# **ANNUAL MEETING**& DINNER DANCE



Saturday February 17, 2024

Presidential Banquet Center 4548 Presidential Way Kettering, OH 45429 To celebrate your credit union's success in 2023, tickets are only

\$25 per person this year!

6 PM: Host Bar 7 PM: Dinner

8 PM: Meeting 9 PM: Dance

Enjoy a night out with dinner, dancing, door prizes and SO MUCH MORE!

For Tickets Please Call: 937–228–1614

It's time to celebrate...

Bill Pay
is here!

Get Started Now!



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Announcing additional coverage for your deposit accounts!

## ESI EXCESS SHARE INSURANCE

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#### **Holiday Closings**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday January 15, 2024

President's Day Monday February 19, 2024

Special Event Annual Meeting Saturday February 17, 2024



Do you ever wonder where your money goes each month? Does it seem like you're never able to get ahead? If so, you may want to establish a budget to help you keep track of how you spend your money and help you reach your financial goals.

#### Examine your financial goals

Before you establish a budget, you should examine your financial goals. Start by making a list of your short-term goals (e.g., new car, vacation) and your long-term goals (e.g., your child's college education, retirement). Next, ask yourself: How important is it for me to achieve this goal? How much will I need to save? Armed with a clear picture of your goals, you can work toward establishing a budget that can help you reach them.

### Identify your current monthly income and expenses

To develop a budget that is appropriate for your lifestyle, you'll need to identify your current monthly income and expenses. You can jot the information down with a pen and paper, or you can use one of the many software programs available that are designed specifically for this purpose.

Start by adding up all of your income. In addition to your regular salary and wages, be sure to include other types of income, such as dividends, interest, and child support. Next, add up all of your expenses. To see where you have a choice in your spending, it

helps to divide them into two categories: fixed expenses (e.g., housing, food, clothing, transportation) and discretionary expenses

(e.g., entertainment, vacations, hobbies). You'll also want to make sure that you have identified any out-of-pattern expenses, such as holiday gifts, car maintenance, home repair, and so on.

To make sure that you're not forgetting anything, it may help to look through canceled checks, credit card bills, and other receipts from the past year. Finally, as you list your expenses, it is important to remember your financial goals. Whenever possible, treat your goals as expenses and contribute toward them regularly.

#### Retirement takes priority

Once you've added up all of your income and expenses, compare the two totals. To get ahead, you should be spending less than you earn. If this is the case, you're on the right track, and you need to look at how well you use your extra income. If you find yourself spending more than you earn, you'll need to make some adjustments. Look at your expenses closely and cut down on your discretionary spending. And remember, if you do find yourself coming up short, don't worry! All it will take is some determination and a little self-discipline, and you'll eventually get it right.

#### Monitor your budget

You'll need to monitor your budget periodically and make changes when necessary. But keep in mind that you don't have to keep track of every penny that you spend. In fact, the less record keeping you have to do, the easier it will be to stick to your budget.

Above all, be flexible. Any budget that is too rigid is likely to fail. So be prepared for the unexpected (e.g., leaky roof, failed car transmission).

#### Tips to help you stay on track

- Involve the entire family: Agree on a budget up front and meet regularly to check your progress
- Stay disciplined: Try to make budgeting a part of your daily routine
- Start your new budget at a time when it will be easy to follow and stick with the plan (e.g., the beginning of the year, as

opposed to right before the holidays)

- Find a budgeting system that fits your needs (e.g., budgeting software)
- Distinguish between expenses that are "wants" (e.g., designer shoes) and expenses that are "needs" (e.g., groceries)
- Build rewards into your budget (e.g., eat out every other week)
- Avoid using credit cards to pay for everyday expenses: It may seem like you're spending less, but your credit card debt will continue to increase

If you have any questions or if you would like to schedule a complimentary consultation , contact our office at 937-866-0197.



1700 Lyons Road, Suite D Dayton, Ohio 45458 937-866-0197

www.HarrisonWealthManagementGroup.com

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#### Emailed Checks, ATM Skimmers and Quit Claim Deed Fraud



Several scams are on the rise. From emailed checks, skimmers at ATMS and fraudulent mortgage documents, the number of people who are trying to steal from you, keeps increasing. Find out how to protect yourself.

One of the latest scams is done through email. Someone will contact you through email, social media or through a bogus job advertisement. The scammer sends you a counterfeit check via email that appears to be from a legitimate financial institution.

They may instruct you to print it out or send a computer image and deposit it through remote deposit capture. If you receive an emailed check, be very cautious that it may be a scam. Please make sure to let us know if you receive an emailed check *before* trying to deposit it.

Between Card Skimming, PIN overlays, and many more sophisticated attacks, ATMs continue to be target locations for thieves trying to steal your money and card information. Skimmers at ATMs were just found at a local credit union. Card Skimmers are placed over the card reader in order for thieves to steal your card information. There are also key pad overlays, which lay over the real key pad to steal the PIN info. Look for anything out of the ordinary or damage to the machine or any odd looking cameras that can see the PIN pad. Use ATMs that are well lit and monitored. It is good practice to cover the PIN pad with your hand when inputting your PIN. If you have an issue retrieving your card at the ATM, contact the Financial Institution of the ATM or the credit union for help instead of walking away and leaving your card at the ATM.

Another fraudulent practice is affecting owner's properties. In these schemes, a quit claim deed with a false signature of the owner, and a possible unscrupulous notary accomplice, is recorded against the property. Quick claim deeds are usually used to transfer property among family members, divorces, (where one spouse is giving up their ownership), etc. But lately, Montgomery County is seeing more and more of these quit claim deeds, and once the document to transfer property is recorded, the perpetrator tries to sell the property right from under the rightful owner. Properties that are not owned locally or are vacant, or rentals or homes up for sale, seem to be targeted. Members can opt in to Montgomery County's Fraud Alert Notification System (FANS) to register their properties and be alerted if a mortgage, deed or lien is filed. Go to: <a href="mailto:mcrecorder.org">mcrecorder.org</a> to register and to get more information.

Protect yourself and lookout for these scams. Call the credit union at 937-228-1614 if you need assistance.



ESI EXCESS SHARE INSURANCE

Additional insurance of up to \$250,000 on your savings accounts is provided by Excess Share Insurance Corporation, a licensed insurance company.

Main Office
338 S. Patterson Boulevard
Dayton, Ohio 45402
(937) 228-1614
Fax (937) 228-0068
H.A.L. 1-800-285-2947 Text (937) 228-7963
MasterMoney (888) 908-7835
www.ffcocu.org
Monday through Friday
Lobby: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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Monarch Branch 170 Monarch Lane Miamisburg, Ohio 45342 (937) 228-1614 Fax (937) 633-0116 Monday through Friday Lobby: 7:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.





#### Dividends

The dividend rate for the fourth quarter of 2023 was set at .20%. The annual percentage yield (APY) is .20%. Regular share accounts must have a balance of \$50.00 or more to earn dividends. Your money earns dividends from the day of deposit to the day of withdrawal.