

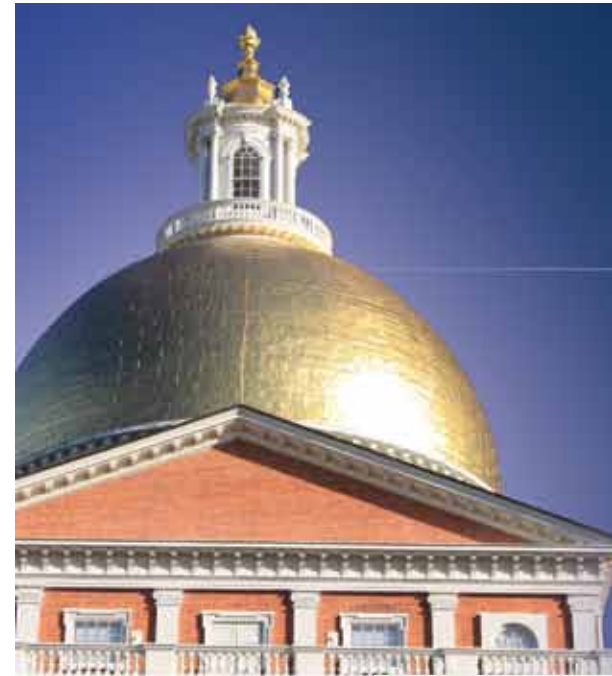
# Technology Corner

## Fight Fraud

Please note that MSECUCU will never ask you to verify your personal or private information by email, through a web link, with a text message or by phone unless you initiate the contact with us through our published ways of communication. Be cautious to never download virus scans from websites or pop-ups, as these may be fraudulent attempts to gain financial information. Should you receive a suspicious request of that type that appears to be from MSECUCU and you are not sure or have responded to a fraudulent attempt, please contact us immediately at (617) 723-5555, call Toll Free (800)700-7733, email us at [msecu@mastatecu.org](mailto:msecu@mastatecu.org) or stop at our local branch, to confirm the authenticity of the correspondence.



# State of the Union



## COMING SOON

### Member Rewards

Member Rewards will be an exclusive benefit of your Massachusetts State Employees Credit Union membership, and it reflects the true cooperative nature of credit unions – members helping members.

The way it will work is easy. As you build your relationship with MSECUCU, the more rewards – like free or discounted services – you will get.

Simply put: the more products and services you have and use with MSECUCU, the greater your relationship. We will take all of your accounts and balances into consideration – numbers and types of savings and loan accounts as well as deposit and loan balances. Plus, the more self service solutions you use – like online banking, direct deposit, and debit cards – the more benefits you will receive.

So get ready to be rewarded for your ownership of Massachusetts State Employees Credit Union!!



## CONTEST

**Play to win \$100!** Find at least five of the eight words related to topics in the newsletter and you will be entered in a raffle to win \$100. Circle the words and complete the form below. Clip your entry and mail to: MSECUCU, One Center Plaza, Boston, MA 02108. All entries should be received by August 31, 2010.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

N C I M D I Z S I Y N G M F A  
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 M A E M I V C N R E I T S O C



One Center Plaza  
 Boston, MA 02108  
**Telephone:**  
 800-700-7733 • 617-723-5555

**CU\*Talk Line:**  
 800-881-6820

**General Fax Number:**  
 617-227-6696

**Loan Department Fax:**  
 617-227-0252

**Office Hours:**  
 Monday through Friday  
 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

**Website:**  
[www.mastatecu.org](http://www.mastatecu.org)

**Email:**  
[msecu@mastatecu.org](mailto:msecu@mastatecu.org)

**Holiday Closings**  
 Labor Day  
 September 6, 2010

Columbus Day  
 October 11, 2010

Veterans Day  
 November 11, 2010

Thanksgiving  
 November 25, 2010



## Three Ways to Improve Your Credit Score

Your credit score is one of your most important financial assets. The quality of your score can affect everything from your ability to get a loan (and rate that you are offered) to the cost of your annual car insurance premium. Here are three ways you can help ensure your credit score is as high as it could be. (Remember, if you are trying to improve your credit rating, you aren't repairing your score, you are rebuilding your history. The only way to improve your score is to establish good habits and continue them over time.)



1. Make payments on time. One late payment can stay on your credit report for up to seven years. Be sure to make payments on time. Using auto bill payment can keep your payments from being late.
2. Pay down debt. If you have fixed rate loans, pay the minimum to free up cash to pay down debts with variable rates (such as equity loans or credit cards). Once you have paid off the variable rate loans, you can make larger payments toward the fixed loans.
3. Open a savings account and keep it growing. A savings account shows the credit agencies that you are serious about saving toward the future and that you have cash reserves on hand that you could use toward your debts. Consider making automatic deposits every pay period, so you can keep your nest egg growing.

