

Money matters to **people**. People matter to **us**.

MoneyMatters



Medicare Made Simple

Breaking down the ABCs of Medicare

Health and Taxes

Enjoy a triple-tax advantage with a Health Savings Account

Jobs with Flexibility

Full-time, part-time, remote work... it all starts here

Serving Veterans and Their Families

How we support those who served

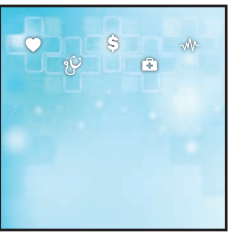
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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Money matters to **people**.
People matter to **us**.

A Note from Ty

2022 has been a year of uncertainty. Inflation, the war in Ukraine, market volatility... all have major impacts on the day to day things, like your gas and your groceries. It's been uncertain and it's been tough. Throughout, though, Visions has remained steadfast and here to assist you, our greatest asset.

To that end, we've consistently looked for ways to help you out. We brought back our Double Skip program, easing your budget during the summer months. We raised our deposit rates so your dollars stretch further. We offered a Double Bump Share Certificate to guarantee you a boost in your savings and ease your concerns on missing rising rate opportunities. We've grown our financial wellness program, offered you tools to elevate your cash flow, and helped you consolidate debt.

Every day, our leadership team asks ourselves, "How can we make Visions matter to our members, employees, and community?" There's no single answer to this question, but I think it boils down to meeting you where you are. Perhaps that's over the phone, using our new Smart Teller system. Or maybe it's online, where you can now manage digital assets without going to another app. Or even in person, stopping into one of our new or renovated offices.

In return, you've rewarded us with continuously high satisfaction scores. I've said it before and I'll say it again: your feedback is the greatest gift you can give us. It lets us know that we're doing the right thing, and by doing that, we can continue to help more people.

Ultimately, that's our mission: helping people. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you. Thanks for placing your trust in us. Thanks for telling your friends and neighbors about the Visions difference.

You make Visions matter to me.

Tyrone Muse
President/CEO





Do any projects or organizations stand out as a personal favorite?

"Since I was a child, I've had a relationship with my hometown Boys and Girls Club. Recognizing the need for this organization to thrive, I started committing my time to the club as a volunteer.

Ultimately, volunteering and coaching at the Boys and Girls Club led me to a seat on the club's board of directors. Our board's efforts helped to expand the fitness facilities, build a new space for concessions, and dedicate local fields to youth athletics. It's so important to give our children a strong foundation!"

Angela F. Branch Manager



Visions donated \$250 to Angela's nonprofit organization of choice:

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF
NORTHWEST NJ
BGCNWNJ.ORG**

Employee Volunteer Spotlight

"I volunteer to support people's quality of life. If I can, even in a small way, improve the quality of life for one or many, I am grateful for the opportunity."

What are some ways you improve the quality of life in your community?

"Mostly, I try to focus my efforts on where I feel a strong purpose or see the greatest need. I love giving back in a variety of ways, serving different groups to reach more people, and Visions is great at providing those opportunities.

I've helped volunteer for dozens of food banks, toy drives, and library events over the years and have served on volunteer boards and planning committees with the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Project Graduation, Alliance for a Better Community, and our local Chamber of Commerce."



New York

Our Syracuse and Cicero, NY branches teamed up with other departments to collect donations for Rise Above Poverty, a nonprofit supporting the Syracuse City School District and other organizations in need.



Pennsylvania

Visions provided a \$5,000 grant to the Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs. These funds were provided for immediate relief to veterans facing financial difficulties.



New Jersey

Visions employees presented a Denim Days donation to the Comfort Zone Camp, a nonprofit bereavement organization supporting children who have experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or loved one.

Buy and Sell Bitcoin

You've heard us talk about digital assets before, and with the market changing all the time, you might be asking "Why?" At the end of the day, it's pretty simple: it's a new technology that can support improved financial services. That means new possibilities.

We've got a team dedicated to studying cryptocurrency and the blockchain. Because beyond digital assets, the blockchain has the potential to impact several facets of our life, from self-driving cars to enhancing our core processes here at Visions.

Looking at today, though, that means letting our members get started with Bitcoin, right in digital banking. It's an easy way to dip your toes in this new sphere. Just log in and select Buy and Sell Bitcoin from the menu. **We'll even give you a \$5 Bitcoin bonus for enrolling by November 30th.***

Not only that, we've compiled a list of educational resources at visionsfcu.org/bitcoin to help make sense of it all, bit by bit.

*Some restrictions apply. Must become a member to enroll. Membership requires \$1 minimum deposit; ask for membership eligibility details or visit visionsfcu.org to become a member. Must enroll in Buy and Sell Bitcoin feature in Visions digital banking by 11/30/22. Program details subject to change. Bonus will be deposited into member's Buy and Sell Bitcoin wallet as a \$5 value of Bitcoin, as determined by NYDIG at the time of bonus deposit. Bonus coin value will be deposited within 3 business days of enrollment. May lose value. Promotion is sponsored solely by Visions Federal Credit Union. Bitcoin is not federally insured by the NCUA.

