



BREWER FCU QUARTERLY NEWS

WINTER 2018

Winter Fun!



President's Corner

Winter seems to have arrived, and the staff and volunteers at Brewer FCU hope you enjoyed a great holiday season! It looks like the snow and cold will be with us for a while... but remember your credit union is here with products and services that will help make winter fun and financially rewarding. We're still offering our Winter Rescue Loan, a low APR loan to help with those holiday bills, keeping the oil tank topped off, or maybe even a warm weather vacation. Do you prefer the great Maine outdoors this time of year? Then talk to us about financing options for snowmobiles, ATVs, or maybe a new 4 wheel drive vehicle. Whatever your plans are for the season, let Brewer FCU help make them a reality!

Your credit union has recently rolled out a new online banking platform! You'll notice a new user interface, enhanced security, and many more features that we hope will enhance your online experience. If you haven't enrolled yet, please register today at www.brewerfcu.org.

Also remember that your mobile app is there for you when you can't make it to one of the branches. We recently upgraded both the Android and iOS app. All of the old features are there with new enhancements. You can use your app to transfer money, make a loan payment, send someone money, and even deposit a check with our Remote Deposit feature. Talk to a member service representative today if you'd like to enroll or have any questions.

As always, please remember that we are member-owned, so contact me any time with questions, concerns, or anything else you would like to discuss regarding your credit union.

Have a great winter!!

Sincerely,
Dave DeFroschia
President / CEO

Credit Union Hours

Lobby and Drive-Through

Monday – Wednesday
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Thursday and Friday
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Saturday
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Saturday hours offered at
77 North Main Street only.



Scan for
instant
access to
brewerfcu.org!

Brewer FCU Board Members

Richard Whitmore – Chairman

Michael Nelligan – Vice Chairman

Craig Bailey – Secretary

Mark Gray – Treasurer

Dani O'Halloran – Director

Carol McLaughlin – Director

Robert Bastey – Director

Carol McLaughlin –
Supervisory Committee Chair

Patricia Wilkins –
Supervisory Committee

Peter Lyford –
Supervisory Committee

Employee Anniversaries

Pauline15 years

William13 years

Sean8 years

Mary3 years

Alexis1 year

Part Time

Jenny1 year

Melissa.....1 year

Holiday Closings

Christmas Day

Monday December 25

New Year's Day

Monday January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday January 15

Presidents' Day

Monday February 19

Being a CU Member Saves You Money. Thanks to the SURF ATM Network.

With ATM fees hitting a record high for the 11th year in a row, it's a great time to be a credit union member!

According to a recent Bankrate.com study, the average total cost of an out-of-network ATM withdrawal is now \$4.69, up 2.6% from \$4.57 last year. The average ATM surcharge hit a new record for the 13th year in a row, rising to \$2.97 from \$2.90 last year. The average fee charged by a consumer's own financial institution for going outside the ATM network increased 3% to \$1.72, also a new high.

Thanks to the SURF Surcharge-Free ATM Network, CU members save an average of \$300 a year on surcharge fees. No matter where you are in the state – from Portland to Presque Isle, or Brunswick to Bethel, when you see the SURF Dude logo, you know that your ATM experience will be fee-free! With the SURF network, "no fees" means just that. Not only will you see no fees at your ATM, there are no hidden fees anywhere else!

You have access to the largest surcharge-free ATM network in Maine. With over 250 locations, members have surcharge-free access covering the entire state! Don't forget, in addition to accessing cash, you can also make deposits at some ATMs with no extra fees – so you can take your credit union with you, wherever you go.



Finding a SURF ATM is easy. Look for the SURF Dude logo or visit www.mainecreditunions.org/surf-atm-locator/ for a complete listing of the SURF ATM locations in Maine.



There's an App for That

Come talk to us at Brewer FCU to find out more about our mobile or online banking apps. Being able to check your account balance, view transaction history, transfer funds, pay loans and set up bill pay on the go is so convenient. Plus, there are other tools to help.

Don't you wish budgeting was easy? Well, it can be.

