Member Insights

From the desk of the President/CEO:

It's Your Time of Year

Happy Member Appreciation Season!

Member Appreciation Season was created six years ago as another way to provide value to our loyal members. The "season" runs from October 1 through December 31 and coincides with the holiday season where financial matters are often in focus. I encourage all members to read about this year's great offerings (see story on this page) and take advantage of this special time of year!

While the "season" is a visible show of our support of our members, what members don't see is the investment and enhancements we are making to ensure we remain the "safest place to bank." With more than 13% in reserves, your credit union is one of the healthiest credit unions in the nation. Our strength allows us to invest in the credit union to ensure we are delivering a safe and modern banking experience. Rest assured those investments in our future are ongoing and our anti-fraud efforts are as intense as ever and have helped us protect members from the rising tide of fraud. I am thrilled to note that more than 3,000 of our members and family members are now protected by our Carefull fraud prevention service which is provided complimentary to all members. All we need is for you to sign up!

As we head into the end of the year, attention starts to turn to taxes and overall financial planning and wellness. The markets are changing. The Federal Reserve took a long-anticipated step toward lowering interest rates with a

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Tis the Season: Member Appreciation Season Happening Now—October 1 Through December 31

Each year as the calendar turns to Fall and the holiday season approaches, your credit union celebrates you, our valued members, with Member Appreciation Season. The "Season" features a variety of special membership offers on our already great products and services as well as fun giveaways.

Some of this year's offers include:

- 0.25% rate reduction of new and used auto loans**
- 0.25% rate reduction on fixed 5, 7, or 10-year home equity loans**
- 0.25% "new money" boost on the published 6- or 12-month share certificate (CD) rates*
- If you stop in one of our branches during the "season" you can enter to win for our Fall baskets and Fall gift packages. If you can't stop in, you can call enter!
- Sign up for either Carefull or Gentreo during the "season" and be entered into our $250 gift card giveaway.

Stop by a branch or visit us on the web during Member Appreciation Season and as always, thank your for your loyalty!

**Available for new money only; funds must be new to the credit union and cannot have been on deposit at the CU since March 2025. Minimum deposit of $25,000. Valid Oct. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2025.*
***Discounts available on new or refinanced loans with the credit union. Loans must be new to the credit union and discounts will not be applied on refinanced credit union loans. Valid Oct. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2025. All offers subject to change at any time without notice.*



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0.25% rate cut at its September meeting. This indicates some concern from the Fed over the labor market. The Fed also worries about inflation and while inflation has leveled off it is still not at the Fed's 2% target. With these two conflicting factors, it's hard to determine if the Fed will move rates down much more in 2025. Either way, members should keep an eye on rates if you are making major purchases that require loans or if you are considering adding more funds on deposit. We do have a special 0.25% CD "boost" during Member Appreciation for new money on deposit and on the borrowing side our auto and equity rates are also cut by 0.25% for the season. For members looking for financial planning advice do not hesitate to reach out to one of our financial planning advisors by emailing Linda at linda.phillips@lpl.com. For help on deposit accounts and to learn more about our great loan products contact memberservices@merckefcu.com.

Happy Member Appreciation Season to all our loyal members!

Paul Gentile
President/CEO
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Join Carefull Today and Protect Your and Your Family's Finances

Carefull is built to provide members and their families safety and simplicity throughout their financial life. As a member of Merck Employees Federal Credit Union, Carefull is offered as a complimentary service to ensure that all members are "careful" with their finances.

Everyone has the opportunity to do better in their financial life and Carefull is there for it. Besides fraud and scams, mistakes and misappropriations are also monitored by the service. Users are alerted and Carefull will even assist if a fraud or scam has occurred.

Each family has unique financial challenges and Carefull is the unique solution you need to ensure the safety and security of your financial life...however that life looks.

Join today by visiting merckcu.com/carefull.

Questions? Give Carefull a call at 833-836-0050. Someone would be happy to assist with questions or even setting up your Carefull account.

Year End Financial Recommendations from Your Credit Union

- **Maximize your IRA contributions.** Not only do contributions help boost your retirement income, but the tax advantages are also beneficial while still working.
- **Review Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).** If you are RMD eligible, be sure you have taken your RMD for 2025.
- **Enroll in e-statements and online banking.** E-statements and online banking are two great tools for fraud prevention and regular account monitoring.
- **Redeem rewards points.** Be sure to redeem credit or debit card points to avoid expiration and help with holiday shopping!
- **Watch Out for Fraud.** Yearend tends to be a peak time for phishing and fraud. Consider enrolling in Carefull—an all-in-one financial safety service complimentary to MEFCU members.
- **Consider refinancing.** Whether it be a student loan, home loan, or high interest credit card debt, the credit union has a variety of products to assist you in reducing monthly payments or interest expenses.



MERCK EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Your Prescription to Financial Health

Member Services: 732-484-4811 Opt. 5
Loan Department: 732-484-4811 Opt. 2
Debit Card Lost/Stolen: 800-554-8969
Credit Card Lost/Stolen: 800-237-6211

Established in 1936, Merck EFCU is federally-chartered and federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

NCUA

Featured Loan & Deposit Rates

Auto Loans as low as 5.35% APR*	E-Checking 0.125% APR*	Credit Cards as low as 12.25% APR*
Share Cert. 6 months 3.35% APY*	Share Cert. 12 months 4.00% APY*	IRA Cert. 6 months 3.35% APY*	IRA Cert. 12 months 4.00% APY*
Savings 1.00% APR*	IRAs 1.375% APR*	Home Equity as low as 7.50% APR*

**Annual percentage rate. Rates subject to change. Visit www.merckcu.com for current rates.*