Travel-Ease

Why Fly with Your Credit Card

Whether you're heading south to avoid winter weather or visiting relatives in another country, your Visa® Platinum or Elite Visa Signature® card can help you get there – and navigate challenges if things don't go as planned!

Check out these great benefits to help you travel smarter.



Checking your bags?

Baggage Delay Reimbursement

Imagine, you make it to the destination, but your baggage is held up in transit for over four hours! With Baggage Delay Reimbursement, you could be reimbursed up to \$300 if you need to purchase certain necessities while awaiting your checked bags.

Lost Luggage Reimbursement*

Lost luggage can dampen your plans, but when you purchase your tickets with an Elite Visa Signature, you could receive reimbursement for your checked luggage or carry-on items in the event they get lost or stolen.

New flight plans?

Trip Delay Reimbursement*

Is there anything more irritating than your flight being delayed? With Trip Delay coverage, you can receive up to \$300 when you're stuck for more than twelve hours due to a covered hazard.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Benefits*

Life happens and it sometimes disrupts our plans. When you purchase your travel tickets with an Elite Visa Signature and need to cancel or cut your trip short, this could help reimburse the non-refundable cost of your trip.

But what if...?

Travel and Emergency Assistance Services

For assistance with travel emergencies, stay calm and call Visa's multilingual assistance services. They can connect you with translators, transportation, legal referrals, and more, to help you navigate challenges anywhere you go.

Travel Accident Insurance

Add peace of mind to your itinerary. Purchase your airline ticket with your covered Visa card and you can enjoy Travel Accident Insurance, covering accidental bodily injuries that occur during travel for up to \$1,000,000.

And more!

Car trouble? Call Visa's Roadside Dispatch. Visiting another country? Skip the foreign transaction fees with Elite Visa Signature. More secure than cash and loaded with perks, your credit card from Visions is the easy choice for financing travel plans this holiday season.

Get to know your card's benefits to make the most of your card and your vacations. Details and helpful links are available at visionsfcu.org/creditcards.

Interested in Elite Visa Signature®?

Apply online! Log into your account and select Apply for a Loan to get started.

In person and phone applications are also available.

Certain terms, conditions, and exclusions apply. Use your covered card to secure coverage for transactions. For benefit and policy details, visit usa.visa.com/support.html

*Does not apply to Visa Platinum. Must use Elite Visa Signature to qualify.

Jobs with Flexibility

Not everyone wants or needs the traditional “9 to 5” at the office. If you’re looking for something specific that offers you a **healthy work-life balance** or **opportunities to grow**, or if you know someone else who’s seeking a new job, check in with Visions. We’re flexible enough to meet a range of lifestyles and needs – and we’re always hiring!

Part-time what?

Positions at Visions span from traditional full-time jobs with a 40-hour work week to part-time jobs, internships, and even roles we call “part-time plus,” featuring a 30-hour work week with full-time benefits. All employees, from part-time interns to full-time employees, have access to certain benefits, including tons of employee perks, discounts, and our learning and development opportunities.

Your plans matter.

When you accept a job offer, wherever it may be, you shouldn’t feel stuck. That’s why we offer growth and development opportunities to all our employees. We love watching staff develop within the company and discover what position really fits their interests and strengths. Where do you want to be in five years? Maybe we could help you get there.

Tell us when and where.

You may be expecting to grow your family or take an online class at the local community college. Those decisions are easier to handle when you have flexible hours or the option to work remotely. Big snowstorm? Maybe you can work from home. Car inspection? Flex your work hours to schedule that appointment. Depending on the needs of each department, job responsibilities and flexibility can vary, but we’re dedicated to supporting our staff in these ways and more. It’s all part of a healthy work-life balance.

Visions Federal Credit Union is an equal opportunity employer whose goal is to achieve a positive work atmosphere while encouraging a healthy work-life balance. M/F Disabled and Vet EEO/AA Employer.



We want to Make Visions Matter in the lives of our employees.

Check out our openings! See which jobs are aligned with your experience at visionsfcu.org/careers. Or, if you aren’t quite sure, you can apply as “General Interest.” You’ll discover a variety of opportunities, and you may be surprised how well we fit your lifestyle.



Browse careers and apply today!



Keep it Current

Is your information up to date?

As a Visions member, you should keep your account information updated, and it's a bright idea to check it every year. Here are three good reasons.

1. Communications

When we have outdated contact information, we can't notify you if your shares need your attention. Plus, you have a stake in Visions, and we want to keep you informed of important updates, events, policy changes, and the many ways we support our communities.

2. Fraud

When you update passwords regularly and protect your personal information, you're taking steps to defend against fraudsters and crooks. We're busy doing the same, keeping a lookout for unusual activity to protect your accounts. If we flag a suspicious transaction, we need accurate contact information to request your approval – or to shut it down ASAP!

