was great fun. Many of you stopped by to sign up for our online app and received a 'We Do It Faster - Go Mobile' t-shirt. Being part of our first home game of the football season was stellar with our Kick'in it for Cash event. We continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our members with your kind acts of giving to our Can-a-thon, Coats for kids drive, our Mitten Tree, and for patronizing for the very first time, our Small Business Saturday shopping event in our lobby!

MEMBER LOYALTY BONUS

The member loyalty bonus program, instituted in 2006, has resulted in \$560,572.00 returned to our members. This bonus is awarded based on the financial condition of the credit union, loan losses (realized and identified as future losses) caused through bankruptcy, repossession, or failure to pay, non-operating losses, as well as operating income and expenses.

Limestone Federal posted healthy strong financial gains in 2015 but the total did not meet the threshold set by the board of directors in 2014. As a financial cooperative we have a fiduciary responsibility to meet certain levels of net worth through earnings retention. In 2016 we are projecting key changes to technology as well as identified loan losses, non-

operational losses which resulted in foregoing the member loyalty bonus in 2015.

MEMBER SURVEY

An online member survey was conducted during the months of October and November of 2015. Of the 334 respondents 89.19 % reported being "very satisfied" with Limestone Federal Credit Union. The survey, which was focused on evaluating the product and service needs of our members, will be utilized in board strategic planning. The survey provided us direct responses from the membership, 74.30% of respondents identified an Automated Teller Machine as a necessary service. This technology has been evaluated several times over the past five to ten years, each time results were similar, cost of the technology outweighed the benefit to the members. Limestone is part of Co-op Network, a credit union network of nearly 30,000 ATM's, until last year there was a Co-op Network machine located in Manistique, MI. The machine owner switched to a different network which resulted in our members incurring a fee to utilize their machine. We reviewed the need once again when this happened and noted that we average a little over 400 ATM transactions per month, compared to 48,600 debit card transactions. As a result efforts in 2015 have been focused on researching EMV (Chip Cards), instant issue Debit Cards, improving the mobile app by adding account notifications, and adding Remote Deposit.

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LoveMyCreditUnion.org



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The transaction volumes indicate that members are moving toward debit cards and electronic service delivery versus cash. The Board and Management reviewed the results of the survey and will be reassessing the need for an ATM.

LOOKING FORWARD

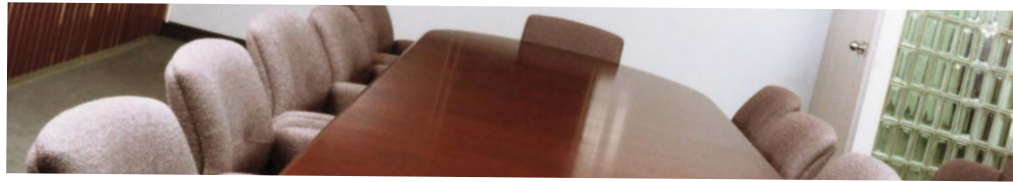
In 2016, we will be reviewing core processors and statement vendors, as well as working diligently on our new youth entrepreneurship project, The Grind (see article on page 4). We, the Board, Staff, and Management are proud to bring this level of education, job training, and service to the students of Manistique. We would like to thank our dedicated staff for the endless hours they have devoted to this project as well as the Michigan Credit Union Foundation for the grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 in startup funds.

THANK YOU, THE MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY

As the year 2015 draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" for doing business with us during the past year. While reflecting over the past twelve months I am satisfied that we have met our goal of providing real value to being a member of Limestone Federal Credit Union 2016 will bring focus on setting higher standards for ourselves to ensure that we are continually working to be our members 1st choice.

In closing, I sincerely hope that you and your family had a joyous holiday season. I look forward to seeing you all next year!

- Jennifer Watson, CEO



There are three positions open for the Board of Directors.