Thanks to ever-evolving technology, there seems to be an app for just about everything. You can now turn to your smartphone for financial tips. These apps can help you save money, budget for upcoming expenses and avoid things such as overdraft or late fees. After linking your checking or savings account to these apps, you can monitor your spending habits, set alerts for bills and even set limits on your daily spending.

Mint is a secure app that will update you on any unusual charges, and sends you personalized tips on how to budget your money based off of your spending habits. Also, Mint includes your credit score so that you can see effects of your financial decisions on a greater level. Oh, and it's free! Wally, also free, is a budgeting app that is simply an expense tracker. You can either enter your expenses manually or take a photo of your receipt. Wally will notify you when bills are due, and when you reach your savings goals. It will monitor your spending habits, and create goals that are personalized for you.

One of the more fun budgeting apps to use is called Unsplurge. Basically, this app is all about saving about for specific splurges. Budgeting seems to be so much easier when you are saving up for a splurge, rather than for rent or student loan payments. You can slowly put money away with Unsplurge, and it will notify you when you've finally saved up enough money.

Habits to Boost Retirement Savings

Saving for retirement poses some unique challenges: How are you supposed to prioritize retirement savings against the long list of more immediate goals? How are you supposed to find the motivation to prepare for something that's decades away? How can you quantify the amount you will need to save when you have no idea what your future will look like? The good news is that you can boost your retirement savings by practicing the same good money habits that apply to smaller savings goals.



Eliminate Roadblocks

Savings thrive when they have long stretches of uninterrupted time in which to accumulate and compound, so it's in your best interest to eliminate any obstacles that threaten those ideal saving conditions. Focus

on paying off any high-interest debt—you know, the kind that sucks up money that could otherwise be going toward your goals. Eliminating roadblocks also means having a healthy emergency fund in place, so that your savings progress doesn't get wiped out by an unexpected job loss (a good starting point is three months' worth of expenses).

Automate Savings

So your emergency fund is set up and your debt-management plan is in place—now is a great time to see if there are ways to automate your savings at work and at home. Can your employer automatically deduct your retirement contributions from your paycheck? Can you set up your online banking system to regularly transfer a certain amount to your savings account? Look for ways to make the act of saving easier, more consistent and less time-consuming.

Increase Savings Along With Income

As your income increases, increase the amount you contribute to your savings goals. It's very easy to slip into a slightly larger lifestyle after a raise. It's equally easy to treat unexpected income as "extra money," whether it's a bonus at work or \$20 in a birthday card from Grandma. There's nothing wrong with rewarding yourself from time to time, but limiting your living expenses—even in times where you don't have to—will free up more resources for your long-term savings goals. More importantly, you'll be better prepared should your income levels take a hit. Allow your savings to scale up with your income, but don't let your expenses scale up along with them!

Going Green with Brewer FCU

Credit unions by their nature are community based. Members are encouraged to "go green" through incentives, such as special rates on loans for fuel efficient cars,



appliances, alternative heating sources and energy efficient home improvements. A recent survey of credit unions found that 80% offer some type of a loan designed to address weatherization and energy efficiency projects!

With technology capabilities, Brewer FCU offers services that allow employees and members to reduce paper consumption. Online statements are available, eliminating the paper copies that fill your mailbox and your file drawer. Debit cards, mobile wallets, and direct deposit are all ways to save paper that would have been used for checks. With Remote Deposit Capture on your smartphone, you save time and paper by depositing checks through your credit union's mobile app, and utilizing online bill pay saves both paper and the cost of a stamp.

Staying on top of your account information can be green too. Sent directly to your email, eAlerts keep you posted on the important information you need to know about your accounts. eAlerts can notify you of deposits, withdrawals, when your account balance drops below a preselected amount, or when loan payments are due.

Visit your local Brewer FCU branch to learn about what initiatives we are taking to reduce waste and improve our environment.

Brewer FCU to the Rescue, Winter Rescue that is!



Apply for a loan to cover heating bills, holiday expenses, and more.

1.99% APR*

Up to \$3,500 for 11 months

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates current as of October 17, 2017. Loan terms and conditions depend on credit qualifications and approval. Membership eligibility required.

Share the Good Things

If you are a current member of Brewer FCU recommend us to a friend! We'll give YOU \$25 when they open a new checking account.