3. Dormancy

When your account shows no activity, the state may consider it "abandoned property" and claim your funds. Before that happens, we'll reach out to you, using the contact information listed on your account. Instead of chasing down funds and worrying about the state, you're better off keeping your details up to date.

The question is... *is your information up to date?*

Stop by your local branch or give our Contact Center a call at **800.242.2120** to verify your phone, email, and mailing address and make any necessary changes.

Or, open the **Profile and Settings** menu in digital banking. You'll find several ways to stay current in your account – Manage Alerts, Security Preferences, Address/Contact Info, and more!



Don't miss out on a Visions Scholarship!

For undergrad, current students, and even those in graduate programs in 2023:

Visions Cares Scholarships – available for Visions members in good standing

Visions Salutes Scholarships – offered to students who are children or legal dependents of Visions' veteran members

**Save the date! We're accepting applications
December 1 - March 31 at visionsfcu.org/scholarships.**



IDENTITY THEFT IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, when businesses and industry professionals shine a spotlight on online security. Here's how you can protect your identity online and reduce your risk of becoming another victim of identity theft.

Cybersecurity tips:

- **Create strong passwords** for online accounts using 10-12 characters, a combination of capital and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols
- **Review privacy settings** on social networking sites, tighten security preferences, and avoid sharing your personal information
- **Update software** on your computer, tablet, and smartphone to ensure the latest security features
- **Protect your home wi-fi network** with a strong, unique password
- **Don't click** on "phishy" emails from unknown senders – when in doubt, delete them!

If your information is somehow compromised, you may still be able to prevent losses and defend against fraudsters' attempts by taking prompt action. Here are the steps you should take if you ever become the victim of identity theft.

Responding to identity theft:

1. **Place a fraud alert** with one of the three major credit bureaus (Experian, Equifax, or TransUnion). They'll notify the other bureaus, so you don't have to
2. **Obtain your credit report** from annualcreditreport.com, where it's free to request a copy once per year
3. **Submit a complaint** with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at identitytheft.gov
4. **Contact Visions** or anywhere you bank. We can help you tighten security on your accounts or add a password to keep your funds protected

When you consider the digital world we live in and all the ways information can be stolen, it might seem overwhelming. Remember, your Visions account includes free identity theft protection with IDNotify™ by Experian®, which you can access anytime in digital banking once you've enrolled. If you see unrecognized activity on your bank account, receive suspicious phone calls, emails, or texts, or believe your identity has been stolen, reach out to us at 800.242.2120.



NEW IN DIGITAL BANKING

Donate with Givio

Launching this fall – perfect timing for your end of year donations!

With Givio, you can support or raise funds for over 1.6 million different charities, schools, religious organizations, and more – including those in your own community – all through your digital banking account. Plus, Givio simplifies tax time by storing your entire giving history – and all the corresponding tax receipts – in one place. You can even download reports to send to your accountant.

To start donating or explore the long list of eligible charities, log into your Visions account and click **Donate with Givio**.

CardSwap

Ever lost or replaced your card? Then you'll know the hassle of updating your payment information on various websites. With CardSwap, you can do it in a matter of minutes.

Here's how simple it is:

1. Log into digital banking
2. Link your accounts to **CardSwap** – located under the Card Services menu
3. Enter your new card information and confirm the swap

CardSwap works for dozens of popular companies, including subscriptions, ride-share and delivery companies, online shopping, streaming services, and more.

Need support with your digital banking account or CardSwap? Call our Contact Center at **800.242.2120**.

Did you know?

If you want to buy Bitcoin more frequently, we've made it easy with Buy and Sell Bitcoin. Simply set up a recurring transaction and select how often you want to make your purchase! For more information about Buy and Sell Bitcoin, see page 4.



Medicare Made Simple.

Let's just get it out of the way: healthcare can be complicated. Between premiums, networks, and deductibles, it's enough to make your head spin. When it comes to Medicare, though, things can get even more difficult. You're still juggling those same concerns, but now you need to consider how it ties into your retirement planning.

That's why Visions has partnered with Medicareful to bring you comprehensive guidance from a name you already know and trust, all delivered by licensed agents that care about your well-being. We've been with you through many stages of life – now we want to help you through the next.

Breaking down the ABCs – and D! – of Medicare

Medicare Part A

Your basic coverage for inpatient hospital or skilled care, as well as services in a nursing facility, hospice, or home health care environment.

- Most individuals become eligible if they or their spouse paid into Social Security for at least 10 years throughout their employment – and if they're a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.
- Most people don't pay a premium for Part A because they or their spouse paid Medicare taxes while working
- Comes with a deductible for each inpatient benefit period

Medicare Part B

Provides coverage for doctor visits, outpatient hospital care, lab tests, and other medical services.

