

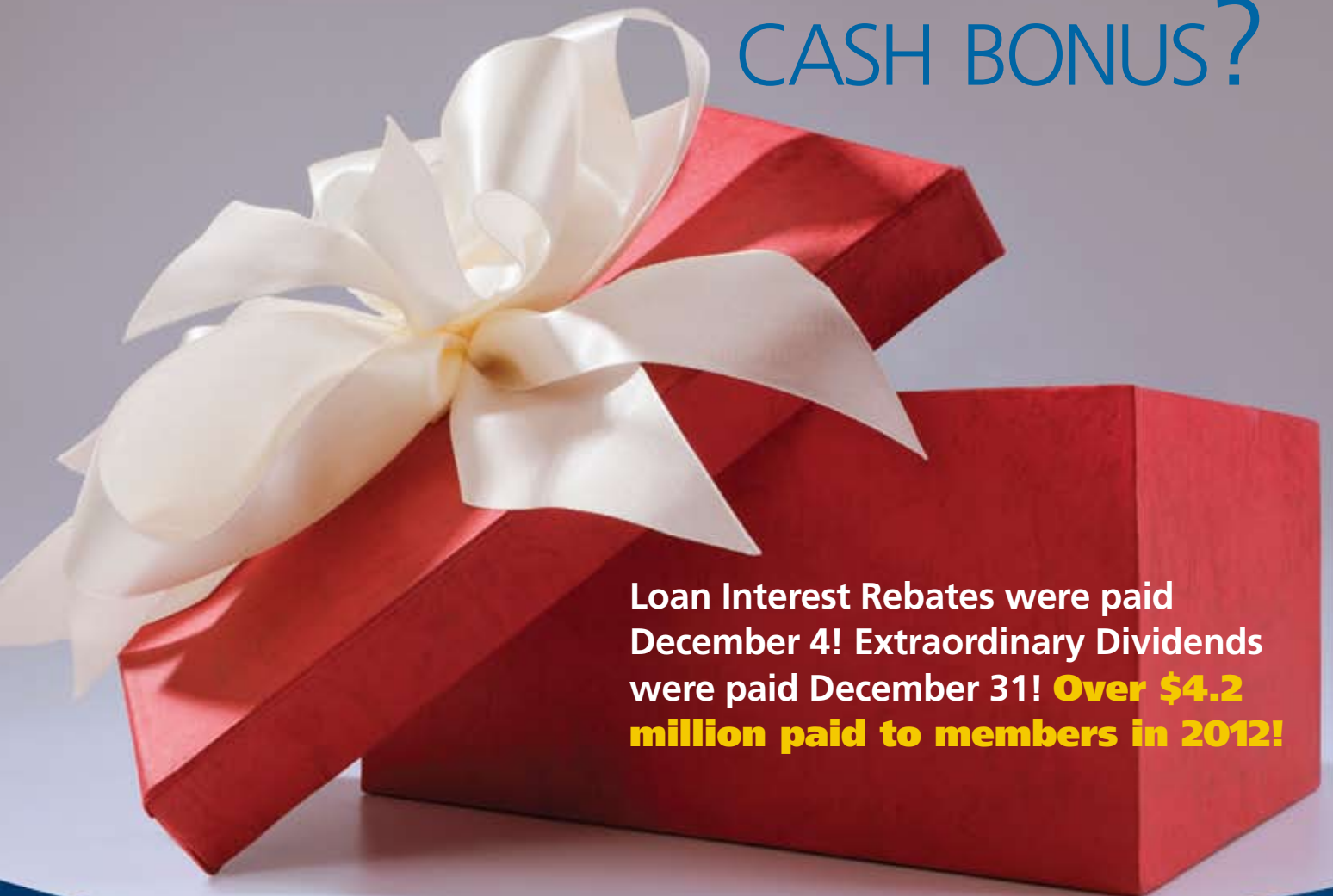


# On Your Account

WINTER 2013

M E C U O F B A L T I M O R E , I N C .

DID YOU GET **YOUR**  
CASH BONUS?