And, your friend will receive \$50 after signing up for direct deposit.

#ItsAGoodThing



Office Hours and Locations

77 North Main Street · Brewer
229 Dirigo Drive · Brewer

Mailing Address

PO Box 189 · Brewer, ME 04412

Email Address

memberservices@brewerfcu.org

Phone and Fax Numbers

207-989-7240

77 No. Main Street · Fax: 989-3440

229 Dirigo Drive Fax: 989-5985

CUByPhone

207-989-4947 or 207-385-2734

Our Services

ACH Originations
Bill Payer
Business Loans
Club Accounts
Consumer Loans
Corporate Drafts
Direct Deposit (ACH)
E-Statements and E-Alerts
free4ME Checking
GAP Coverage
Gift Cards
Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)
Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)
Instant Issue Visa® Check Cards
Member Privilege
Merchant Card Processing
Mobile Banking
Mobile BillPay
Money Markets
Money Orders
Mortgage Loans
Night Deposit
Online Banking
Payroll Deduction
Perfect 10 Rewards Checking
Person-to-Person (P2P)
Remote Capture
Extended Service Contracts
Roth IRA
SBA Loans
Share (Savings) Accounts
Share Certificates
Share Draft (Checking) Accounts
Shared Branching
Stop Payments
Sweep Accounts
Traveler's Cards
U.S. Savings Bonds – Redeem only
Visa® Check Card (Debit)
Visa® Credit Cards
Wire Transfers
Youth Accounts

For rates on our Shares, Money Manager, Share Certificates and IRA Share Certificates, please give us a call or go to our website www.brewerfcu.org.

How to Road Trip on a Budget This Winter

Many of us will spend the next few months driving to our favorite winter activity, whether it be skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, or catching up with friends and family after the holidays. To help save you money while you're on the go this winter, Brewer FCU put together the following budget friendly tips for taking the perfect road trip.

Schedule a Tune Up

Make a visit to a familiar mechanic for a general check-up before you begin a road trip. Check your tires, battery, wiper blades, lights, and fluid levels. This can help you avoid any breakdowns that have the potential for costly repairs with unfamiliar mechanics. Not only could a breakdown cut your road trip short, but it could put quite a dent in your savings. If possible, put aside some money for when those unexpected expenses pop up.

Pack Wisely

Make a list of essential items ahead of your trip and be sure to check it twice before departing. A toothbrush, phone charger, and a razor are all things you'll more than likely use along your journey. You probably already have these essential items at home already, so avoid paying a pretty penny and bring them with you! These items can cost more when purchased onsite at your final destination. Paying for something you already own stings, so avoid the unnecessary purchase and put a little extra effort into preparation. It will certainly pay off!

Be Cautious of Gas Prices

Instead of stressfully searching around for the cheapest gas, use apps such as CheapGas or GasBuddy to locate the station with the best prices. According to fuelconomy.gov, fuel efficiency decreases as your speed increases, making road trips more expensive for those with heavy feet. Slow down and enjoy the scenery! And when it is time to fill up, look for gas stations away from the highway. Gas stations adjacent to the highway are typically a bit more expensive than others, as they are the most convenient options.

Save Your Data

Unless you have an unlimited data plan, which seem to be few and far between these days, you're probably draining gigabytes and risking overage fees with your use of GPS and music streaming. Instead, take screenshots of your maps and download music to your phone ahead of time. Pack a physical copy of an atlas if you can to avoid any potential problems.

Plan Ahead with Food and Lodging

Create a budget when it comes to your food and lodging, and stick to it. Pack filling, healthy snacks like granola bars and nuts with you. Avoid any perishables, or snacks that melt or are messy. Packing your own snacks can reduce the number of stops you make, where you can end up paying the premium. And if you do stop, use apps like LivingSocial or Groupon to find deals on restaurants. Book your hotels far in advance or consider using a home sharing service like Airbnb, HomeAway, or VRBO for a lower cost.

Split Costs with Others

A road trip by yourself can be both lonely and expensive. Plan a trip with friends or family and plan to split the costs among everyone. With current technology like mobile banking, Venmo, and PayPal, splitting costs has never been so easy.