- In general, if you're eligible for Part A, you're eligible for Part B
- Part B requires a monthly premium – most people deduct it directly from their monthly Social Security check
- Comes with an annual deductible amount and other costs such as coinsurance

Medicare Part C

Often referred to as Medicare Advantage Plans, these are Medicare-approved health insurance options offered by private health insurance companies that tend to come with extra benefits not covered by Original Medicare (Parts A and B).

- Combines Parts A and B under a single plan
- Provides a way to reduce your out-of-pocket costs
- Often comes with additional coverage benefits for things such as prescription drugs, dental and vision, routine physicals, and health and wellness programs
- Offers benefits equal to or better than Medicare's standard Part D plan requirements

Medicare Part D

Like Part C, Part D is offered through private health insurance companies as a way to cover prescription drug costs.

Medicare Supplement Plans (Medigap Plans)

As the name suggests, these supplement plans work hand-in-hand with Parts A and B to help pay costs that Original Medicare does not, such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles.

- Comes with a monthly premium
- Offered through private insurance companies

Thinking about your future? We are, too.

You can also visit us online at visionsfcu.org/medicare. You'll find a full listing of free informational sessions near you, as well as the option to connect with one of our licensed representatives.

If you want to learn more about Visions' Medicare offerings, give us a call at **800.242.2120, option 4**, or connect with our team directly!

Medicare and retirement planning doesn't have to be complicated. Let's find a plan that works for you and your goals – together.

Our Medicare team is here to help!

Our licensed professionals can help you understand your coverage and determine the best plan for you and your needs. Contact one of our professionals in your region and explore your options today.



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Important Dates and Information



• **Annual Enrollment Period (AEP):**

October 15, 2022 to December 7, 2022

• **Open Enrollment Period (OEP):**

January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023

• **Initial Coverage Enrollment Period (ICEP):**

Runs for seven months surrounding your 65th birthday (three months before, your birthday month, and three months after)

• **Special Enrollment Periods:**

Valid under certain circumstances; ask us for details

Important Note:

Each year, all Medicare Advantage and Part D Plan beneficiaries will receive their Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and Evidence of Coverage (EOC) from their existing plan providers, typically by September 30. Keep your eye out for this mailing from your current carrier and we will be happy to review the changes to your coverage for 2023.



Medicare Meetings

Our goal is to educate individuals in all the communities we serve. To find a meeting, schedule a virtual appointment, or connect with one of our representatives, visit visionsfcu.org/medicare.



For our New Jersey Members*

If you are a retired Teacher, Administrator, or State or Local Government member: our seminars and meetings will provide plan information on the NJ Individual Medicare Advantage and Supplemental plans. We are not licensed to discuss the State Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) or State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) health plans you are eligible for as retirees.

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

*For more information on your State Retiree Benefit Programs, through Aetna, please call or visit: SHBP: 866.234.3129 | SEHBP: 866.816.3662
Hours are Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm ET. Website: www.aetnastatenj.com.

VISIONS

INVESTMENT SERVICES

Helping You Pursue Financial Independence

Strategies for Your Wealth Management Needs

At Visions Investment Services, we focus on the financial circumstances and goals that are unique to you and your family. With that information, we help you create a personalized financial strategy based on your short-term and long-term objectives, then monitor it to help you stay on track.

Our services and strategies include:

- Retirement planning
- Investment planning
- Estate planning
- Education planning
- Tax strategies
- Business strategies
- Small-business strategies
- Insurance
- Risk management
- Gifting strategies

Call **800.242.2120, ext. 10469** to schedule a consultation or learn more at visionsfcu.org/investmentservices.



Have questions or want to make an appointment? Give us a call at 800.242.2120, ext. 10469.

Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker/dealer. (Member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products offered through LPL Financial or its licensed affiliates. Visions Federal Credit Union (VFCU) and Visions Investment Services **are not** registered as a broker/dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using the name Visions Investment Services, and may also be employees of VFCU. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from and not affiliates of VFCU or Visions Investment Services. Securities and insurance offered through LPL and its affiliates are:

Not Insured by NCUA or Any
Federal Government Agency

Not Credit Union
Guaranteed

Not Credit Union Deposit or
Obligations

May Lose
Value

LPL Tracking #1-05319837

Our Member Saved WHAT?!

Nothing makes us feel better than helping our members, which is why we're always looking for opportunities to improve your financial well-being. Sometimes it's as easy as balancing a checkbook, other times it's saving you money on loan payments. Here's a great story from Stephanie in Endicott, NY:

A member came in last week stressed about her finances. Around 90% of her monthly income was going to debt payments, and she began to consider ignoring payments to make room in her budget for other expenses. Smartly, she asked her parents for their advice first – and they brought her straight to us!

While we met to crunch numbers and consider options, her parents were also here, in case she needed a cosigner to consolidate her debt. We were able to save her \$500 per month, including debt protection to give her parents extra peace of mind as coborrowers. With those savings in hand, we discussed the benefits of paying extra principal each month or setting aside funds in a savings account as a financial cushion. As the family left my office, she was so grateful, thanking her parents for guiding her in the right direction.

Read, Solve, WIN!

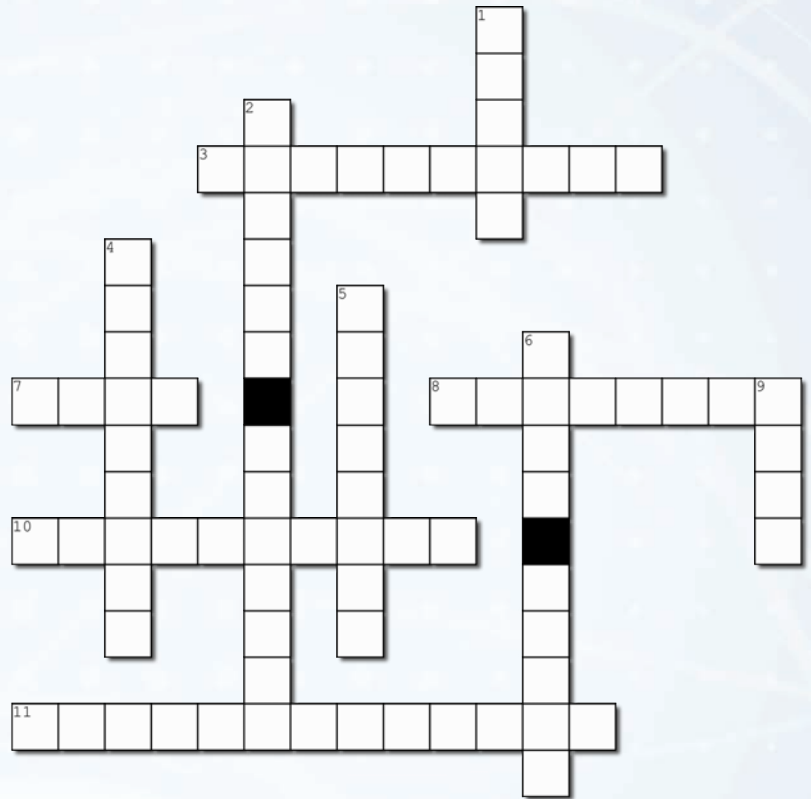
Complete this crossword puzzle, submit your answers at visionsfcu.org/puzzle, and you could be eligible to win one of five Dunkin'® gift cards!*

Down

1. Dormant accounts could be claimed by the _____ as "abandoned property."
2. When you purchase your _____ with Elite Visa Signature, you could qualify for Trip Cancellation and Interruption Benefits.
4. We're launching Givio just in time for your end of year _____.
5. Qualified expenses for your HSA could include trips to the _____.
6. Midterm elections are being held _____. (two words)
9. This November 7th, we're honoring Veterans Day with our first annual Veterans _____ in Binghamton, NY.

Across

3. Our members are our largest fraud _____ team.
7. A Charitable _____ Trust would list a charity as your primary beneficiary.
8. Life decisions can be easier to handle when you have _____ hours or the option to work remotely.
10. Exploring new possibilities, we've got a team dedicated to studying cryptocurrency and the _____.
11. October is National _____ Awareness Month.



CONGRATS, Q3 WINNERS!

Regina B.
Binghamton, NY

Steven Z.
Jonestown, PA

Frank Z.
Arlington, NJ

Debra W.
Elmira, NY

Raelyn S.
Horseheads, NY

Thank you to all our members who participated.

*Visions Federal Credit Union membership required. Visions membership requires a \$1 minimum deposit; certain restrictions apply, ask for membership eligibility details. Must be 18 years or older. Answers must be submitted at visionsfcu.org/puzzle by 10/31/22; no alternate methods of entry apply. Limit (1) entry per person. Winners will be chosen at random; odds of winning based on total number of entries. Winners may only win one prize. Winners will be notified by mail by 11/20/22. Winners consent to have Visions Federal Credit Union use their first name, last initial, city, and state in social media posts or future advertising and promotional materials. Promotion sponsored solely by Visions Federal Credit Union.

Enjoy reading our magazine? Prove it on Facebook for another chance to win!*

Your chance to win is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!

1. LIKE us on Facebook.
2. READ some of our articles in MoneyMatters.
3. COMMENT with your favorite article from this issue – and why!

Do it all between October 17th and 31st and you'll be entered to win one of five \$10 Dunkin'® gift cards.

#ReadToWin

Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook:



We're also on Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube!

Follow all our social media accounts to see important updates and announcements, including branch closures, construction projects, community involvement, and more.



