Great Returns

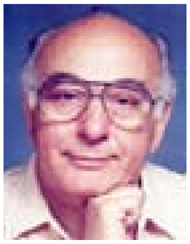
News for our member owners January 2013

Niagara's Choice CREDIT UNION

Choose to bank where you belong.

In Memory of Nino Montani

February 8, 1922 – November 17, 2012



One of the founding charter members of our Credit Union, Nino Montani, passed away on November 17, 2012. He was one of the individuals that played an instrumental part in the formation of the Hooker Employees FCU, now Niagara's Choice FCU. The Credit Union was chartered in June 1953, with Nino as one of the seven subscribing members. Since he started to organize the Credit Union in 1952, he actually dedicated 60 years of his life to our Credit Union and the philosophy and success of the credit union movement.

Over the years, Nino held numerous positions at the Credit Union. He volunteered on most committees, served for 25 years as Treasurer; and held positions of Secretary, Vice President and President of the Board of Directors. He was dedicated to the Credit Union Association of New York, serving in capacities of Niagara District Council member and President; and as a member of the statewide Association Board of Directors.

Nino often recalled when the credit union operated out of a closet at our original sponsor organization, Hooker Chemical Company. Nino used to carry membership and loan applications in his shirt pocket to encourage co-workers to join and use the credit union. With his wife, Mary, and their children, the Montani family used to help fold and stuff member statements in their home.

Nino was supportive of the formation of Empire Corporate FCU (now Alloya CFCU), CUC Mortgage Corporation, and other 'offspring' of the League. He always encouraged area credit unions to continue the cooperative effort, and offered advice to their volunteers.

Upon retiring from the N.Y. Association Board of Directors, Nino was voted the status of Honorary Member of the Board of Directors of the Credit Union Association of New York. In 2002, he was inducted into the New York Credit Union Hall of Fame.

When Nino retired from our Credit Union Board of Directors in 2011, the Board unanimously elected him to the newly created position of Director Emeritus, in recognition of his outstanding service to Credit Union members. His son, Paul Montani continued the family tradition and became a director at that time.

Nino was a retired Principal Control Engineer with Occidental Engineering, a position through which he assisted on special projects worldwide. He was a U.S. Army veteran; husband to Mary Montani for 65 years; father of three children; Gloria, Marie, and Paul; and grandfather of five and great-grandfather of 5.

We are grateful to Nino for his decades of dedication and service to the Credit Union. He will be missed.

In Memory of Roland J.

One of 8 founding members of Niagara County's FCU in 1967, Mr Meincke served as both a Niagara County Supervisor and Niagara County Legislator. He went door to door to recruit additional members for the Credit Union when it was first chartered!

He worked as a tool and die maker at the Chevrolet Forge Plant in Tonawanda for 3 decades. He was also a baseball umpire and pitcher, enjoyed farming and going to the Lockport market and Sabres games with his grandchildren

Mr. Meincke's daughter, Mary Anne Payne is a member of the Credit Union staff. Many staff and members have fond memories of "Rol" who would frequently stop at the Credit Union to visit and bring fresh fruit and vegetables to share.

You know your payment, but do you know your car loan rate?

Lower your auto loan rate to as low as 1.25% APR by refinancing with Niagara's

1.25% could mean hundreds of dollars per year. Good choices aren't always easy. 1.25% APR should be.

Disclaimer: Rates apply for refinanced vehicles from another financial institution or for purchases. Other rates apply. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Governed by NCUA.

