Community Involvement



Cereal Drive

Our staff never fails to answer the call. We asked them to help support a local cereal drive, and in one week, they donated 263 boxes of cereal and oatmeal. We are so blessed to have a staff that loves their community!

Reality Fair



As a partner in education with Spotsylvania County Schools, we attend any event possible and help with financial education as much as we can. In November, we held a Reality Fair at Spotsylvania High School where students were given a career and then had to visit different stations to learn about their income, pay for insurance, pay for utilities, and much more.

To request financial education at your business, organization, or group you are part of, please contact our financial educator, Lauren Polen, at 540.413.3926 or Lauren.Polen@nswcfcu.org.

Thankful Thursday

We continue with treating unsuspecting people in the community by having a quarterly Thankful Thursday. Fall's Thankful Thursday was held at two different Five Guys® locations. Make sure to follow us on social media so you can find out where our next event will be.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday, January 20

PRESIDENTS' DAY
Monday, February 17



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 a.m.** Remember to set your clocks ***ahead*** one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

SHRED EVENT



APRIL 25TH, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
AT OUR MASSAPONAX BRANCH
9622 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY

Any donations received will go to
GERMANNA'S GLADYS P. TODD ACADEMY
We will match donations up to $250.

Locations

Dahlgren/King George
Naval Support Activity
South Potomac
17442 Dahlgren Road

Plaza Branch
5472 James Madison Parkway

Fredericksburg
Augustine Branch
2004 Augustine Avenue

Massaponax Branch
9622 Jefferson Davis Hwy

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 519
Dahlgren, VA 22448

Phone Numbers
(540) 663-2181
Fax (540) 663-5779

NSWC Federal Credit Union
P.O. Box 519
Dahlgren, VA 22448

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REFOCUSING Your Finances IN 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR

If 2019 brought a lot of budget burnout, it's time to make 2020 a year of refocused financial inspiration. With these simple tips, you can avoid the burnout that comes from putting too much effort into unattainable goals and start making financial headway in a fresh new way.

ALIGN YOUR BUDGET WITH YOUR VALUES. In order for your budget to be sustainable, it must reflect who you are, what you enjoy, and what you find important. This will ensure your budget is something you want to do rather than something you have to do.

SHIFT YOUR MINDSET. Your budget should empower you to be yourself rather than restrict you into being something you're not. Likewise, it should be relatively easy to maintain with the end goal of helping you get somewhere better.

AVOID TOO MUCH TOO SOON. Having too much on your financial to-do list makes it hard to stay motivated. Start by focusing on fewer goals, and then simplify by automating as much of your financial tasks as possible, such as savings allocations, bill payments, and financial notifications.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE. If you have a hard time staying focused on your end goals, visualize the end result and imagine what it will feel like when you reach your ultimate goal.



CU CONNECTION

NSWC Federal Credit Union

Winter 2020

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Do you work for a company or maybe volunteer with a group that could use the benefit of free membership at our Credit Union?

Contact Community Relations Director, Stephanie Lyles, to find out how to make your employees or peers eligible for membership. Stephanie Lyles 540.413.3916 or Stephanie.Lyles@nswcfcu.org

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Your savings federally insured to at least $250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government
NCUA
National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency

Federally Insured by NCUA

Back to BASix

We Want You!



Credit unions are considered mutual financial institutions. What that means is you as a member are an owner of the Credit Union. As an owner you have a say in how the Credit Union operates. From an organizational standpoint, the Credit Union has a seven member elected Board of Directors and a five member appointed Supervisory Committee that volunteers their time to represent the entire membership and provide oversight of the Credit Union. The Supervisory Committee is appointed to provide an objective review and evaluation of the financial condition of the Credit Union. So who are the people who make up these committees? The short answer is members. And that brings me to the title of this article.

The Credit Union is always looking for qualified people who would like to volunteer their time and talent to help make the Credit Union better. For any member who is interested in taking on this responsibility, one of the best ways to get started is to apply for appointment to the Supervisory Committee. Supervisory Committee members gain experience with the audit and examination process, internal controls, and member feedback. The Credit Union organizes external and computer based training for members of the Committee at their monthly meeting. Supervisory Committee members also rotate attendance at the monthly Board meetings to report on the activities and findings of the Supervisory Committee. All of this experience would become very valuable if an interested member would like to run for a Board of Directors position. Being a volunteer to the Supervisory Committee is a demanding but rewarding way for members to have a say in the Credit Union. Please consider applying for an appointment to this committee and as always, thank you for being a member.