*Visions Federal Credit Union membership required with \$1 minimum deposit. Certain membership eligibility requirements apply; ask for details. No additional purchase or account opening required. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Visions FCU employees and their immediate family members are ineligible. No restriction on county of residence. Must comment on Visions' pinned Facebook post with title of favorite article and reason why; no alternate methods of entry apply. Limit (1) entry per person. Winners will be chosen at random; odds of winning based on total number of entries. Winners may only win one prize. Winners will be notified via social media by 11/4/22; must respond by 11/11/22 or entry will be forfeit and new winners will be randomly selected. This promotion is sponsored solely by Visions Federal Credit Union. Winners will have a consent and release option for Visions Federal Credit Union to use their name, photo, or likeness in social media posts or future advertising and promotional materials. Submit entries between 10/17/22 and 10/31/22. Prizes may be reportable for tax purposes. Visions Federal Credit Union, 24 McKinley Ave. Endicott, NY 13760. Phone: 800.242.2120.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: FRAUD

When you think of Visions, you probably think of our frontline staff: our tellers, account specialists, even our Contact Center over the phone. But there's so much going on behind the scenes, from software to security to community outreach. Take our Fraud Department, for example.

As a loyal reader, you've probably seen our section on Identity Theft (page 8). Since we started this magazine, the Fraud Department has highlighted topics like security and fraud protection in every issue. We've posted educational resources as publicly as possible – online and in our branches, too – because YOU, our members, are our largest fraud prevention team. You're not alone, though.

As the in-house experts on scams, identity theft, and suspicious transactions, it's the Fraud Department's business to study fraud. We're watching the latest statistics and trends in fraud, understanding what scams look like and how to counter them. From local to global threats, the landscape changes daily. The good news is, our team is on the lookout.

In addition to studying the criminals, we monitor member accounts for red flags and unusual activity. Let's say, for example, we spot a suspicious request for a money transfer or discover a fraudulent check that passed through your account. Hoping to protect you from those risks, we might contact you to confirm the authenticity of the transfer request or to trace the source of the scam. The more we uncover, the more we can help prevent future incidents of fraud.

If you ever receive a call from our Fraud Department, you can rest assured that we're trying to protect your financial wellbeing. Speaking of which...

How do you know if it's really us?

Be diligent, like we are. If you receive a call or text message claiming to be from us, whether it's our Fraud Department or any other Visions team, you can verify the source by calling our Contact Center at **800.242.2120**. If you're suspicious, simply write down the caller's name and number, tell them you'll call back later, and then make sure it's the real deal. And remember: when we contact you, we won't be pressing you for secure information like your passwords or one-time passcodes. Never give that information to anyone.

Above all else, we want to make sure you're protected and educated about the threats that are out there. Learn more at visionsfcu.org/security.

Want to join our team or learn more about careers with Visions? Visit visionsfcu.org/careers to #ClaimYourSeat.

Visions Federal Credit Union is an equal opportunity employer whose goal is to achieve a positive work atmosphere while encouraging a healthy work/life balance.
M/F Disabled and Vet EEO/AA Employer.





HEALTH AND TAXES

HOW YOUR HSA CAN HELP WITH BOTH

When it comes to health expenses, you never know what to expect. Each year brings new surprises and unpredictable payments. Setting income aside in a Health Savings Account (HSA) could make it easier.

SAVINGS

If you have a high deductible health plan (HDHP), you might qualify for an HSA, a tax-exempt savings account intended to cover qualified medical expenses. What kind of HSA? Well, it could be a checking account, a money market account, even a retirement account! It depends how easily you want to access those funds and how long you expect them to sit in savings. With an HSA, you can have peace of mind that you've set money aside for medical expenses when you need it most. Even if you change plans or employers, the savings never expire.

EXPENSES

Most medical, dental, and vision care expenses that aren't covered by your insurance can be paid for using your HSA – and that includes the medical expenses of your spouse and dependents, too. Want to

use the funds for new glasses? No problem. Expensive pregnancy costs? Tap into your HSA. Qualified expenses could be everyday trips to the pharmacy, surprise medical bills that are only partially covered by insurance, or almost anywhere in between. Where, when, and how you spend is up to you.

TAXES

When you deposit to your HSA, not only are you saving for your health, but you're also saving on taxes. These accounts feature a "triple tax incentive" from the IRS: first, your deposits are made with pre-tax income; second, if you're earning dividends in an HSA, that income isn't taxed; and third, if you're spending your HSA on qualified medical expenses, then you don't have to pay taxes on your withdrawal. Just be sure to save your receipts, so you can prove where you spent it.

NOW MAY BE THE RIGHT TIME TO START

Expecting to spend money on your health this year? Whether you see expenses on the horizon or not, prepare for medical costs and pay less in taxes when you take advantage of an HSA. It's a win/win!

ASK ABOUT OUR HSA

Your HSA at Visions could include:

- Complimentary debit card and free box of checks once per year
- Easy access in digital banking to track your expenses
- Direct deposit from your payroll
- Employer contributions
- ...and more!

For more information, visit visionsfcu.org/HSA or ask a representative for details.

Visions Federal Credit Union does not provide tax advice. Consult with your insurance provider and a tax professional for more details.

Serving Veterans and Their Families

Since 2018, our Veterans Program has been **serving those who served**, giving special attention to the needs of veterans and their loved ones in our communities. Here's a look at how we support them in our branches and beyond.

