

# COMMON CENTS

WINTER EDITION 2024    ATTLEBOROFCU.ORG



## BE A BOARD MEMBER

To be eligible you must meet the minimum age requirement of 18 years, and be a Member in good standing. To be considered a Member in good standing, you must have a five dollar share account and no delinquent loans.

The time commitment is minimal and includes attending a monthly board meeting and periodic committee meetings if elected.

Board Members assist the credit union in developing long term strategic plans as well as reviewing policies and procedures and oversee the operation and financial performance of the credit union.

As a Board Member, you represent the Members to ensure that the credit union is providing the products and services that meet their expectations and needs.

The process is simple. Please submit a brief resume/biography to Scott Kaplan, Chief Executive Officer, at our office at 138 South Main Street in Attleboro, or you may e-mail your interest to [info@attleborofcu.org](mailto:info@attleborofcu.org) to the Attention of Scott Kaplan.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out for further details.

## The One Time It's Acceptable To Settle For LESS!



- NO FEE Balance Transfers
- NO FEE Auto Rental Coverage
- NO Annual FEE
- **LOW** Fixed Rate

Apply Online at [AttleboroFCU.org](http://AttleboroFCU.org)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank *you*, our Members for not only your ongoing service to our community, but for being a part of our credit union and helping us to achieve some incredible goals throughout this past year.

To name a few of our accomplishments this year, we have...

- Updated AMEFCU's Logo and Branding
- Built A New & More Interactive Website
- Applications for Loans & Membership Online
- Mobile Banking & Credit/Debit Card Management Apps
- Bill Pay via Online & Mobile Banking
- Faster Loan Processing

...not to mention a number of items behind the scenes to create a greater experience for you.

In 2024, we will continue our ambitious pursuits to offer you the greatest banking experience possible with even more product and service growth.

I would also like to thank our Staff, as well as our volunteer Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee for the outstanding jobs that they do, always with the betterment of the credit union in mind.

We continue to look for suggestions and feedback from our Members for new ideas. Thank you all for a great 2023 and we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

Scott R. Kaplan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Attleboro Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union



*Any new beginning is forged from shards of the past, not from its abandonment.*



I know when I was a kid, I wanted to have “my own” money! So, when I was about eight or nine years old, I was walking by a storefront on a road in my neighborhood with my sister and happened to look into the window to see a man at a desk in a large room with very dusty wall to wall carpeting. I opened the door of the establishment and the man (Mr. Egan) looked up and asked how he could help me, to which I replied that I felt that I could help him. I pointed out that the carpet in his office was quite dusty and desperately needed vacuuming, so I asked him if he had a vacuum and stated that my sister and I could clean his office for him. He did not have one, so we went home and took my mom’s old Hoover cannister and some cleaning supplies, put them in my Radio Flyer and went back. A couple of hours later, when the office was clean, Mr. Egan asked me how much we wanted to be paid for our work; I left it to him and so he handed me a crisp \$20 bill from his wallet and said thank you. I asked if we should come back again, and he said, “sure, next week, same time.” And I had my first ever summer job and “my own” money! My sister and I celebrated with lunch at the New York system next to Mr. Egan’s office!

As I got older, I began working for my parent’s business as a cleaner and helper and eventually worked up to many other jobs within. If anyone had told me that I would be doing what I do now for a living back then, I would have laughed at them!

At one point we needed some equipment at the business that we could either use for parts or to replace some old and worn items that weren’t working up to par, and I noticed in the newspaper that day that a like business had closed and was having an auction, so I decided to check it out. I found many items that I could use and many that I could clean up and sell on; and my second side hustle was born! Then came this great new online place called eBay and off to estate auctions I went for my third side hustle!

So where am I going with all of this? When I was a kid, I literally hid the money I made under my mattress! As I got older, I thought of making it into a business, but it was something that I enjoyed as a side gig, not what I wanted to do in “real life”. Stuffing money under a

mattress, while easily accessible, does not work beyond a certain age and does not allow you to perpetuate your own side business in a legitimate manner.

Today people are handy-persons, or passenger drivers or even artists of many sorts on the side in order to be able to make the everyday constraints of normal life a bit more breathable and making money doing something that they might actually enjoy! So, again, how does this tie in to your local credit union, you ask?

We can help perpetuate your side gig and let it make some passive income for you on the side. We offer Doing Business As or DBA accounts to better be able to track your business and help you to save money to put back into it to make it grow. The first rule of thumb in business is that ‘it takes money to make money’, and by opening a DBA account with the credit union, you can take advantage of such things as our higher rate Money Market Account or a DBA Checking Account to be able to pay for materials with and to keep track of your expenses. Track how much you make and see how you may be more profitable in your side endeavors.

We truly are here to help you with every aspect of your financial goals and want to see our Membership thrive.

Please do not hesitate to come in and speak to us about how we may help you with any of your daily banking needs.

## Dreams of Warmer Places

N A O R I O D E J A N I E R O  
 U W M Q N W O T E P A C A N I  
 F L O R I D A S N F H A B P I  
 N A U C K L A N D B P J A J A  
 B Y O L S C P Q H G V A V M W  
 A C I A M A J V U P K B P S A  
 L C A N A R Y I S L A N D S H  
 I Q G V E Z I L E B E D M Q F  
 A P B A H A M A S I G I N P F  
 J R V A T M C A R I B B E A N  
 G I I H Q K W S D U N H V X O  
 E T D Z D T A M K U O A Z B K  
 M T P Q O X W N U C N A C V N  
 X X U L E N E D R E V E P A C  
 Y S R T G Y A G W W C U U M A

Arizona  
 Auckland  
 Bahamas  
 Baja

Bali  
 Belize  
 Canary Islands  
 Cancun

Cape Town  
 Cape Verde  
 Caribbean  
 Florida

Hawaii  
 Jamaica  
 Rio de Janiero  
 Texas



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508.226.0140



508.222.9359



LOBBY HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

9:00AM - 5:00PM

SATURDAY - SUNDAY

CLOSED



WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR  
THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY  
Monday, January 15

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY  
Monday, February 19

PATRIOTS DAY  
Monday, April 15



This Credit Union is  
federally insured by  
NCUA



AMEFCU Has Some of the  
**LOWEST** Auto Loan Rates  
Around!

Get Pre-Approved  
Before You Buy

Apply Online at  
AttleboroFCU.org

## DID YOU KNOW...

That *billions*, yes, billions of dollars each year go unspent on the nearly \$30 billion dollars of gift cards purchased throughout the holiday season?

With clothing being the most popular gift, gift cards come in second, and of those, the most popular type of gift card is for restaurants.

The Associated Press reported that “many cards - tens of billions of dollars’ worth - wind up forgotten or otherwise unused. That’s when the life of a gift card gets more complicated, with expiration dates or inactivity fees that can vary by state.”

Restaurant gift cards make up nearly one third of all gift cards sold making them the most popular; of those it is reported that approximately 70% are used within the first six months. Other surveys show that nearly 47% of U.S. adults had at least one unspent card or voucher with an average value of \$187, totaling \$23 billion.

A federal law passed in 2010 dictates that a gift card can not expire for five years from the time it was purchased or from the last time money was added to it. Some state laws require an even longer period, such as New York where this limit is pushed up to nine years for gift cards that were purchased after December 10, 2022.

Generic cash cards issued by Visa or MasterCard, on the other hand, start recurring inactivity fees if unused within one year of their purchase.

A great way to begin this new year is with something free! Dig out those cards and start enjoying all they have to offer!

## People Helping People

A new year is upon us, and while there is an expression stating that ‘those who do not follow their resolutions are weaklings and that those who make them are fools’, it most certainly is a new beginning. While the hope is that if the last year was good, that positivity will continue to prevail, for those that had a marginal or negative 2023, mark January as a mental stop. Take the time to gather all of your situational thoughts and step back and reassess them. If you are not able to do this for whatever reason, seek help and do what may be needed to alleviate the pressures that work on you day to day.

Take the time to understand the value that you bring to yourself and those around you, and bring yourself to the place that you need to be in to appreciate yourself.

Situationally, this can be issues of finance, health, relations or a myriad of things; take the time to step outside of yourself and look in. Seek someone you trust for another point of view, and take action to make things more positive. We live in a world that thrives on negativity, but that does not mean that we must be.



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Federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration



## WHO CAN BE A MEMBER...

- The Municipal Employees of the Cities of Attleboro, North Attleboro and Rehoboth
- Employees of the Attleboro Chamber of Commerce, Court House and Post Office
- Employees of the BICO Collaborative
- Employees of the Marathon Co.
- Employees of Sturdy Memorial Hospital
- Employees of Engage2Excel
- Employees of the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District
- Employees of the United Way - Northern Bristol County

If you are proud to be a  
Member...  
**SHOUT IT!!!**



Tell your  
family &  
co-workers  
about us!

We appreciate YOU helping  
us grow!