Loan Interest Rebates were paid  
December 4! Extraordinary Dividends  
were paid December 31! **Over \$4.2  
million paid to members in 2012!**

# MORTGAGE RATES ARE STILL LOW AND QUALIFY FOR LOAN INTEREST REBATE \*\*

Are you still thinking about refinancing your house, or buying a new one, but just haven't done it yet? Take a look at MECU's low rates to see how we can help lower your payments. And, the interest you pay on your mortgage qualifies for the loan interest rebate\*\* that MECU has paid every year since 1981!

## 1st Mortgage Loan Rates

	Base Rate <i>(as low as)</i>	APR* <i>(as low as)</i>	Monthly Payment* <i>(\$150,000 Loan Amount)</i>
0 Points Option			
30-year fixed rate	3.375%	3.510%	\$663.15
20-year fixed rate	3.125%	3.313%	\$841.32
15-year fixed rate	2.750%	2.963%	\$1,017.93
10-year fixed rate	2.500%	2.810%	\$1,414.05
7/1 ARM (adjustable rate)	2.875%	2.963%	\$622.34
5/1 ARM (adjustable rate)	2.625%	2.870%	\$602.48
3/1 ARM (adjustable rate)	2.375%	2.831%	\$582.98

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate based on an 80% Loan to Value ratio. Rates are current as of January 8, 2013 and subject to change. Monthly Payment amount is based on a \$150,000 loan amount for principal plus interest at the lowest available APR and does not include taxes and insurance which will increase your monthly payment. Your actual rate may be higher based on your credit score, loan amount, repayment term, collateral, credit history and ability to repay. Rates will be 0.50% higher on Investment properties. Subject to verification of collateral. Adequate property and flood insurance is required.

\*\*Certain restrictions apply. Subject to annual Board approval.



## NEED CASH TO PAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Are leftover holiday expenses or winter home repairs getting you down? You can use your Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) to pay off higher rate bills to save money. With current low interest rates, bills can be paid off faster. If you need a MECU HELOC visit [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com) or call 1-800-373-2914. Home equity loans and lines of credit also qualify for MECU's loan interest rebate.\*

\*Certain conditions apply. Subject to annual Board approval.





# MEMBERS GET DISCOUNTS ON INSURANCE AND MORE

Did you know that MECU provides you with information on financial tools other than banking services? We want to help our members find the best opportunities for their other financial needs. To do this, we develop partnerships with companies that can offer you valuable discounts. You can learn more about various programs on the MECU website, [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com).

**Here are a few you can take advantage of:**

## **Car Insurance through Nationwide Family Plan®**

If saving on your car insurance sounds good, then **Nationwide Family Plan®** is going to sound great. It allows parents to share some of the discounts they've earned with their young drivers, and save up to 25%, compared to leading competitors. Plus, when you add the special members-only discount for MECU members you save even more.

To learn more, or to get a free, no obligation quote, talk with our partners at the Corrigan Agency and let them know you are a MECU member. **You can reach them at 301-474-4111, 410-792-8090 or toll free: 1-800-213-1634. You can check their website at [www.nationwide.com/MECU](http://www.nationwide.com/MECU).**

## **The Family Security Plan® – Life and Disability Insurance Right in the Branch**

MECU members can sign up for permanent whole life insurance, disability income, critical illness and accident insurance through MECU's partnership with The Family Security Plan. This program provides cost-effective, convenient ways for members to acquire additional financial security for their families in the event of an unexpected death, disability or critical illness.

The whole life insurance features premiums that never increase, death benefits that never decrease, and a policy that accumulates cash value. Disability income protection helps cover basic monthly expenses in case of injury. Critical illness insurance gives a one-time cash payout with the diagnosis of a covered critical illness. Accident insurance helps pay for unexpected expenses that result from accidents above and beyond what your health insurance plan pays.