At Visions, we welcome veterans and their spouses with an exclusive \$50 new member bonus and offer additional bonus opportunities for many of our loan products.* Since we started the Veterans Program, **we've given nearly \$33,000 per year** to veteran members, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

Patriotic Cards with a Purpose

To help our members support veterans, we launched our Americana debit card design at the same time as our Veterans Program. Now, whenever a member selects this special design, we donate \$5 to support veterans in our communities. By the end of 2022, we'll have gifted over **\$80,000 to veteran support organizations**.



If you have an account with Visions, you could help join the cause, too! Stop by your local branch to request the Americana debit card today.

Supporting Vets in the Community

Our support for veterans stretches into their clubs and gathering spaces, where our team of nationally accredited counselors will host free seminars on a range of topics,



including specialized presentations for veterans groups. As a result, hundreds of veterans use our one-on-one financial counseling services and seminars each year.

Are you part of a local VFW, SVA, or American Legion? Email our team at education@visionsfcu.org to schedule time with us.

Giving Back

We volunteer locally and offer Visions Cares grants, sponsorships, and scholarships to support veterans and their families throughout our three-state footprint.

In just the last four years, we've provided contributions, in-kind donations, or volunteers for events and programs offered by Operation Homefront, Wounded Warriors in Action, Berks County Veterans Temporary Assistance, Vets in Nature, Warrior Strong, Clear Path for Veterans, Southern Tier Veterans Support Group, and more.

If you're a veteran looking for support for your local organizations, head to visionsfcu.org/cares.

Coming November 7th, 2022 The 1st Annual VETERANS EXPO

In honor of Veterans Day and in partnership with the Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, we're excited to announce our first annual Veterans Expo. Join us in Binghamton, NY for this FREE community resource fair to support veteran causes, support groups, university resources, and more. Visit visionsfcu.org/events for details.

We salute our troops and offer our gratitude to those who have served in our nation's armed forces. Thank you for your service!

*Veteran Status: program valid for veteran service members and their spouses only. Proof of service required and must be shown at account opening. Valid forms of identification include, but are not limited to: Military ID card, Veterans ID card, or DD 214 Form, if applicable. Check out the full list of available bonuses at visionsfcu.org/veterans.



Why Trusts?

When life can be filled with uncertainty, trusts are a great way to plan for the unknown. Trusts bring peace of mind by helping you, during your lifetime or after your passing, to manage your assets and beneficiaries – come what may. With a trust that suits your circumstances, your assets can be handled according to your wishes.

Types of Trusts:

A **Revocable Trust**, or a living trust, can be modified or revoked. If your circumstances or wishes change, the terms are flexible and can be amended or redrafted at any time.

An **Irrevocable Trust** cannot be revoked after creation. Generally, the terms cannot be modified in any way.

Charitable Trusts provide distributions to qualifying charities, such as religious organizations, civil defense organizations, and fraternal societies. The charities of your choosing could be named your primary beneficiary, as in a Charitable Lead Trust, or could receive your net remaining balance after primary distributions to your other beneficiaries, as in a Charitable Remainder Trust.

A **Special Needs Trust** is created for a beneficiary to receive financial support, without disqualifying the beneficiary from government benefits, like supplemental security income or Medicaid.

A **Spendthrift Trust** limits beneficiary access to trust funds, giving the trustee full authority over distributions. If beneficiaries may be unable to control their spending, the grantor can help the trustee make decisions about distributions by adding guidelines related to health, education, maintenance, and support.

A **Qualified Terminable Interest Property Trust (QTIP)** provides for a surviving spouse, while also saving remaining assets for future generations. It protects biological children from potential disinheritance.

In preparing for the future, trusts can be an essential part of your long-term financial plan. Please give us a call to schedule a meeting or email us at trust@visionsfcu.org for more information.

Sharon Burghardt, CTFA/Senior Trust Officer
800.242.2120, ext. 10684

Laura Maerkl, Trust Administrator
800.242.2120, ext. 10805

This article is for informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to provide specific legal or tax advice. For specific legal or tax advice, please consult with your attorney and/or accountant. Trust and Investment Products are uninsured, not guaranteed by Members Trust Company, any credit union or any federal agency. Any investment exposes an investor to investment risk, including the possible loss of principal.

Credit Union Advocacy

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is an act of service. It is using our collective voice to influence decision makers to serve us and our communities. This effort is critical to our survival as credit unions, helping to protect our members, our livelihoods, and our voices.

Why advocacy?

Credit union advocacy fights for common sense regulations that allow us, as a not-for-profit, to serve members and empower communities. Unfortunately, we face multiple threats to that mission, such as the fight over the credit union tax-exemption status. With strong advocacy, though, lawmakers hear us loud and clear as we demonstrate how they can support us.

Who helps us with advocacy?