Incumbents running for the Board of Directors are:
Ron Provo, Julie Roscioli, and Ken Fagan

LFCU Board of Directors Duties Include:

Members of the Board of Directors are responsible for the direction and control of the credit union. They meet once a month at 4:00 pm. Sometimes it is necessary to have special meetings. If you are interested in volunteering your time for any of the above positions, please call 341-5866 or stop in and speak to Jennifer Watson, CEO.

SAVE THE DATE!

New Year. New Look.

A Different Kind Of Annual Meeting

March 18, 2016

More details to follow in the coming weeks!

Rates of Dividends...

	APR [†]	APY [†]
Shares	.10%	.10%
IRA'S	1.50%	1.50%
6 month CD	.50%	.50%
12 month CD	.65%	.65%
24 month CD	.90%	.90%
30 month CD	.95%	.95%

JUMBO CERTIFICATE RATES

12 month \$50,000 Min.	1.00%	1.00%
12 month \$100,000 Min.	1.10%	1.10%
18 month \$50,000 Min.	1.20%	1.20%
18 month \$100,000 Min.	1.30%	1.30%

[†]APR - Annual Percentage Rate APY-Annual Percental Yield

Note: Rates are subject to change without notice. Call for current rates and terms.



Per IRS guidelines, year-end tax forms will be mailed to Members by January 31, 2016. If you have any questions, please stop in and see one of our helpful tellers who will be happy to assist you, or call 341-5866 or 341-3118.

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency

LFCU Has Competitive Edge When It Comes To Lower Fees.... One of the many benefits of conducting your financial needs at a Credit Union is the competitive edge we have in offering lower fee schedules. We have provided an extensive list below for your review.† Just another reason why we are our Members first choice!

<u>Share Draft Account Fees</u>	
Overdraft/Member Privilege®	\$16.00/Item
Overdraft Fee	\$16.00/Item
Returned Item	\$16.00/Item
Stop Payment	\$5.00/Request
Postdated Item	\$5.00/Request
Deposited Item Return	\$10.00/Item
Bill Pay for Standard Checking	\$0.00/Month
Bill Pay Inactive	\$25.00/Month
ACH Unauthorized/Improper Entry	\$25.00/Item
Account Reconciliation	\$5.00/Month
<u>EFT Fees</u>	
Photo Debit Card	\$5.00
Replacement Photo Debit Card	\$10.00
Replacement ATM/Debit Card	\$3.00
PIN Reissue / Reminder	\$1.00
ATM Withdrawal/Transfer	\$1.00/Withdrawal First 6/Month Free
ACH Overdraft	\$16.00/Item
Debit Card Overdraft	\$16.00/Item
<u>Share Value / Membership Fee</u>	
Par Value of One Share	\$5.00
Membership	\$0.25
<u>Other Services</u>	
Wire Transfer (Outgoing)	\$15.00/Transfer
Cashier's Check	\$1.50/Check
Money Order	\$1.00/Money Order
Quick Checks (Starter or Filler)	\$5.00/Page
Traveler's Card	\$4.99
Gift Cards	\$4.99
Travel Card Reload	\$2.00/Copy
Statement Copy	\$1.00/Printout
Account Activity Printout	\$1.00/Page
Fax: Incoming	\$1.00/Page and
Fax: Outgoing	\$1.00/Page and \$1.50 per phone call
Dormant Account	\$25.00
Return Mail	\$5.00
Account Research	
*In excess of 30 Minutes	\$35.00/Hour
Financial Counseling	
*In Excess of One Hr./Week	\$30.00/Hour
Garnishment	\$25.00/Item

† Effective March 1, 2016



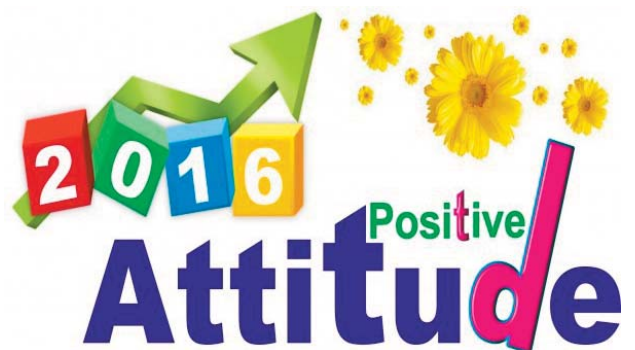
RESOLUTIONS IMPROVE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Making financial resolutions and sticking to them isn't as hard as you might think. Studies show that 51% of people who set financial goals stick to them.