**You can talk with a Family Security Plan representative in your local MECU lobby or call them at (800) 243-2292.**

# MAKE YOUR FINANCES EASIER IN 2013!

## Save On Taxes – Contribute to an Individual Retirement Account

**G**etting ready to do your taxes? We can help you potentially lower what you owe and help you save for retirement with an Individual Retirement Account! You can set up a MECU Share Account or use one of our Certificates of Deposit for your IRA!

Want to learn more? Click on the Personal Services tab on the MECU homepage, [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com).

## Act Now! Get Your Social Security Deposited into Your MECU Account

In March 2013, most people who currently receive Social Security, disability and veterans' benefits, or other federal payments by paper check will be required to change to electronic payment.

The government makes it easy to sign up for direct deposit right online. Go to the US Treasury's site: [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org), for easy sign up. You can also call the Go Direct Hotline for help at **1-800-333-1795**, or stop in one of our branches. We're happy to help you set up your direct deposit. If you don't sign up for direct deposit, you will receive a debit card from which fees are deducted.

## 24/7 Banking Wherever You Are

MECU offers a variety of Convenience Banking options that make it easier to take care of your financial business when and how you want. Convenient banking options include:

- **Mobile Banking/Bill Payer:** Use your smart phone to take care of your banking needs. You can download apps through the links at [www.mecu.com/convenience-services/mobile-apps](http://www.mecu.com/convenience-services/mobile-apps) or download from iTunes or Google Play. Search for MECU Baltimore.
- **Online Banking:** Lets you check any of your MECU accounts from the convenience of your own home, or any computer if you are away.
- **Online BillPayer:** Connected to your Online Banking, BillPayer lets you pay your bills right now or schedule them for a future date. No more searching for envelopes or stamps.
- **Shared Branch Network:** Lets you use another credit union's branch when you're away from home.
- **Telephone Teller:** You can check your accounts or transfer funds by phone, anywhere – anytime.
- **ATM Locations:** The locator on MECU's homepage and mobile app lets you find one of thousands of surcharge-free ATMs throughout the country for easy access to your funds.
- **E-Statements:** Easy to find statements any time you want them. You receive an email notice that they are ready for you to view or download.



To learn more go to [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com) and click on the **Convenience Services** tab.



# MECU PLANS FOR THE “UNEXPECTED” YOU CAN TOO

**U**nexpected things happen to all of us, but MECU is well prepared to handle emergencies. MECU’s “Business Continuity” plan can be quickly put in place so we can serve our members as smoothly as possible. Whether it’s blizzard conditions, street closures in front of one branch or destruction on the level of Hurricane Sandy, there are ways to find out what is happening at MECU and to continue to access your accounts.

#### “Like” Us on Facebook and “Follow” Us on

**Twitter** – If something disrupts the MECU website temporarily, MECU is on Facebook (MECU of Baltimore Inc.) and Twitter (@MECUofBalt) and will put out messages to let members know what is happening and how they can continue to do their banking business.

**Give us a call** – If we need to close the branches for the day, we will put that message on our phone system. If there is an emergency and we need to close just one branch, we will put that message on the system.

**Go Online** – Check the MECU website, [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com). We can put messages on the site even if we can’t get into the MECU offices. And, members can take care of all their banking needs through online banking and online billpayer.

#### Are you an online banking user? Add mobile

**banking to your smart phone** – You can check your MECU account from your smart phone or web-enabled tablets. Just visit [mobi.mecu.com](http://mobi.mecu.com). You can also download the new MECU Mobile apps for iPhones and Android right from there.

#### Learn About the Shared Branch Network –

Hurricane Sandy just missed hitting Maryland full force this fall. Because MECU is a member of the Shared Branch Network, you can have access to a branch even if you had to evacuate. Go to [www.mecu.com/convenience-services/shared-branch-network/](http://www.mecu.com/convenience-services/shared-branch-network/) on the MECU website to learn more. You will also find a convenient link so you can locate the nearest shared branch or surcharge-free ATM right on the homepage, or use the MECU app to find a shared branch or surcharge-free ATM.

#### Make sure we have your correct email address

– our e-newsletter, the **Money Wave**, is the easiest way for us to keep you updated during emergencies.



# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FINANCIAL FRAUD

*Part of our continuing series of articles to help our members increase their financial knowledge.*

## **When in doubt....don't respond or click on unsolicited links and emails**

**P**hishing scams include unsolicited phone calls, emails, text messages or other communications from strangers who are attempting to catch you off-guard in order to acquire personal information, account numbers, passwords or to entice you to send money. Sometimes the scams might appear that they are coming from a friend or acquaintance. The "fraudsters" often hack people's email accounts in order to gain access to their email address list. They then send an email to you pretending to be someone that you know. Often a person sends a message saying that they are on vacation and that their personal belongings have been stolen, including their money and credit cards. With the promise to pay the email recipient back, they ask for money to be wired so they can get home.

Other communications from strangers might include emails, texts or phone calls indicating that:

- You have won a large sum of money and all you need to do is provide your account information to receive it.
- Your account, credit card information or password has expired. They ask you to click on the link to re-enter the information.
- A person who is interested in purchasing something that you have listed for sale, might only have a large check or money order to pay for the purchase. They ask if you could deposit the check/money order and give back the surplus after taking out the amount of the purchase. Usually they say they will purchase your item without ever seeing it or knowing much about it. The check/money order is often counterfeit and by the time you realize this, the person is gone with the surplus in their hands.

## **Make sure you have up-to-date virus and malware software on your computer to avoid scams**

Often people unknowingly click on websites, links, screen savers, e-cards and other things that have been set up by hackers and scammers for the purpose of distributing viruses and malware to a computer. A new scam involves something called malware that creates a pop-up message when you are on financial sites and online banking. The pop-up surfaces when you have already signed into an online banking account indicating that something went wrong and you need to re-enter your account number/user name and password. It gives the impression that it is coming from your online banking account, but in reality it is coming from the scamming software that has attacked your computer.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?**

**If this ever happens to you, the best thing to do is to Sign-Off of your account and Sign-On again. If you re-enter your information while you are currently signed-on, there is a great potential that the malware will capture your account information and password with the purpose of making fraudulent transactions.**

### **Next MECU Workshop –**

MECU's Building and Maintaining Good Credit Workshop will be held on Thursday, January 31st at 7 E. Redwood Street. Sign in starts at 5:30 pm and the workshop starts at 6:00 pm. To register call 443-263-4293.

# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Members is set for Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 12:00 noon at the MECU Corporate Offices, 20th floor, 7 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland. All members are invited to attend.

## Directors and Committees Serving You

**Board of Directors:** Active Directors – Roman Clark, Fire; G. Louise Green, Finance; A. Soula Lambropoulos, Health; Benjamin Meli\*, DPW; Peggy A. Peacock, HCD; Charmaine M. Thomas\*, Police. Retiree Directors - Ernest J. Glinka; Gary W. McLhinney\*; Herman Williams Jr.; Director at Large - Kaloipe Parthemos\*, JHU; Lorretta Johnson, BTU; John T. Walker III\*, BCPS. Directors Emeritus - Harry Deitchman.

\*term expiring

**Credit Committee:** Reba Anderson-Graham, DHCD; Neetu Dhawan-Gray, Associate Member; Marietta English, BTU; Stephanie Lansey, Police; Glenard Middleton, DPW; Deborah Moore-Carter, Labor Commission

**Supervisory Committee:** Judge David Allen, Retired; Troy Brogden, Associate; Andrew Frank, Associate; Jennell Rogers, Finance; Abraham Schwartz, ERS;

### Nominees for Directorships in 2013

Candidates for directorship may be nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition of the members. The list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee will be available in the main office of MECU, (17th floor) and will be published in a MoneyWave and on the MECU website, [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com).

If you have questions about the annual meeting or election procedures, contact Pam Harris at 410-223-4043.

**Disclosure of Board and Committee Compensation Schedule –** To achieve the strong financial position, which MECU enjoys, requires a team with knowledge, experience, and a dedication to hard work. In a year when the economy was volatile, with other financial institutions and businesses laying off employees and struggling along, MECU paid you, its member-owners, an extraordinary dividend and loan interest refund, as it has every year since 1981.