Thank You to the 2013 Niagara's Choice Staff

Nancy Kasprzak-Whitmore	30 years
Denise Waddington	26 years
Joan Dougherty	25 years
Helen Snyder	25 years
Liz Easterly	24 years
Al Frosolone	22 years
Nora Smith	22 years
Cathy Mann	20 years
Sharon DiPasquale	20 years
John Garrett	16 years
Sandra Staebell	12 years
Patricia Halbig	11 years
Cheryl Horton	11 years
Terry Gilkerson	10 years
Pat Anello	9 years
Sandra Burdick	9 years
Dianne Sisler	8 years
Annelise Newkirk	7 years
Mary Anne Payne	7 years
Donna Hoolihan	7 years
Rajni Kapoor	7years
Judith Enzinna	6 years
Joan Cardamone	6 years
Frank Vosburgh	6 years
Jamie Bantten	5 years
Mary K Nassoiy	5 years
Kathleen Campbell	5 years
Jennifer Wochna	4 years
Colleen Britt	4 years
Michelle Lowery	4 years
Lori Jo Hall	4 years
Colleen Czarnecki	4 years
Asha Parker	4 years
Joe Cassenti	3 years
Richard Provenzano	2 years
Paul Wozinak	2 years
Melissa Stauffer	2 years
Ranisha Litten	2 years
Amanda Weingartner	2 years
Bethany Schmitt	2 years
Bonnie Stine	1 year
Melissa Mietlicki	1 year
Karen Manganello	1 year
Amrit Bhullar	1 year
Dennis Smith	1 year
Jacqueline Haas-Anglen	1 year
Chris Taggart	1 year
Yolanda "Sam" Wisneski	1 year

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, January 21, 2013
Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 18, 2013
President's Day

A Special Letter to Members

Happy New Year! We are here to serve you, and have been for 60 Years.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Committee volunteers and the entire staff, we wish each of you a Happy New Year and thank you for your valued membership. The recent merger of Niagara County's FCU and Niagara's Choice FCU was a challenge that the entire staff was up to meeting in order to offer you their best service. With your patience and understanding, this was a successful union of our two great credit unions!

The consolidation of accounts was a precise process and accomplished without any issues that the staff could not resolve in the first couple of weeks. We know that a few processes were delayed or experienced slight glitches; and the phones were busy for a few days; so we thank you for your patience during this milestone event in the history of your credit union.

With five locations to serve you in Lockport, Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda and Wheatfield, we offer many services for your benefit. If you have your checking account or vehicle loan at another financial institution, all you have to do is call us or visit one of our branches to move your business to us and we'll probably save you some of your hard-earned money!

We begin 2013 as the fifth largest credit union with its home in Western New York; and look forward to providing you with the personalized service you deserve. Thank you again for your loyalty to your member-owned credit union.

Remember, it's a good choice to bank where you belong!

- Jerry Petito, Board President and Al Frosolone, CEO

Four Smart New Year's Financial Resolutions That You Need to Consider

Here are some goals worth putting on your list:

1) Decrease Your Credit Card Debt

The average credit card debt is $15,587 per indebted household as of June 2012. As you rethink your needs versus wants in the New Year, think about regaining control of your spending and coming up with a plan to pay off this high interest debt. Chip away at the cards with the highest interest rates and work your way down to the lowest. Or, look into doing a balance transfer. Niagara's Choice is offering discounted rate on balances that are transferred to your MasterCard until January 31st. Don't have a MasterCard with us? Apply now.

2) Increase Your Credit Score

A. You're entitled to one free copy per year from each bureau. Go to Annualcreditreport.com, once you receive your report look for misreported delinquencies, over-reported loan amounts, and underreported credit limits. Request corrections from the bureau in writing.

B. Lenders report tardiness to the bureaus once you're 30 days past due; if your score started at 780, it can go down to 680 after just one delinquency. So set up payment reminders or have payments automatically deducted by a certain date.

C. Focus on paying off credit cards vs. other debt. Reducing revolving debt will do a lot more for your score than erasing installment loans.

3) Fund an Emergency Account

Less than 4 in 10 Americans have a fully funded rainy day account! You need a cushion of 6 months of your salary. Use this money to cover unexpected expenses and replace interrupted income. Consider setting up an automated transfer with Niagara's Choice FCU to start your savings plan.

