

# Financial

## FOCUS

A Publication of Southeast Michigan State Employees Federal Credit Union

### NSF /Overdraft Privilege/ Stop Payment Fees Increasing February 1st

Beginning February 1, 2013, the non-sufficient funds (NSF), overdraft privilege, and stop payment fees will each increase to \$25.00 per occurrence. Please be sure that the funds are in your account before writing checks since checks clear the system quickly.

## REFINANCE & SAVE at SMSE!

The New Year is a perfect time to review the type of accounts you have at other financial institutions, and the interest rates that you are paying on loans and credit cards.

If your loan at another lender is higher, or your repayment term is longer, you could save hundreds of dollars by refinancing that loan right here at SMSE.

Contact us with your loan information and we'll show you just how much you can save.

SMSE offers low-rate loan programs to meet your total borrowing needs: Vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, RVs, personal loans, and more! When you need a loan, make SMSE your choice for financing.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate, subject to change. Rate based on individual credit history, model year, and term of loan. Loan cannot be used to pay on existing loans at SMSE.



Vehicle  
Loans

As  
Low  
As **2.50%** APR\*

## VISA Credit Cards

Department store credit could be charging you as high as 25% interest on your balance. At that rate, you will pay an extraordinary amount of interest over the term of your loan. Consolidate those balances with a balance transfer from your SMSE VISA, and keep the extra cash in your pocket.

- 8.9% APR\* VISA Platinum – limits from \$5,000-\$10,000
- 13.92% APR\* VISA Classic – limits starting at \$500
- No annual card fees
- No default APR
- 25 days to repay your balance before a finance charge is imposed
- ATM access worldwide
- No over limit fees



**Apply for your SMSE VISA today!**

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate

## Beware of Fraud

Over the past few months, there has been an increase in fraud – both involving ATMs, text messages, e-mails, and phone calls. For ATMs, a fake device is attached to an ATM which captures account numbers and PINs. If you see something strange about the ATM — don't use it and report it to authorities.

If you receive text messages, e-mails or phone calls telling you that your ATM or debit card can no longer be used, and they ask you for personal information – **HANG UP!**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS: NEVER** give out your account number, Social Security Number, PINs, or any personal information to someone contacting you in this manner. SMSE or any financial institution where you have accounts will never ask you for this information. If you ever feel like your account has been compromised, contact local authorities and/or your Credit Union right away.

**YOU ARE THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THIS TYPE OF FRAUD. DON'T RESPOND!**

## Rates

The following rates, which shall be subject to change and to periodic special approval by the Board of Directors, shall apply to loans at SMSE Federal Credit Union as of January 1, 2013.

### Automobile Loans

Current model year - up to 60 months	.4.25% APR
72 months (\$25,000 or more)	.4.25% APR
2009-2011 - up to 60 months	.4.25% APR
2005-2008	
up to 48 months	.5.75% APR
2004 and earlier	
up to 36 months	.6.75% APR
Classic and antiques	
up to 48 months	.8.00% APR

### Recreational Vehicle/ Motorcycle Loans

Current model year	
72 months (\$25,000 or more)	.5.25% APR
2010-2012 - up to 60 months	
2008-2009 - up to 48 months	.5.25% APR
2005-2007 - up to 48 months	.6.75% APR
2004 and earlier	
up to 36 months	.6.75% APR

### Boat Loans

2009-2012	
up to 84 months	.4.25% APR
2005-2008	
up to 48 months	.5.75% APR
2004 and earlier	
up to 36 months	.6.75% APR

### Share/Share Certificate Secured Loans

3% over dividend rate	
up to 60 months	.5.00% APR min.

### Unsecured

One-Year, Low-Rate Loan	.8.00% APR
12 months - maximum \$3,000	
Closed-end	
up to 36 months	.11.00% APR
37-60 months	.13.00% APR
Home Improvement	
up to 60 months	.8.50% APR
Home Equity Line-of-Credit	Prime
Overdraft Line-of-Credit	.15.00% APR
VISA Platinum	.8.9% APR
VISA	.13.92% APR
(25-day grace period)	

### First Mortgage Loans

Rates set by Mortgage Center, Inc.  
888-562-6865  
www.mortgagecuso.com

APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

Rates may be lower or higher based on your individual credit history, use of credit union services, and down payment on vehicle loans.

## Go Direct!

## IMPORTANT DEADLINE:

## March 2013

All recipients of payments from the federal government will be required to have direct deposit or payment by debit card by March 1, 2013. This includes Social Security, retirement, VA benefits, income tax refunds...any federal payment. Direct deposit is the safest and fastest method of payment. Your deposit is made automatically...even if you are out of town. Don't delay! Make SMSE your choice for the deposit of your payments.

