

2023 Winter Newsletter

2024 Holiday Closings

January 1 st	New Year's Day
January 15 th	MLK Jr. Day
February 19 th	Presidents Day
March 29 th *	Good Friday [noon closing]
May 27 th	Memorial Day
June 19 th	Juneteenth
July 4 th	Independence Day
September 2 nd	Labor Day *
October 14 th	Columbus Day
November 11 th	Veterans Day
November 28 th	Thanksgiving Day
December 24 th	Christmas Eve [noon closing]
December 25 th	Christmas
December 31 st	New Year's Eve [2:00 pm closing]

Letter from the CEO/GM

Dear Fellow Member,

As I reflect back on 2023, what a year it has been both personally and professionally. I am very proud to work every day with our board, employees, and members to make USSCO FCU not only a great place to work but a business that believes in community and helping others.

Throughout 2023, USSCO has helped many local organizations with donations such as Shop with a Cop, Toys for Tots, Operation BeYoutiful, and so many more that I cannot name them all. The Cambria County Shop with a Cop program, in its second year, helps deserving local children enjoy a wonderful holiday season. When you hear the stories from local law enforcement officers about their experiences shopping with the children, it warms your soul. I understand times are tough for so many people today but please consider helping local charities, whether it is monetary or just to help out as a volunteer. We will do our part in 2024 and beyond. Donations help your local community members.

I am very proud to announce that USSCO FCU was named the winner for BEST Credit Union and a finalist for BEST Company Culture in Somerset County. We were also named the winner of the Tribune-Democrat's Simply the BEST Credit Union. We are committed to providing excellent, friendly, and efficient service to our members at all of our locations.

As I look forward to 2024, USSCO will be awarding the Friday Night Rivals [FNR] Student/Athlete Scholarship winner sometime in the first part of the year. In conjunction with WJAC TV, USSCO will be giving \$5,000 to the FNR Scholarship winner. There were many nominees throughout the high school football season from local schools and we are proud of them all. Good luck to all the nominees.

USSCO is awarding four \$1,500 scholarships – one from each community office – to four deserving USSCO members. Letters went out in early December to members graduating in 2024. If someone didn't receive a letter, please stop in any office or download one in "Resources / What's happening?" on our website. Deadline to submit applications with supporting documentation is February 9 at 6:00 pm. Winners will be selected and notified by phone. Good luck to everyone!

I would like to thank the board, staff, and our wonderful members for a successful 2023. I look forward to building relationships and introducing products and services that will enhance your experience with USSCO FCU. We are very appreciative of our membership and the opportunity to serve you. This past year was successful even with some obstacles along the way and I look forward to another successful year in 2024. Thank you all and have a great 2024!

Sincerely,
Greg Sisitki



CEO/GM
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gsisitki@usscofcu.net

We hope you enjoy the article about Three Common Money Mistakes People Make on page 2. If you'd like to see more content like this, please let me know.

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Three Common Money Mistakes People Make

Everyone wants to manage their money responsibly, but many people often make mistakes in ways they handle money—without even realizing it. They may have fallen into a bad habit they can't shake off, or they may be misinformed or less educated in a certain area. The good news is, harmful behaviors can always be unlearned. Let's take a look at three common money mistakes and how to fix them.

Mistake #1: Ignoring one's financial situation

It is quite common for people to go about their everyday lives without giving much thought to their financial situation. They may not know how much money they have in their checking and saving accounts, be blissfully ignorant of their outstanding debt and/or have no awareness about the quality of their credit score.

Unfortunately, when it comes to money, ignorance is NOT bliss. Ignoring money can lead to serious consequences, like insurmountable debt, missed payments and minimal or no savings for future needs. By turning a blind eye to one's financial health, they risk falling into a cycle of financial instability and stress.

The fix: To avoid this mistake, assess your income, expenses and savings on a regular basis. Creating a budget can help you get a handle on your financial inflows and outflows, which will enable you to make informed decisions about your spending habits. By confronting your financial situation head-on, you can identify areas where you can cut back, save more and, best of all, achieve and maintain financial wellness.

Mistake #2: Not having a clear money vision

The second common money mistake is a lack of a financial plan or goals. Without an established money vision, it can be challenging to make smart money choices. You may find that you slip into negative financial habits when there are no goals to keep you in line. These poor habits include [but are not limited to] spending impulsively, accumulating unnecessary debt or failing to save for your future.

The fix: It's crucial to establish short-term and long-term financial goals. Whether it's saving for a down payment on a house, starting a business or planning for retirement, having a clear vision will guide all your financial decisions and ensure they're choices you can live with for years to come. To make it easier, break down your goals into actionable steps, such as setting aside a specified amount of money for savings each month or investing in assets that align with your long-term plans. A vision will provide you with motivation, purpose and a sense of control over your financial future.