The role of the Board of Directors, Credit and Supervisory Committees is critical to the success of MECU in fulfilling its mission. Setting the strategic direction, providing oversight, and acting as your member-elected representatives is a responsibility that is not taken lightly by these individuals. They invest hundreds of hours of personal time to MECU attending meetings, educational sessions required by the State of Maryland, supporting MECU in the community, and more. The expectations for these officials are high; and if one is not willing to make the commitment and sacrifice required it will result in being removed from office.

Fortunately, because MECU is a state chartered credit union, the MECU membership can compensate its officials for the many hours they contribute to the betterment of the organization by paying an honorarium for meetings they attend.

As required by law, the compensation schedule is authorized each year by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 6-331 Annotated Code of Maryland, Financial Institutions Article. Additionally, it is approved by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation for the State of Maryland based on the institutions' financial performance. This compensation is in exchange for services performed as an official; and it is reported as income to the Internal Revenue Service.

The proposed dollar amount that will be paid to each official is as follows: Board of Directors: \$200 honorarium per meeting attended; \$200 per day for each day that a director attends an educational conference, as required by law, and travel days. Credit and Supervisory Committee Members: \$150 honorarium per meeting attended; \$150 for each day that a committee member attends an educational conference, as required by law, and travel days. The aggregate dollar amount paid to all officials for the 12 months preceding January 2013 was \$244,627.

Assuming that the proposed honorarium schedule stays the same as last year; is approved by the members at the annual meeting, and that the same number of meetings will be held as in the preceding 12 month period, the aggregate dollar amount to be paid to all officials in 2013 is estimated to be the same. The aggregate dollar amount of all officials' expenses, excluding the compensation outlined above, for the 12 months preceding January 2013 was \$178,660.



Baltimore's Credit Union

Want to see MECU in the community?  
Go to [www.youtube.com/mecutv](http://www.youtube.com/mecutv)

**Corporate Offices**

7 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

**Elmer Bernhardt Redwood Street Branch**

7 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
Mon/Tues/Wed 8:30-4:30; Thu 9:00-4:30; Fri 8:30-5:30

**Fayette Remote Teller System**

401 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 8:00-4:00; Thu 9:00-4:00

**Herman Williams Jr. Fallstaff Center Branch**

6814 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21215

**John T. O'Mailey Hamilton Center Branch**

2337 East Northern Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21214

**Charles L. Benton Jr. Westview Center Branch**

5910 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, MD 21228  
Fallstaff/Hamilton/Westview Lobby: Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-3  
Drive thru: Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 7:30-5:30; Thurs 9-5:30; Sat 9-3

**Harry Deitchman PJM Business Center Branch**

312 North Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21201  
Mon-Wed 7:30-4; Thu 9-4; Fri 7:30-5:30; Sat 9-3

**Loch Ridge Center Branch**

8507 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21286  
Lobby and Drive thru: Mon-Fri 12-7; Sat 9-3

**Dundalk Branch**

7220 Holabird Avenue, Dundalk, MD 21222  
Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-3

**Commercentre Branch**

1777 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, Maryland 21208  
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thu/Fri 12:00-7:00; Sat 9-3



Federally insured by the NCUA

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BALTIMORE, MD



# Achieve Your Dream in 2013

***Rates are low – purchase a home this year!***

**Buy your dream home with low mortgage rates, a buyers' market, and low down payments.** Call today and get pre-qualified to buy a home. It's easy and convenient. See how our low mortgage rates can help you achieve your dreams!

**1-800-373-2914**

**[www.mecu.com/applynow](http://www.mecu.com/applynow)**



## **Save \$100 on Refinance or Home Purchase\***

**Obtain your first mortgage financing through MECU and we'll mail you a \$100 rebate after settlement when you present this coupon at application.**

\*Approved, settled loans of \$75,000 or more only. Coupon expires 3/31/13 and cannot be redeemed for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer.