



On Your Account



Achieve a brighter
financial future



MECU members received \$2.5 million in cash bonuses!
See details on page 4

Find your path to financial freedom

It's a new year and MECU is ready to help you achieve your financial goals. Whether you are looking to save more, budget better or even buy your first home, here are some smart ways to jump-start your 2017.

Create a spending plan—and stick to it

When you understand your spending, it's easier to spend less and focus on what matters most. Start by choosing three budget categories (e.g., eating out, entertainment or clothing) and track your spending in just these areas.

Make a plan using the 50/20/30 rule, where 50% of income goes to necessities, 20% to long-term savings, and 30% to personal lifestyle. Stick to your plan, but don't be afraid to make changes if you think it needs improvement.

Build your emergency fund

Having a backup fund may prevent you from having to max out your credit cards if your refrigerator dies or your car needs major repairs. Pay yourself first by trying to save at least 10% of your income. Start small and put your savings on autopilot by setting up a recurring automatic transfer.

Improve your credit score

A positive credit history is more important than ever. Obtain your free credit report from annualcreditreport.com and correct any errors. Work to improve your score by paying bills on time, maintaining a healthy mix of credit, and using less than 25% of your limits. MECU members can get a complimentary credit review at MECU.com/Resources.

Stay on top of your accounts

To avoid overdraft fees, account closures, or other unexpected events, regularly monitor your account balances and transactions. Download the top-rated MECU Mobile App for secure 24/7 access to your accounts.

Simplify your finances

Consolidate accounts; use online bill pay and enroll in e-statements to simplify your finances. Save a trip to the branch with Mobile Check Deposit and the MECU Mobile App. Organize your financial documents by designating a space in your home for processing and filing paperwork.

Pay down debt

Attack your high interest credit cards first by paying more than the minimum balance each month. Consider transferring your high interest balances to a lower rate credit card. Many cards offer low or no interest teaser rates, but read the fine print.

It's important to know your standard rate after the teaser ends, as well as any transfer fees or penalty rates. MECU's Visa Credit Cards may be a good a good choice. They offer a special introductory rate on balance transfers and purchases for 12 months with no balance transfer fee. Learn more at MECU.com/Platinum.

What financial goals are at the top of your list? Share your 2017 Money Goals and you could win \$1,000! Enter now at MECU.com/MoneyGoals.

Source: Credit Union National Association

Celebrating 80 Years

In October 2016, MECU officially kicked off its 80th anniversary year. Founded in 1936 by Baltimore City employees, MECU is proud to be Baltimore's Credit Union with \$1.2 billion in assets and over 110,000 members. While our membership numbers have grown, we remain steadfast in our commitment to enriching our members' lives and the communities that we serve.

"We are looking forward to helping our members prosper for many years to come."

— John Hamilton,
President and CEO

Financial Smarts

Open the door to your perfect home

As a trusted Baltimore mortgage lender, MECU offers exceptional mortgage rates, special discount programs and cash back with our loan interest rebate.* Owning your dream home may be more affordable than you think.

Getting started with buying a home

Thinking about buying a home this year? Consider these tips as you get started with the home-buying process.

- **Review your credit report** — Visit annualcreditreport.com for your free credit report.
- **Compile financial documents and records** — Gather your last two years of W-2 forms, recent paystubs, and financial account statements.
- **Know what you can afford** — Talk to a loan specialist to get pre-qualified based on your income and financial profile.
- **Consider the down payment** — While some mortgages only require 3.5% or less for a down payment, you'll typically get a lower rate with 10-20% down. Don't forget about other closing costs such as lender fees, transfer taxes, appraisal/title fees, and property tax and insurance pre-payments.



Finance your home for less

- **First-Time Homebuyers** — MECU reduces your mortgage loan rate by 0.25%** for your first home purchase.
- **Buy in Baltimore** — MECU reduces your mortgage loan rate by 0.25% .** when you buy a home in Baltimore City
- **FHA Loan** — Smaller down payments (as little as 3.5%) with less restrictive credit requirements.
- **Down Payment Grants** — MECU partners with organizations that provide access to grants for down payment assistance, such as Live Baltimore's \$5,000 Neighborhood Tour Grant.

Contact a MECU mortgage loan specialist at 800-373-2914 or visit MECU.com/Mortgage to get started today.

*Loan interest rebate is subject to annual Board approval. Loan interest rebate is not available on FHA loans. Certain conditions apply.

** Discounts cannot be combined and are not available on FHA loans.

Free yourself of high interest credit cards

Save money with the low rate MECU Visa® Platinum* Card.



\$0 Balance Transfer Fee | **\$0** Cash Advance Fee | **\$0** Annual Fee

Apply today at MECU.com/Visa



*Certain conditions and qualifications apply. For details go to MECU.com/Platinum. Federally Insured by NCUA

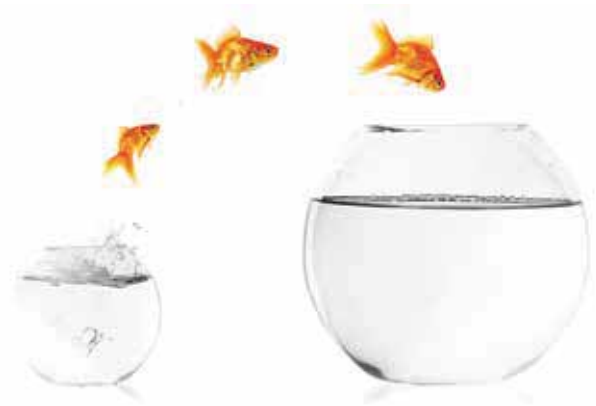
It pays to be a MECU member

MECU celebrated a successful 2016 by paying \$2.5 million in cash bonuses to its members. The bonuses, which members received in the form of loan interest rebates and bonus interest dividends, were made possible by the credit union's outstanding financial performance.

This marks the 36th year in which MECU's Board of Directors voted to return a portion of profits to its members. In total, MECU has returned more than \$80 million to members since 1981. MECU is one of just a few Maryland credit unions that offer this valuable member benefit.

Apply for a college scholarship

Could you use help with college or trade school tuition? Eligible credit union members may apply for one of twelve \$1,000 scholarships. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2017 and winners will be announced in May 2017. For more information and to apply, visit cufound.org/consumer-resources/collegescholarship.



Our new Headquarters Branch opens to serve you better

On February 6, 2017, our Redwood Street Headquarters Branch and Fayette Street Remote Teller location moved to a new home. Our new full-service Headquarters Branch is now open and also offers a 24/7 ATM. Your favorite tellers and member service staff from the Redwood Street and Fayette Street locations will be happy to assist you at our new location. We hope to see you there!

The new Headquarters Branch is located at 301 E. Baltimore St. For directions and more information, please visit MECU.com/NewBranch.

MECU receives \$2 million grant

MECU was awarded a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). The grant will support MECU's mission to increase lending and investment activity in low-income and economically distressed Baltimore communities. MECU was the only Maryland-based organization to receive an award in this round.

Upcoming Events



Have you tried the MECU Mobile App?

MECU's Mobile App saves you time with on-the-go access to your accounts. With our secure and top-rated Mobile App, you can:

- Check balances and view transactions
- Deposit checks with Mobile Deposit
- Transfer money between MECU accounts
- Pay bills
- Send money to family and friends by text or e-mail using Popmoney
- Receive alerts for low balance or important activity
- Locate a nearby branch or free ATM

Download the free MECU Mobile App on the iOS App Store or Google Play today.



Did you know...?



As a MECU member, you have access to 30,000+ surcharge-free ATMs nationwide through the CO-OP network. You can also withdraw cash for free at any Royal Farms store! Find a surcharge-free ATM at MECU.com/Locations or using the MECU Mobile App.

Enterprise Car Sales Presidential Sale

From February 16–28, 2017, Enterprise will offer you Kelley Blue Book Trade-In value on your vehicle, **plus up to \$500***.

Check inventory and get pre-approved for a low-rate loan at MECU.com/AutoSmart.

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 12pm

MECU Headquarters

One South Street, 9th floor • Baltimore, MD 21202

Open to all members, the Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to pick up your copy of the Annual Report and learn more about the MECU Board of Directors. If you plan to attend, please call Claudette Bard at 410-223-4036 so we may place you on the building's visitor log.

Did you know...?

The fastest way to get your tax refund is to file online and have your money directly deposited into your MECU Account.

You will need your account number and MECU's routing number: 252076468.

Money Power Day

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Poly-Western High School

1400 West Cold Spring Lane • Baltimore, MD 21209

Come join us at the 12th annual Money Power Day 2017, the region's largest free financial fitness fair. The day is filled with exciting activities designed to inspire and inform people of all ages on how to boost their financial power! Enjoy homebuyer and retirement workshops, free credit reports, the small business zone and the youth zone sponsored by MECU. Learn more at moneypowerday.org.

**Certain terms and conditions apply. Ask your Enterprise Car Sales representative for complete details.*

In the Community

As Baltimore's Credit Union, MECU is dedicated to giving back to the Baltimore communities we serve. MECU team members regularly volunteer their time to support important nonprofits and initiatives around Baltimore.



MECU again partnered with Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) to award over 100 grants to Baltimore neighborhood associations and community-based nonprofit organizations for producing special events.



The MECU Foundation presented \$35,000 to CollegeBound Foundation, nine Baltimore schools and Credit Union for Kids. The donations will be used to purchase school supplies and help students achieve a college education.



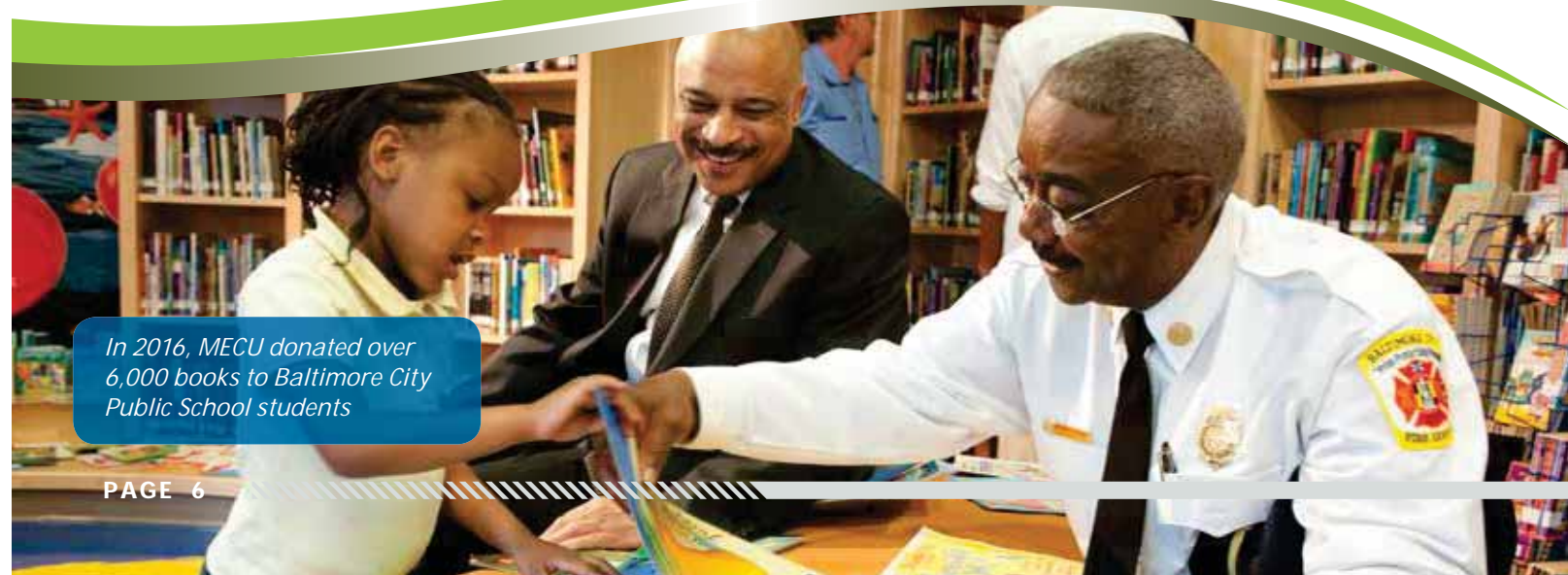
MECU volunteers assisted Meals on Wheels in preparing over 2,000 lunches and dinners for home-bound residents.



MECU once again sponsored the ABC2 Kindertime Toy Drive. Over 85,000 toys were collected at MECU branches and local fire stations. The toys were donated to Baltimore children in need during the holidays.

MECU Employees Volunteered
over **4,400 Hours** in 2016!

In 2016, MECU donated over 6,000 books to Baltimore City Public School students



Disclosure of Board and Committee Compensation

Because MECU is a state chartered credit union, its officials can be compensated for the many hours they contribute to the organization by being paid 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: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary: \$5,000 per annum; Board of Directors: \$300 honorarium per meeting attended; \$300 per day for each day that a director attends an educational conference, as required by law, including travel days. Credit and Supervisory Committee Members: \$200 honorarium per meeting attended; \$200 for each day that a Committee Member attends an educational conference, as required by law, including travel days. The aggregate dollar amount paid to all officials for the 12 months preceding January 2017 was \$325,894.

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 2017 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 2017 was \$140,517.

Security Tips



Keeping your personal information secure

Here are some practical tips to help you protect against identity theft and common scams.

- **Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust: a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you use.
- **Do an online search.** Do a search on a company or product name with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam."
- **Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real.
- **Don't pay upfront for a promise.** Fraudsters often ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, mystery shopping, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job. They might say you've won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. They will probably take the money and disappear.
- **Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in. Wiring money is risky.
- **Get a second opinion.** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. Slow down, do an online search — or just talk to a friend.

Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at ftc.gov/scams.



Call us today!
MECU: 800-248-6328
24 hour loan line: 800-373-2914

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 2944
BALTIMORE, MD

Corporate Offices

One South Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Headquarters Branch

301 E. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Mon/Tues/Wed 8:30-4:30;
Thurs 9:00-4:30; Fri 8:30-5:30

Harry Deitchman

PJM Business Center Branch

312 North Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21201
Mon-Wed 7:30-4:00; Thu 9:00-4:00;
Fri 7:30-5:30; Sat 9:00-1:00

John T. O'Mailey

Hamilton Center Branch

2337 East Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21214
Mon-Thurs 9:00-4:00
Fri. 9:00-5:30 Sat.9:00-1:00
Drive Thru: Mon-Wed 8:30 5:30
Thurs 9:00-5:30 Friday-8:30-5:30
Sat. 9:00-1:00

Seton Branch

4801 Seton Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
Mon-Thu 9:00-4:00; Fri 9-5:30;
Sat 9:00-1:00
Drive thru: Mon-Wed 8:30-5:30;
Thurs 9:00-5:30; Fri 8:30-5:30;
Sat 9:00-1:00

Charles L. Benton Jr.

Westview Center Branch

5910 Baltimore National Pike
Catonsville, MD 21228
Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-1
Drive thru: Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 8:30-5:30;
Thurs 9-5:30; Sat 9:00-1:00

Commerce Center Branch

1777 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, Maryland 21208
Mon-Fri 12:00-7:00; Sat 9:00-1:00

Cranbrook Branch

570 Cranbrook Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030
Mon-Thu 9:00-4:00; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9:00-1:00
Drive thru: Mon-Wed 8:30-5:30;
Thurs 9-5:30; Fri 8:30-5:30; Sat 9:00-1:00

Dundalk Branch

7220 Holabird Avenue
Dundalk, MD 21222
Mon-Thurs 9:00-4:00; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9:00-1:00

Loch Ridge Center Branch

8507 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21286
Lobby and Drive thru:
Mon-Fri 12:00-7:00; Sat 9:00-1:00



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MECU.com/CashBack

*Certain conditions and qualifications apply. Federally Insured by NCUA