Advocacy is the responsibility of everyone affected by the credit union movement – not only our staff, but also our members. Credit unions remain strong today due to the grassroots advocacy that exists in the movement. It's essential for legislators to know the enormous impact we make and it's vital that we exercise our individual voices as one combined voice.

How can I help?

Next month are the 2022 midterm elections. Go out and vote! And, to ensure your voice is heard, we invite you to visit visionsfcu.org/advocacy.

NEED TO Know



OFFICE CLOSINGS AND EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day

All Offices Closed

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Friday, November 11

Veterans Day

All Offices Closed

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Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day

All Offices Closed

.....

Monday, December 26

Christmas Day (observed)

All Offices Closed

.....

Monday, January 2

New Year's Day (observed)

All Offices Closed

Visit visionsfcu.org/events for upcoming seminars, activities, and more.

Location Updates

Our new building at the Town Square Mall opened in July. Check it out!



Town Square Mall

2521 Vestal Parkway East

Vestal, NY 13850

VISIONS NEEDS *You!*

Visions is looking for qualified members to serve on various volunteer committees – including our Board of Directors. As a volunteer, you can help shape the future of your credit union while using your skills to contribute to its mission.

Any member age 21 or older, with the exception of credit union employees and their immediate families, is eligible. A background in finance or the financial services industry would be helpful, but is not required. All inquiries are held in strict confidence. Applicants are subject to a credit check.

For complete details, contact Jenna Rosenberg at 800.242.2120, ext. 10429, or complete a volunteer application (available on our website or at any branch) and drop it off at any branch to her attention.

Visions has an exciting history built on the efforts of volunteers, strong leaders, and dynamic staff.

With your continued involvement, we look forward to many more successful years of serving you and your fellow members. Learn more at visionsfcu.org/volunteer.

Audit Verification Notice

As part of our annual Supervisory Committee audit, randomly selected members will receive letters requesting they confirm a loan or share balance with Visions. These letters will be sent in late October and will be signed by our Chief Audit Executive, Betty McQuay. Responses are to be sent to the CPA firm conducting the audit, Clifton Larson Allen LLP, 901 North Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203.

If you receive a confirmation letter, please respond as quickly as possible.

DIRECTORY

President & CEO

Tyrone E. Muse

Senior Vice Presidents

Kenneth M. Burt
Cynthia A. Schroeder
Steve Wayman
Tracey E. Wheeler

Vice Presidents

Christopher Alfaro
Lisa Darling
Darla Huff
Joe Keller
Kevin Kelly
Richard Muller
Thomas P. Novak
Jenna Rosenberg
Rebecca Trick
James L. Wyatt

Assistant Vice Presidents

Steven Atanasio
Mark Bowman
Maggie Coyne
Joel Deeter
Mandy L. DeHate
Lindsey Fiala
Derek Garcia
Sylvan Haferkamp
Joseph C. Ligouri
Charles McKinney
Betty McQuay,
Chief Audit Executive
Ada Myteberi
Christopher Sheffield
Sherri L. Steenwyk
Mark Whitney

Board of Directors

Christopher H. Marion, Chairperson
Mary C. Robinson, Vice Chairperson
Kelly A. Roche, Secretary
George S. Bobinski, Jr., Treasurer
Kenneth H. Kidder III
James J. Lewis
Michael A. Mullen
Laurie Schorno
Denise B. Stoughton

Supervisory Committee

Douglas J. Camin, Chairperson
Mark A. Wasser, Vice Chairperson
Fermin Romero III, Secretary
Stephanie Jerzak
Gordon E. Thompson
John K. Koniuto, alternate

KEEP YOUR ACCOUNT ACTIVE

Don't let your state claim your money! If you haven't done a transaction in a while, please call us to see how we can better help you meet all your banking needs and keep your account active to avoid being claimed by your state as "unclaimed property." Dormancy periods vary by state so visit the website unclaimed.org to find your state's law or to see if you have unclaimed property waiting for you.

Prefer a Digital Copy?

All member households will receive a mailed copy of MoneyMatters at the beginning of each quarter. If your household prefers to reference this financial magazine online, please complete the unsubscribe form at visionsfcu.org/moneymatters or call our Contact Center at 800.242.2120.

All loan types referenced in this publication are subject to Visions Federal Credit Union's standardized policies including, but not limited to, lending, membership, and creditworthiness. Please contact a credit union representative for more information regarding application requests.



Federally insured
by NCUA.





Coming soon... **Visions Text Messaging***

Be in touch when it matters most and save time with short, simple communication.

- Text us a keyword and we'll point you in the right direction
- Set text reminders when your payments are due
- Receive DocuSign notifications when it's time to sign paperwork

...and more, coming soon!

Add our short code to your contact list.

Visions Text Messaging is **VISFCU**, or **847328**.

This convenient service is coming soon – learn more at visionsfcu.org/textmessaging.

*Message and data rates may apply. To cancel, text STOP to 847328. This is currently an automated service; to reach a representative or verify a text message, please call 800.242.2120 during business hours.