We can help with a plan that leads to success.

341-5866 or 341-3118

Call today to speak with one of our Financial Counselors to help you get started on the road to Financial well-being!



The smarter way to your biggest refund - TurboTax



Limestone Federal Credit Union (LFCU) has teamed up with Love My Credit Union Rewards TurboTax® program to get you your maximum refund, savings of up to \$15 on TurboTax federal products, and a chance to win \$25,000! Just try TurboTax Online for FREE (and provide your email address) by February 18th to be automatically entered in the TurboTax \$25,000 Payday Sweepstakes. Start TurboTax now!

This year, file your taxes the smarter way, and get your biggest possible refund – guaranteed. TurboTax® guides you every step of the way. Plus, you can save up to \$15 on TurboTax federal products.

- TurboTax translates taxes into simple questions about your life and puts everything in the right forms for you.
- TurboTax searches over 350 deductions and credits, so you won't miss a thing.
- TurboTax runs error checks and a final review to help make sure your taxes are done right.

Start TurboTax now!

The TurboTax credit union member discount is just one of many member discounts available with the Love My Credit Union Rewards program. Members have saved over \$1.4 billion with exclusive offers from these great partners:

- Receive a 10% discount (business members a 15% discount) on select regularly priced Sprint monthly data service. Plus, waived activation fee on new lines and upgrade fees (\$36 savings each).
- Get safety and security of roadside assistance and more for less than \$1 per week* with CU Road Pal.
- Save up to \$200 on new DIRECTV service with monthly bill credits and a \$140 gift card.
- Receive a \$100 gift card and smoke communicator with new a ADT monitored home security system.
- Earn cash back when you shop at over 1,500 online retailers with Love to Shop.

The more offers you take advantage of, the more you save. Start saving today at LoveMyCreditUnion.org.

The Grind

*MHS Student Run
Coffee Shop!*



LFCU was recently awarded a community reinvestment grant from the Michigan Credit Union Foundation in the amount of \$20,000.00. The purpose of this grant is to fund a student operated small business. This business will provide a service to the community as well as provide students with invaluable knowledge on a small business startup as well as business ownership, and daily business operations.

After several months of student meetings, this venture is well underway. Three committees of students have been formed representing different aspects of the project - Business Planning, Financial Projections, and Marketing and Design. Collectively, they will work to put all of the necessary pieces together. Additionally, we have reached out to our community partners and are actively working toward our goal.

The project thus far has been very exciting, students have met with the local health department as well as the Schoolcraft

County EDC Director. They have named the coffee shop "The Grind" and are in the process of researching trademark laws. What a great learning experience this has been so far. The students are very excited and involved in the project, it is so exciting to meet with them and to facilitate their discussions. I love the questions-Can we do..... our answer is always "I'm not sure, can we?" This generates opportunities for them to research each idea rather than a simple yes or no from an adult. As an example, one of the questions was 'Can we serve bagels, donuts, soup, etc.' This prompted a meeting with the local health department to discuss licensing, requirements, etc. After that meeting they decided to stick with coffee and prepackaged products.

Currently the Marketing and Design group is researching layout, floor plans, and creating a site plan. They are discussing a second floor, roof top patio, as well as an outside seating area. They recently met with Dennis Ness of Roy Ness Contracting, to discuss the feasibility of a second floor.

This project has been an enormous undertaking. Sincerest thanks to our students, teachers, staff, volunteers and most of all to our Members for your continued support and loyalty to Limestone FCU. This venture will provide invaluable experience to the students of Manistique, I for one feel privileged to participate. - Jennifer Watson