Great Returns

News for our member owners July 2013

Niagara's Choice CREDIT UNION

Choose to bank where you belong.

A Milestone Anniversary

60 Years of Service

1953 to 2013

Niagara's Choice Federal Credit Union celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. On June 1, 1953, the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions granted a charter to the Hooker Employees FCU. Hooker Chemical Corporation, now Occidental Chemical, was our sponsoring organization. The charter application fee was $25.00, and seven board members opened the first share savings accounts at $5.00 each. Sixty years later, and the opening share deposit is still $5.00 when someone becomes a member.

The founders of the credit union were Paul Earle, James Hood, Anthony Kalivoda, Nino Montani, James O'Connor, Michael Salerno, and Ray Zaso. The first slate of officers: James O'Connor, President; Michael Salerno, Vice President; Nino Montani, Treasurer; and Dorothy Fleury, Secretary.

The credit union has experienced substantial growth since 1953, when the office was located in a small area in the vicinity of the Oxy Main Gate on Buffalo Avenue. For many years, the operation was managed by volunteers, and in the beginning was open daily from 12:00 noon to 12:30 pm; and the only services were share accounts and loans.

At the close of books on December 31, 1957, the credit union held assets of $1,011,356. Twenty-five years later (1982), assets were $7.1 million. The milestone of $25 million in assets was attained in May 1991. Now, six months after the merger of Niagara County's FCU in December 2012, our assets are $130 million.

Services include savings, checking and IRA accounts; credit cards, ATM and Debit cards; vehicle and personal loans, home equity line of credit, and mortgage loans. That's quite a difference from the share and loan accounts of the 1950s.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Independence Day - Closed
Thursday, July 4, 2013

Canal Fest Parade
Tuesday, July 16th

Niagara County Fair
July 31st – August 4th

Wheatfield Family Picnic
Fairmount Park
Sunday, August 25th 2013

Labor Day - Closed
Monday, Sept 2nd, 2013

Peach Festival
September 6, 7, 8 2013

Hunter's Hope
Every Step Walk
Beaver Island State Park
Saturday, September 21st

Columbus Day - Closed
Monday, Oct 14th, 2013

Like us on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/NiagarasChoice

60th Anniversary Hot Dog Events

Niagara's Choice wishes to take this opportunity to thank all of our very special members and staff that helped with supporting our 60th Anniversary promotion in May and June. For a 60 Cent donation (or more), we offered a hot dog and drink to celebrate the many milestones accomplished over our 60 years of serving members.

We held the hot dog events at all five of our branch locations. Members most generously donated $1,841.12. The Credit Union decided to round up the total to $2,000 and assist two Niagara County charities with donations of $1,000 each.

The recipients of the Credit Union member donations are Carolyn's House and Sister Helen's Food Pantry.

Carolyn's House was a vision the YWCA of Niagara had for a refuge where women and children in crisis could begin to rebuild their lives. Carolyn's House was not envisioned to be just a building but was about the concept that services and support offered in a dignified and safe atmosphere would help women and children meet their personal goals and become empowered and self sufficient.

Sister Helen's Food Pantry is affiliated with St. John's outreach Ministry at St. John the Baptist Parish. The pantry provides food and other goods to those in need. The Outreach Ministry desires to help meet the needs of individuals and families throughout all of Niagara County. They live by one of the golden rules which is "It is better to give and help than to receive".

Therefore, Niagara's Choice wanted to do our part in changing and transforming the lives of others but we realized that we could not have done it without you. KUDOS! To our wonderful member family... that is changing lives one step at a time.

Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

Pictured on the left are Ruth Gendrue (front left), Lillian Masters (front right), Katie Britt (back left), Colin Huntington, Kirsten Scherrer and Lindsey Brown. Nice work everybody!

When are your statements mailed?

Generally, the Credit Union mails out statements at the beginning of the month for the previous month.

When you have monthly activity in your account; you will receive a statement (either by mail or electronically) for that month.

If your account is inactive (no activity for a long period of time) you will receive a statement effective June 30th and/or December 31st.

If you have a Money Market account you will always receive a monthly statement.

Hope this helps to clear up any confusion. Please contact us with any questions.

Going out of Town?

Whenever you are going out of town, and you plan to use your Debit or Credit Card, please notify us. We will input in our computer system the dates you will be gone and where you are traveling. This will help prevent any erroneous fraud alerts that may cause you inconvenience while trying to use your card. Thank you.

"A Milestone Anniversary"

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In the 1980s, changes began to take place in the financial markets, and the need for credit union services was apparent at many local businesses and organizations. Fifty such organizations joined the credit union family as sponsors, making our services available to thousands more employees and their families. This expansion continued as we updated our charter in 2003 to offer membership to any individual who lives, works or worships in the County of Niagara.

Members retain the privileges of membership, regardless of retirement or change in employment. Credit Union policy states "once a member, always a member".

Thank you to all of our volunteers and staff (past and present) who have dedicated themselves to serving the membership; and special thanks to our loyal members who continue to support the credit union by using the available services.

Nino Montani
February 8, 1922 - November 17, 2012

"Lockers, Pockets & Kitchen Tables"

Lockers, pockets and kitchen tables. These aren't typically considered crucial in starting a financial institution. To Nino Montani, lockers, pockets and kitchen tables seemed like the perfect tools to help his co-workers achieve their dreams. Nino worked at a chemical company. He and several of his work friends, had a vision to create a more personal banking experience, one that would see the individual and be accountable to the very same. They operated the credit union out of a locker in the plant.

Nino stuffed statements with his wife and children at their kitchen table. He even carried membership and loan applications in his shirt pocket. Everyone lent a hand. What started 60 years ago as friends helping each other lead financially sturdier lives is now Niagara's Choice Credit Union. Because of one man's unflinching commitment to others, generations will know a truly people-centric banking experience.

Nino left us recently. We hope some of that selfless passion rubbed off on us. Thank you, Nino. We're grateful for your service.

Interested in improving your finances? We have quick tips for starting a budget. Food for thought...

1. Set goals. Make a plan and set goals, whether saving for a down payment on a house or retirement, or an emergency fund.

2. Track expenses and spending. For a clear picture of your spending habits, chart your fixed and required expenses weekly or monthly on paper, online or with a phone app, then track your leftover cash to see where your money is going. Look carefully at your credit card receipts or statements to ensure no amounts go unnoticed.

3. Find your balance. Be realistic. Once you know your cash flow position, ask yourself how much you need to spend now and how much you want to save for later.

PLEASE REMEMBER: There is a $5 fee if the Credit Union transfers money from one account to another to clear a check or electronic debit. There is NO charge if you do it yourself.

Rate Board

LOAN RATES

New and Used Vehicles

Rates as low as 1.25% APR*
(Model Years 2005-2014. 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%

NCUA

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Rates current as of 07/01/2013 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.

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 opt 4