Bruce A. Six, CEO
Feel free to email Bruce at Bruce.Six@NSWCFCU.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE *for* Youth Members



NSWC Federal Credit Union awards four scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are members of the Credit Union. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, **each student must complete a brief application and write a 3-5 page essay about:**

"If you were to develop a financial education program, what topics would you consider most relevant to students? How would you market it (in what format) and how would you measure your success in reaching your generation?"

The application and essay must be received by **March 1, 2020**. Entries are judged independently outside the Credit Union. Scholarship winners will be announced in May 2020. Winners will be notified by email. The scholarship funds will be sent to the college, university, or trade school in the name of the student and must be used within one year. Applications and scholarship information are available online at **www.nswcfcuonline.org/scholarships**.

TAX PLANNING TIPS



- **MAKE FINAL IRA CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2019.** You have until April 15, 2020, to contribute to your 2019 IRA. Please be sure to specify that you are making a 2019 contribution.
- **COLLECT RECORDS FOR TAX TIME.** Watch the mail for IRS Forms 1099 and 1098 coming from NSWC Federal Credit Union. Tax information is also included in your last statement of the year.
- **FILE AND PAY ON TIME.** The tax filing deadline is Wednesday, April 15, 2020.
- **FILE ELECTRONICALLY.** Because the IRS processes electronic returns faster than paper ones, you can expect an e-return three to six weeks sooner than refunds issued by mail.
- **CHOOSE DIRECT DEPOSIT.** You can choose to have your refund split between multiple accounts, making it easy to automate your savings. Simply provide your credit union account number(s) and our routing number: 251480398.
- **CONSIDER A TAX LOAN.** A low-rate loan from NSWC FCU can help you make your tax payments on time with affordable monthly payments spread throughout the year. Speak with a member service representative for details.



All the Things You Can Do ONLINE

We understand that you may not have time to come to a branch, so our online banking service may be for you! Make sure that you have enrolled in online banking by visiting our website and using the "Enroll" button. Here is a list of online banking conveniences that you are able to access anytime!



PAY BILLS: One of the most useful features of online banking is free online bill payment. Instead of writing checks and mailing in payments, you can have your credit union do all of that for you — plus you'll save money on stamps. We are also able to send payments electronically to most merchants, which will get your payments there quicker. When available, bill pay can also display e-bills from that merchant making it easy to keep track.



SAVE MORE: Online banking is a great place for your savings. Online banking has the ability to hide the view from your home screen so that you will not be tempted to use the funds while saving for your goal. You will be able to transfer funds to the account to continue your savings growth for the future.

GET CHECKING (POSSIBLY WITH DIVIDENDS): It's getting harder to find "No Hidden Fee" checking accounts at brick-and-mortar banks, but "No Hidden Fee" checking is the norm with us. Online banking is a great way to open a new checking account and keep an eye on those transactions and balances. In online banking, those checking account transactions that don't look familiar can easily be disputed with a few simple clicks.

Federally Insured by NCUA.

DEPOSIT CHECKS: If you've got a mobile device with a camera, you can probably use it to deposit checks into your account — any time of day or night. You don't need to find the time to make a trip to the branch or wait for the mail to deliver those checks to your bank. If you have been with us for longer than 30 days, contact us to see if you are eligible for this service.

Along similar lines, if you're still getting your wages paid by check, why not have the money automatically deposited to your bank account? Your employer will get funds to you more quickly if you sign up for direct deposit.

SEND MONEY: Need to pay a friend for your share of dinner or rent? There are several easy ways to send money to somebody without writing a check or digging for exact change. Online banking offers choices for making person-to-person payments depending on how quickly you need it there.



MOVE MONEY: You can also move funds between your own accounts. If you want to transfer funds from one bank to another — or just from checking to savings at our Credit Union — an app or website makes it easy.



RESEARCH HISTORY: Need to know how much you paid for a particular item or your average monthly utility bill? That information is probably in your banking history, and you can look it up in online banking. You can download statements and images of checks you've written if you need documentation for anything, or you can just review transactions to keep fraud out of your account.

GO PAPERLESS: You rarely need paper statements, and those papers just create clutter and make things easier for identity thieves. You can also save resources, including the paper used for printing, ink, plastic, and fuel used to ship those documents month after month. If you ever need a statement, when getting a mortgage, for example, you can always print the one or two you actually need.

USE FINANCIAL TOOLS: It's wise to track your finances. If you know where your money goes, you'll make better spending decisions and it will be easier to reach your financial goals. There are numerous tools already built-in to help you categorize your spending and build budgets. Going online allows you to download transactions or authorize your software to automatically get the information needed if you decide to use Quicken or QuickBooks.



KNOW YOUR BALANCE: If you need to know exactly how much you have in your account — and how much is really available for spending — the best place to get that information is online.



GET HELP: If you need help with service issues, try taking care of business online. Especially if you're not in a hurry, it might be easiest to send secured electronic message requests to a member service agent instead of calling. Self-service options are also available, and that may even be your fastest option. You can change your address, order copies of checks, and handle other routine tasks yourself.

BORROW MONEY: In addition to deposit accounts, like checking and savings accounts, you can also borrow online. Traditional banks let you fill out applications, but we offer an online borrowing experience that is quicker — it's easier to complete the application and receive your quick approval.

We are always working towards providing you the best online banking experience possible. Please contact us if you have suggestions for improvement.

PREPARING TO PURCHASE A HOME?

DOS and DON'TS for the Mortgage Process



Good credit history and credit scores are critical to not only qualifying for a home loan, but also to obtaining the best interest rate and terms on your new mortgage. With these simple dos and don'ts, you can get yourself well prepared and be sure to keep your credit polished throughout your entire home loan process.

DO

- **Keep copies of all your important financial documents,** including check stubs, W-2s, tax returns, bank and investment account statements, rental agreements, etc.
- **Save up and set money aside** for your down payment, closings costs, insurance premiums, and other mortgage-related expenses. (Did you receive a monetary gift to go toward your down payment? Talk to your mortgage professional about how to handle that.)
- **Stay current on existing accounts.** Just one missed payment can cost you!
- **Avoid making large purchases on credit,** but do continue to use your credit as normal. Changing your purchasing pattern may raise a red flag for lenders.
- **Keep your credit card balances at least 30% below your limits** during the loan process.

DON'T

- **Change your job,** job title, salary, compensation structure or employer.
- **Make any large purchases,** such as a new car, boat, furniture, or appliances until after you've closed on your new home.
- **Make large unverifiable deposits** into your bank account or change bank accounts.
- **Apply for a new credit card,** loan or give your personal information to someone who may run your credit report – hard credit inquiries will negatively impact your credit score and may raise a red flag to potential lenders.
- **Close credit card accounts.** Closing credit accounts may raise your debt ratio and possibly even shorten your credit history.

The History of the Dow Jones Industrial Average



Scott E. Pettyjohn, LUTCF

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, or DOW as we know it was introduced by Charles Dow back in 1896. It was made up of companies that were agricultural and "heavy industries" such as tobacco, sugar, iron, leather, and rubber. Of the original twelve companies that included U.S. Rubber, U.S. Leather, American Sugar, American Tobacco and General Electric. General Electric was the last company to be removed from the index in 2018. As the U.S. economy has grown, we are relying not just on industrial companies but companies that provide financial services, retailing, and technology.

Today, the DOW Jones Industrial Average consists of thirty companies. That number alone is surprising to most people. When asked the question of "how many companies do you think the DOW represents" the answer is usually "Thousands". These thirty companies are thought to be most reflective of the U.S. economy. When we hear that the DOW is up or down, we are only talking about how these thirty companies are doing. It is just an indicator. If the thirty companies that are thought to best represent the U.S. economy are doing well, then the rest of us should be doing well. It's not that easy!

The DOW is normally quoted as an index. This means the stock price of each company is multiplied by a weighting factor to derive the composite index number. When the index was first introduced it was 40.94 and it took about 76 years to reach the 1,000 mark. The DOW has recently risen above the 28,000 mark.

Remember, the DOW is just an "indicator". Having your investments reviewed periodically for risk, diversification and time horizon are more important that just watching the DOW go up and down. There are many indexes that are watched and studied. The S&P 500, Russell 2000 and the NASDAQ-100 just to name a few, but the DOW seems to be the most popular and talked about.

Understanding and navigating the stock market is overwhelming to most people. Having someone to help you navigate and review your current investments should encourage you to look at other factors beyond the DOW.

Please contact Scott Pettyjohn at NSWC Financial Services for a review of your financial security.

(540) 361-2216

Any discussion of taxes is for general information purposes only, does not purport to be complete or cover every situation, and should not be construed as legal, tax or accounting advice. Members should confer with their qualified legal, tax and accounting advisors as appropriate.

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