If you do your taxes early, now is the time to set up the direct deposit of your tax refund to SMSE. Here's the information you need for any direct deposit to your Credit Union:

1. SMSE's routing number - 272478350
2. Your Credit Union account number as it appears on the top of your statement, or use a voided check as reference for your account number.
3. The account type to make the deposit - savings or checking.

To set up your direct deposit payments, call the U.S. Treasury at 800-333-1795 or go online at [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org).

## 61st Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance Saturday, April 20, 2013

Location: American Polish Century Club, Sterling Heights  
Tickets: \$35.00 Adults - \$25.00 Children  
Live Entertainment

Please join us for an evening of great food, wonderful entertainment, and time with friends at our 61st Annual Meeting and Dinner/Dance. There will be a short business meeting at which time an election for open positions on the Board of Directors will be held.

Reserve your seat today by purchasing your tickets at the Credit Union office. Tickets are \$35.00 per adult and \$25.00 per child, and include dinner and entertainment. Many door prizes will also be given away throughout the evening.

### Nominating Committee Report

The terms for Ina Grant and Elliot Purdy on the Board of Directors will expire at the Annual Meeting. Karen Wilson's term on the Credit Committee also expires. No other nominations were received and they have been nominated to serve another three-year term.

## New Year...New Beginnings

For many, the New Year is a time to review where you are in life, where you're headed, setting goals, and making changes. New Year's Resolutions are made and sometimes many are hard to keep. Think about making New Year's Resolutions to help improve your financial life - changes that can impact your financial position now and for many years to come. Here are just some suggestions to help you get started:

- Manage your money better by living within your means.
- Monitor your accounts better by balancing your account monthly; don't overdraw your account (which leads to high fees).
- Make plans to save a little each payday. You'll find that just a little adds up to big savings over time. The important thing is to get started. Sign up for payroll deduction or direct deposit to make saving easy.
- Open an IRA and start saving for retirement.
- Improve your credit rating by always paying your bills on time.



# SMSE Checking & Debit MasterCard

Where's your checking account? If it's not at SMSE, consider making the switch to your Credit Union. You can enjoy the convenient package of services and have 24/7 access to your account from home, work, and even when you are out of town. When you have a checking account at SMSE, you can then enjoy these great services:



**Debit MasterCard:** Carry the card that's accepted at any location displaying MasterCard. Plus, it's your debit card and ATM card – all in one.

**Home Banking:** Access your account online from any computer with Internet access. Make a wide range of transactions 24/7.

**ATM:** Use more than 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs throughout the U.S. and Canada through the CO-OP Network.

**Direct Deposit:** Your money is deposited automatically on payday, even if you are out of town.

## Need Financial Advice?

### There's Someone You Can Call – Accel!

Do you need someone to talk to when you need financial advice or help in setting up a budget? Are you getting yourself in too deep with debt and want to make a plan to improve your financial life? Help is just a phone call away when you contact the Accel counselors at 877-33ACCEL (322-2235), or visit their web site at [www.accelservices.org](http://www.accelservices.org).

Accel can help you if you are considering buying a home, you want to improve your credit score, and with a full range of financial issues. Visit their web site for hours of operation and times when their experienced representatives are available to you and your family.

As a member of SMSE, this service is available to you at no charge. Accel can give you personalized answers to your individual needs. Call them today!



## Home Mortgages



If you're in the market for a home, now is a great time with the low mortgage rates and attractive home prices. Maybe you've been living in an apartment and considering the purchase of your first home. Perhaps you'd like to upgrade or downsize. Whatever your needs, our Mortgage Center experts are here to help you every step of the way.

For more than 11 years, the Mortgage Center has been our partner in providing a high level of service and superior mortgage products to our members. Representatives are standing by to assist you, even if you are in the preliminary stages of considering a home purchase.

Call our Mortgage Center today at 888-562-6865 or visit their web site at [www.mortgagecenter.com](http://www.mortgagecenter.com).

## Schedule of Fees

### Share Savings Accounts

Less than \$100	
average daily balance .....	\$3.00 per quarter
Automatic Payment	
(ACH) NSF .....	\$25.00*
Returned Item/Check Fee.....	\$25.00*

### Share Draft Checking Account

Less than \$100	
average daily balance .....	\$3.00 per mo.
Stop payment request .....	\$25.00*
NSF (Non-Sufficient Funds) .....	\$25.00*
Overdraft Privilege.....	\$25.00*
Automatic Payment (ACH) NSF.....	\$25.00*
Returned Item/Check Fee.....	\$25.00*
Overdraft Transfer Fee.....	\$1.00
Draft Certification .....	\$5.00
Check Copy .....	\$2.00
Staff Assistance/ Reconciliation.....	\$20.00 per hour

### Loan Account

Payments 15 or more days late, a fee of 5% of the overdue payment (\$10.00 minimum, \$100 maximum) will be charged.

