

FORMEMBERSONLY

Message From Mary

Last winter seems like years ago doesn't it? Back then we were happy to update the new ATM outside the building, provide members new electronic features on our website, and begin work on other projects; and we were excited to talk about the future at our upcoming annual meeting.

Fast forward to spring and 'business as usual' took quite a turn! With the arrival of COVID-19, the lobby closed, the annual meeting was postponed, and all projects were put on hold. During the lock-down, our staff was determined to keep member services going efficiently and safely. Online options and drive-through banking helped members continue their usual transactions.

We were delighted to see our members after re-opening, and prepared well for that day, utilizing safety measures that included plexiglass shields, increased sanitization, and distancing.

Sadly, our usual annual meeting turned into a remote event. As you can imagine, the future is hard to predict, and it was the reason why we put a hold on a name change discussion. But we made sure to give a huge thanks to our outgoing Board member, Gene Hellman—and a warm welcome to our new Board member,



Mark Golding. It was also a memorable occasion for me as the board honored me with a lovely crystal award recognizing my 40 years of service to BCU.

Other annual events like our October recognition of International Credit Union Day, and our December Winter Greens celebration, held in our branch lobby, will also be on hold this year, or perhaps look a little different. Watch for our emails and Facebook posts for updates as virus and other related changes appear. If you're not on our email list be sure to let us know.

Despite the changing times, please know that your neighborhood credit union is on solid ground and dedicated to making it easy to handle all your financial needs. Stop by when you can! You'll always be greeted with a smile – even if behind out masks!

Notice to BCU Credit Card Holders:

Effective February 1, 2021, your BCU Visa credit card will no longer provide an auto rental collision damage waiver benefit. All other card benefits will remain in place. To obtain a description of your card benefits, please call 1-855-359-7012 to request a copy by mail.

Holiday Hours

- Thanksgiving**, Thursday, November 26: Closed
- Christmas Eve**, Thursday, December 24: Closing at noon
- Christmas Day**, Friday, December 25: Closed
- Saturday**, December 26: Closed
- New Year's Eve**, Thursday, December 31: Closing at 4:00 p.m.
- New Year's Day**, Friday, January 1: Closed



Suicide Prevention – Virtual Walk October 10, 2020

We're taking it local! BCU staff will be participating in the Prevent Suicide-Marathon County virtual walk on October 10, and we're inviting you to join us in supporting this cause. Just register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Wausau/WalkForSuicideMentalHealthAwareness> and make a donation (suggested minimum is \$20). Sign up by October 5, and you get a free T-shirt!

Participants are encouraged to complete their walks on this day and post selfies. All funds raised remain local and support mental health and suicide prevention education in Marathon County and the surrounding area! Feel free to call Karen at BCU at 715-359-7012 to learn more.

BCU Makes Credit Card Application Easy-Peasy!

So, you're looking for a credit card? Perhaps for a student heading to college? Or to consolidate debt, or even track your spending? Whatever the reason, you want to pick the BEST card for you, and we think we've got it.

Our cards offer exceptional rates, have no annual fees or balance transfer fees, and allow you to:

- View your card activity and make payments through online and mobile banking.
- Spend securely with **CardValet®**, the mobile app that lets you monitor your spending, turn your cards on and off, set up alerts and more.

Visa Platinum



If you want an incredible rate - currently 8.90% APR* - and rewards, choose our Visa Platinum card. Save on interest, whether purchases, balance transfers or cash advances. Great choice for consolidating other high rate cards – and again, there is no balance transfer fee. While you're doing that, you'll also be earning uChoose® rewards for use on airfare, merchandise, cash rebates and more. You get 1 point per \$1 purchased and more points through special in-store and online offers at a huge variety of retailers. Save interest; earn rewards!

Visa Gold



Big benefits here with an automatic cash rebate. Yes, we keep track of all the points you earn! When every November rolls around, your points are converted to dollars, and the credit applied to your credit card account. If you are one who pays off your card regularly and don't like messing with online rewards programs, this is the winner for you! Current rate is 12.90% APR*.

Applying is Easy.

You have enough days, so we make getting the business of applying for your card EASY. Go to the Services Tab on our website, and choose "Forms and Applications". Complete our quick credit card application and upload it to our Contact Us page, or return it to our office.

* Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is accurate as of 9/1/2020 and varies with the market based on the Prime Rate. Up to \$25 fee for late payments 10 or more days late; Up to \$25 fee if payment is returned for any reason. Foreign transactions assess a 2% fee in U.S. dollars.