Mistake #3: Not discussing money

The third common money mistake is failing to talk about money within various kinds of relationships. This can be a relationship between parents and children, business partners or, most commonly, between life partners. Money is a sensitive topic, and many people believe they can avoid arguing over money by simply not talking about it. Unfortunately, though, this rarely works. Instead, not talking about money can lead to misunderstandings, conflict and financial instability within the relationship.

The fix: Have open and honest discussions about money with your partner. This includes talking about shared financial goals, spending habits and even potential conflicts surrounding money. By establishing open lines of communication, you can work together to create a joint financial plan that aligns with both partners' values and aspirations. Regular conversations about money can also help to build trust, ensure financial transparency and avoid surprises or hidden financial burdens down the road.

Money mistakes are common, but with some knowledge and proactive steps, you can easily avoid them. Use this guide to learn how to fix three common money mistakes and avoid making them in the future. Or ask us for guidance. We're here to help you!

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Your new best friend is waiting...
at our Humane Society of Cambria County Pet Adoption Events

We had a lot of fun this summer and fall with joint Pet Adoption/Friday Food Trucks in front of our Richland Office. Food trucks are new for us but we're already looking forward to scheduling Fridays in May through October 2024. Along with more pet adoptions!



If you have a great food truck and want to get on our schedule—or know someone who does, please contact Kathleen Condo at 814.361.6228 DL or kcondo@usscofcu.net.



OCTOBER'S MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH

We love Member Appreciation Month! It's our chance to show our wonderful USSCO members—like you—how much we appreciate you and your trust and continued support.

This year's grand prizes—Blackstone 36-inch Culinary Omnivore Griddle with Hood 4-Burner Liquid Propane Flat Top Grills PLUS Accessories!—were a big hit in each community office, along with FREE shredding, FREE coin counting, and a really nice 12-inch ice scraper as a giveaway for all members.

It was lots of fun! And that ice scraper is going to come in really handy soon...

Our Happy Winners...



Richland: Ruth Hastie
Moxham: Annette Schrock and granddaughter
Somerset: Donald McCleary
Ebensburg: Roxanne Sickles

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Board of Directors Election: May 22, 2024 @ 5:30pm Richland Administrative Office

The USSCO Nominating Committee placed the following names on the 2023 USSCO Federal Credit Union Board of Directors Ballot.



Margaret "Peggy" Miller [Incumbent]

Peggy was Manager of the Office/Personnel Department of Highland Tank & Mfg. for 44 years and continues to consult professionally as needed. She serves on USSCO's Personnel Committee and previously served as Chairperson of the

Supervisory Committee. Peggy is Treasurer of Mostoller Methodist Church and the H.O.M.E Charge. She and her husband Don reside near Stoystown.



Gerald Smith [Incumbent]

Gerry retired from Lockheed Martin Aeroparts as Director of Finance. He is Secretary/Treasurer of USSCO's Board and Secretary of the ALCO [Asset Liability] Committee.



Shawn Kauffman [Incumbent]

Shawn Kauffman is the Director of Human Resources at McAneny Brothers, Inc., a wholesale distributor supplying stores in 5 states. Prior experience includes HR leadership roles in heavy manufacturing, construction, and commercial real estate companies. Shawn has also

been teaching part time for the Business Department at Mount Aloysius College for 20+ years. He and his wife Becky reside in Richland Township and have 2 wonderful children.

Individuals not selected to be on the ballot by the Nominating Committee may still be placed on the ballot by means of a petition. Nominations for vacancies on the Board of Directors can be made by submitting a petition signed by 1% of the current credit union membership. To be effective, nominations by petition must be accompanied by a signed certificate from the nominee[s] stating that they are agreeable to nomination and will serve if elected to office. Each nominee by petition must also submit a brief statement of qualifications and biographical data with the petition. Petitions may be picked up at any of the four office locations.

Qualifications should include being a USSCO member for a minimum of 3 years, minimum age requirement 18, bondable, community involvements, and must not be affiliated with any interests that conflict with USSCO policies. Nominations by petition must be received no later than April 12, 2024. The election will not be conducted by ballot and there will be no nominations from the floor when the number of nominees equals the number of positions to be filled.

USSCO FCU Supports the Shop with a Cop Program

We were thrilled to host this year's press conference announcing Cambria County's Shop with a Cop program. It was a beautiful day to be outside our Richland Office and help get the news out! Both Cambria and Somerset programs do such good in the community and give deserving local kids a truly happy shopping trip and holiday. This one is really special for us.



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