4) Calculate Your Retirement

A great first step is to run the numbers to see how much you're going to need to live comfortably in retirement. Explore your own financial information in greater detail by using a retirement calculator. These are powerful tools for forecasting and assessing your financial choices. One example of a financial calculator is: http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/retirementplanner/retirementplanner.jsp

It's Profitable to Refer Your Family and Friends to Join Niagara's Choice Credit Union

We are a great place to save and borrow for all of life's needs. When you refer a family member or friend and they open an account, you both receive $10.

Mark your Calendars for the 60th Annual Meeting & Dinner

Our 60th Annual Meeting & Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the Frontier Volunteer Fire Hall, 2176 Liberty Drive, Niagara Falls.

Dinner, catered by the Como Restaurant, will be served at 6:00 pm. Following the business meeting there will be a drawing for prizes.

Tickets will be available in our branches after March 1st at a cost of $12.00 each.

Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

Is Your Contact Information Current?

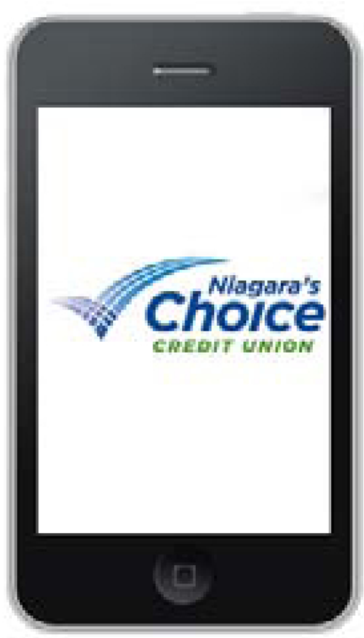
Now is a good time to make sure that your contact information is current with Niagara's Choice Credit Union. Keeping your contact information current ensures delivery of important information on your account. We require changes to be in writing for home and mailing address, e-mail address and telephone numbers.

MasterCard Balance Transfer is Back for the Holidays

We are offering the balance transfer program again this year. When you have a balance transfer from another financial institution, we will drop your existing rate by 4.0% APR; on those balances only. Your balance transfer rate may be as low as 4.9% APR. Your special balance transfer rate will remain in effect for six months.

This will be available until January 31, 2013. Ask for details.

MasterCard rates range from 8.9% APR to 15.0% APR fixed rates on purchases and cash advances all year round. So, if you do not already have a MasterCard with us, apply now for the holidays.



New Technology for You!

Niagara's Choice FCU works hard to make our services more convenient. Mobile banking and e-statements are now available!

Mobile Banking

For our members who have internet access on their cell phones, our new application allows you to access HomeTeller, contact your branch, provides current loan rates, and gives you a listing of Shared Service Centers by region.

To log into the service on your phone type: www.niagaraschoice.org/mobile

E-Statements

An e-statement is an electronic version of your monthly statement. It is formatted as a traditional bank statement, but is available as a portable document format file (PDF).

E-statements are more secure than receiving a statement via traditional mail. Thestatementisstoredonoursecureservers.Yourstatementsareavailableassoonas they are generated instead of needing to wait for mail delivery.

Rate Board

LOAN RATES

New and Used Vehicles

Rates as low as 1.25% APR*

(Model Years 2005-2013. Terms up to 84 months. Rates are based on credit rating and vehicle year.)

Personal & Signature Loans

Up to $12,000 per member with rates as low as 7.80% APR*

* These rates reflect a .25% APR discount that is applied when payments are made w/AutoPay.

Home Equity Line of Credit

Rates as low as prime +0% APR

Home Equity Loan

Rates as low as 4.9% APR based on your credit history and the term you choose.

MASTERCARD

Rates range from 8.9% APR to 15% APR based on credit history. No Annual Fee.