### ATM/Debit Card Transactions

Free Transactions .....	6 per month
Deposits .....	Free
<i>After the first six ATM transactions each month these fees apply:</i>	
Withdrawals .....	\$1.00
Balance Inquiries .....	\$0.50
Transfers .....	\$0.50
POS Transaction .....	Free
Incomplete Transaction .....	\$0.50
Card Replacement .....	\$5.00
PIN Replacement .....	\$5.00
Returned Item/Check Fee.....	\$25.00*
ATM Overdraft .....	\$25.00*

### VISA Credit Card

Replacement Card .....	\$25.00
Late Payment Fee .....	\$10.00

### Other Fees

Non-Member Check Cashing Fee	\$2.00
Service Center Withdrawals/Transfers	\$2.00
	(3 Free/month)
Stop Payment	
Automatic Debit (ACH) .....	\$25.00*
Statement Copies.....	\$2.00 per page
Account History Printout.....	\$2.00
Hold for Member Pick-up.....	\$5.00
IRA Closed Account (Without Direct Transfer) .....	\$25.00
Escheats Fee .....	\$10.00
Telephone Account Inquiries and Transactions other than SmartTeller .....	\$1.00
Excess Withdrawal Super Saver.....	\$10.00
Excess Withdrawal Xmas/Vacation Club .....	\$10.00
2-Party Corporate Check Fee .....	\$2.00
Closing Account Opened Less Than 6 Months .....	\$10.00

\*Effective 2/1/13.



# Save with Sprint

Join the over 1 million credit union members nationwide that are already saving over \$90 million on their wireless plans! SMSE is pleased to bring you these major savings through the **Sprint Credit Union Member Discount Plan**.

## Ways you can save:

- **10% off** most regularly priced Sprint individual service plans
- **15% off** most regularly priced Sprint business service plans
- Waived activation fee on new activations
- Waived upgrade fee
- Available to new and existing Sprint customers



## 3 Ways to Get Your Discount:

- 1) Call **877.SAVE.4CU** (877.728.3428) and let them know you're a **credit union member**. Ask to be a part of the NACUC\_ZZM Corporate ID to save
- 2) Click [www.SprintSave4CU.com](http://www.SprintSave4CU.com)
- 3) Visit your nearest Sprint store

Please remember that Sprint requires proof of membership, which can be your credit union statement.

Additional discounts are available to you at [lovemycreditunion.org](http://lovemycreditunion.org), including GM, FTD, Allied Movers, ShopAmerica, and much more.

# Christmas & Vacation

# CLUB ACCOUNT

Have the cash you need for the next holiday season when you save separately in the Christmas Club Account. Make up to two free withdrawals from your Christmas Club Account per year. There is a \$10.00 fee for each additional withdrawal.

If you would like to increase your automatic deposit or if you would like to open a new Christmas Club Account, it's never too early. Complete and mail the sign-up form below and we'll process your request right away.

## 2013 Club Sign-Up Form

**Yes...** I would like to do the following:

- Start a new Club Account for the year 2013:  Christmas Club  Vacation Club
- I have included an initial deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to start my Club Account.
- Please transfer \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my  Regular Share or  Checking Account into my 2013 Club Account.
- Use direct deposit as the means to make deposits into my 2013 Club Account.  
I would like to deposit an amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my Club Account (deposited bi-weekly).
- I would like to increase the automatic deposits to my existing  Christmas Club  Vacation Club Account for 2013. Deposit an amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ into my Club Account.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature X \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return this form to the Credit Union office.

# Holiday Closings

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 21, 2013

## Presidents' Day

Monday, February 18, 2013

*Happy  
New  
Year!*



*We wish you  
and your family a very  
happy, healthy and  
prosperous New Year!*



### Main Office

17135 W. 10 Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48075

### Business Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Telephone Numbers

Member Services & Info: 248-557-2266  
Loans & VISA: 248-557-2678  
SMART: 248-557-7994 • 877-833-3233

**Web Site:** [www.smsefcu.com](http://www.smsefcu.com)

**E-Mail –** [Mhansen@smsefcu.com](mailto:Mhansen@smsefcu.com)

### Board of Directors

John H. Mills.....President  
Robert Andrews.....Vice-President  
Ellen Corey.....Treasurer  
W. Kingston Fryer.....Secretary  
Ruthie Gordon.....Director  
Ina Grant.....Director  
Elliot Purty.....Director

### Mission Statement

The mission of SMSE Federal Credit Union is to provide, through sound financial management, services that are personalized, convenient, economical and meet the changing needs of our members.



Federally Insured by NCUA