Don't be Money Mule!



Here's the scenario. Someone offers you a job...or says you've won a sweepstakes...or starts an online relationship with you. Whatever the story, they next want to send you money – and then ask you to send it on to someone else. They often say to wire the money or use gift cards; maybe purchase bitcoin.

But the money you receive is stolen. And there never was a job, a prize, or a relationship – only a scam. That scammer was trying to get you to be what some people call a "money mule." If you deposit a scammer's check, it might seem to initially clear. But later, when the financial institution finds out it's a fake check, you'll have to repay the financial institution. And if you help a scammer move stolen money – even if you didn't know it was stolen – you could get into legal trouble.

How can you avoid money mule scams?

- **Don't accept a job that asks you to transfer money.** They may tell you to send money to a "client" or "supplier." Say no. You may be helping a scammer move stolen money.
- **Never send money to collect a prize.** That's always a scam, and they might be trying to get you to move stolen money.
- **Don't send money back to an online love interest who's sent you money.** Always a scam — and another way to get you to move stolen money.

If you are a Money Mule, stop communications with suspected criminals, stop transferring money or items of value, maintain receipts, contact information and communications, and notify local police or the nearest FBI field office. Learn more at <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/money-mule-awareness-booklet.pdf/view>.

'Safe Planning' for a Low Interest Savings Environment

Financial Planning Services are located here!

While savings dividends are below 1% and unlikely to come up anytime soon, there are options that may increase your flow of income at a responsible level of risk or maybe even no risk at all. FMS Financial Services, Inc., onsite at Brokaw Credit Union, is a financial planning team whose focus is to reduce the impact of:

- Low interest rates that are stunting the growth of extra income that helps meet living expenses.
- Paying income taxes on fixed rate returns.

FMS is onsite by appointment and places great emphasis on "safe" planning. If you have questions or concerns about accounts paying low interest rates, accounts maturing with low renewal interest rates, or have questions about the current rate environment, speak with an expert financial services team to assist. Call 715-359-7012 for a no-obligation consultation.



Kurt Powers



Ryan Powers

*Securities offered through Packerland Brokerage Services, Inc., an unaffiliated entity, Member FINRA & SIPC. Nonbank products and securities are not insured by the FDIC or any other federal government agency, and are not a deposit of, obligation of, or guaranteed by Brokaw Credit Union or FMS Financial Services located at Brokaw Credit Union. Investments are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal amount invested.

Student Scholarships Two Deserving Students!

Every year there's great joy in our office when it's time to hand a deserving high school student our BCU Student Scholarship! This year we had a tie! Two students, Greg Glovinski and Aurora Krause, stood out with excellent applications and essays.



Aurora, a Mosinee student and daughter of Roger and Dawn Krause, will be attending UWEC this fall, and pursuing Communicative Disorders. In her essay, Aurora wrote about the strong influence of her grandfather on taking financial responsibility. As a child she was a member of our Moola Club and talked fondly of her visits to the credit union. She also said she enjoyed attending our annual meetings!



Greg, the son of Jenny and Greg Glovinski, grew up just down the street from our Brokaw office. He is a spring graduate of Wausau East and is attending UWSP this fall. His big dream is to pursue a degree in Environmental Science. His essay shined on his mom's teaching and encouragement on how to be financially responsible. Throughout childhood, Greg was an active member of the Moola Club, and literally grew up in front of our eyes.

Our hats are off to both of you; we know you have bright futures ahead!

CMN Raffle!



The Children's Miracle Network provides funding for critical treatments and healthcare services, pediatric medical equipment and charitable care to families with ill children. Donations made at the local level stay at the local level, and that's why Brokaw Credit Union actively raises money to support this important cause that benefit's our members locally! Here's how you may want to consider helping us!

Traditionally, at our annual meeting, members generously bid on special baskets we create; however, since we could not do that this year, we are displaying the baskets in the lobby, and everyone may participate! All proceeds will support the Children's Miracle Network. Gift basket themes include:

- 1) Cozy Afternoon (in a Thirty-One bag)
- 2) All about Birds (in a Thirty-One bag)
- 3) Just for Kids
- 4) Movie Night
- 5) Basil's and Peacocks
- 6) Wine Night (in a Thirty-One bag)
- 7) Echo Dot

Tickets may be purchased for \$2 each, (6) for \$10, or (15) for \$20, between September 15 and October 31, either in person, or by calling the credit union and approving a withdrawal from your account for this purpose. Together let's help the children in our communities! Thanks in advance for your participation!



Brokaw Credit Union

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