DEPOSIT RATES*	RATE	APY
Regular Savings	.15%	.15%
Share Draft (checking)	.03%	.03%
IRA Savings	.75%	.753%
Club Savings	.15%	.15%
Certificates**		
3-Month	.25%	.25%
6-Month	.25%	.25%
12-Month	.25%	.25%
24-Month	.30%	.30%
36-Month	.60%	.602%
48-Month	.75%	.753%
60-Month	1.25%	1.258%

Rates current as of 01/01/2013 but subject to change relative to market conditions. Call for the most up-to-date rates. Rates have been projected by the Board of Directors based on a forecast of income and available funds to declare a dividend. *Dividend rates compounded daily and credited quarterly to all types of share accounts. A min $250.00 balance is required on all but Youth accounts to earn a dividend. **Minimum certificate deposit is $500. Certain penalties apply if funds are withdrawn prior to certificate maturity.

Annual Member Privacy Notice

Niagara's Choice Federal Credit Union Privacy Notice Niagara's Choice is committed to offering all members the services and products which help meet individual financial goals. Financial privacy is a top priority of this credit union. As a financial institution, we collect and use personal information about members, and we are required by law to give you this privacy notice to explain how we do this, and how we use and safeguard personal financial information. If you have any questions, please contact us at 716-284-4110. In order to provide the various services and products that are offered to members, we sometimes need to share information with various organizations or companies. Under these arrangements, we may disclose information we collect, as described below, to companies that perform services on our behalf. To protect our members' privacy, the few businesses we work with must maintain high standards of confidentiality. We do not permit any business to sell any information to third parties. **Information We collect:** Non-public information about you from some or all of the following sources: · Information we receive from you on applications or other forms, such as your name, address, social security number, assets and income; · Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others, such as your account balance, payment history, parties to transactions, and credit card usage; and · Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies, such as your creditworthiness and credit history; · Information obtained when verifying information you provide on an application or other forms. This may be from your current or past employers, or from institutions where you conduct financial transactions. Information We Disclose: We may disclose all of the information that we collect, as described above. **Who May Receive this Information:** We may disclose some or all of the information we collect to the following types of third parties: · Financial Services providers, such as mortgage processors/services; insurance agents; ATM, debit and credit card processors. · Non-financial businesses such as statement/mailing services; consumer reporting agencies; check/share draft printers; data processors, government agencies. We may also disclose non-public personal information about you to non-affiliated third parties as permitted or required by law. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of the credit union, follow your instructions as you authorize, or protect the security of our financial records. If you terminate your membership with Niagara's Choice FCU, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as permitted or required by law. Protecting Your Information: We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees who have a specific business purpose in utilizing your data. Our employees are trained in the importance of maintaining confidentiality and member privacy. The directors, committee members and staff of your credit union hold in confidence all transactions and information regarding members' personal affairs, except when required by state or federal law. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations and industry practices to safeguard your non-public personal information. 01/01/2013

BRANCH INFO

MAIN OFFICE
3619 Packard Road
Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-5:00pm
Thursday - Friday 8:30am - 5:30pm
Saturday 8:30am - 12:00pm
24hr Drive-Up ATM
Phone (716) 284-4110

LOCKPORT
260 West Avenue
Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-4:30pm
Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday 9:00am - 6:00 pm
Drive-Thru
Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-4:30pm
Thursday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm
24hr Drive-Up ATM
Phone (716) 434-4180

N. TONAWANDA
3577 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-5:00pm
Thursday - Friday 8:30am - 5:30pm
Saturday 8:30am - 12:00pm
24hr Drive-Up ATM
Phone (716) 693-5140

SAWYER DRIVE
2131 Sawyer Drive
Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-5:00pm
Thursday - Friday 8:30am - 5:30pm
24hr Walk-Up ATM
Phone (716) 923-1466

NIAGARA FALLS
900 Main Street
Monday–Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm
24hr Drive-Up ATM
Phone (716) 434-4180

www.**niagaraschoice**.org
mailbox@**niagaraschoice**.org
Telephone Banking System
(716)284-6747 and (716)434-4180 opt4