### Pay Attention to "The Three C's"

The guidelines that creditors use to decide when to grant you credit are character, capacity, and collateral.

- Character:** How responsible you are in paying your bills. Paying on time is important.
- Capacity:** Your ability to repay loans based on money management skills, income, and financial position.
- Collateral:** What assets you have to offer if you don't pay back the loan.

## CU\* EasyPay!

### Our Free Bill Pay Service Makes Financial Sense

**Save Money.** Save on car trips to mail bills, stamps, and envelopes.

**A Better Credit Score.** If you make a single late payment for any reason, even if the check was held up in the mail, the negative effects on your credit score can stay for up to seven years. Scheduling regular payments through CU\*EasyPay! Can help ensure you always pay your bills on time. Bonus – a better credit score often translates to better rates on loans.

**Speed.** Paying bills online is infinitely faster than writing individual checks, filling out your checkbook register and addressing envelopes. Just set up your payment accounts once. That's it!

**Peace Of Mind.** When you are on the road for business or vacation, you can schedule payments before you leave, and even make them securely from anywhere you have Internet access while you travel.

Ready to go sign up for CU\*EasyPay!? Login to It's Me 247 and click Pay My Bills today!

## MSECU eServices Helps Keep You Banking...

### easy

eAlerts and eNotices notify you when certain occurrences happen on your account. eAlerts can let you know when:

- Your account balance reaches a certain amount
- A deposit or withdrawal is made to your account electronically
- Your loan payment is coming due
- A notice has been mailed to your home
- An eNotice has been sent to your It's Me 247 account

eNotices replace mailed periodic notices with electronic periodic notes on It's Me 247 (such as certificate maturity notices, overdraft notices, delinquent loan notices, etc.)

Click My Messages when logged in to It's Me 247 Free Online Banking to subscribe to eAlerts today!

### eco-friendly

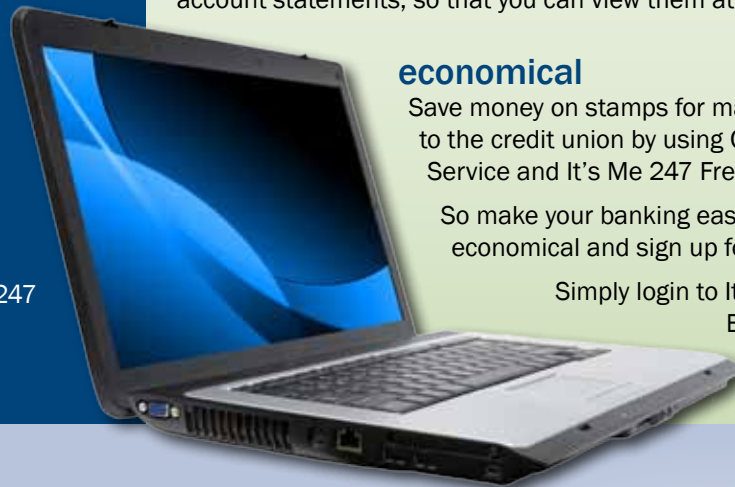
Save paper and sign up for eStatements! No paper is used to print or mail your statement. Plus, eStatements give you access to up to 12 months' worth of account statements, so that you can view them at your convenience.

### economical

Save money on stamps for mailing bills and gas on trips to the credit union by using CU\*EasyPay! Free Bill Pay Service and It's Me 247 Free Online Banking.

So make your banking easy, eco-friendly and economical and sign up for MSECU eServices today!!

Simply login to It's Me 247 Free Online Banking at [www.mastatecu.org](http://www.mastatecu.org) or call a member service representative.



## Are You Moving?

Don't forget to notify the credit union of your new address and phone number when you move. By letting the Credit Union know in advance, you won't have any delays in receiving mail from us. While you're at it, this may be a good time to make sure we have your cell phone and e-mail address as well.

## ATM and Debit Card Users Have A Choice

At MSECU we realize that you may lead a busy life. Work, children, chores, and personal recreation can help you forget about getting to the credit union to make a deposit. That's why we automatically provide protection options that safeguard your account. These safeguards allow ATM and everyday debit card transactions overdraw your account.

MSECU will no longer be able to authorize and pay overdrafts for your ATM and everyday debit card transactions without your written permission beginning July 1, 2010. These transactions, that we once paid automatically, must be declined unless we have your written consent.

## Young Savers Need Only to Take Baby Steps

It's never too early to start your children on the road to financial security by teaching them a few sound lessons in money management. Simple, easy lessons at appropriate times work the best and make lasting impressions. Remember that YOU as a parent set the example.

1. Give your child an allowance. This is a great way to teach even your kindergarten-age child budgeting lessons, including how to save and how to spend prudently. There are lots of different ways that parents choose to distribute an allowance and lots of different lessons children can learn, but whatever you do, make sure your child fully understands the purpose of the allowance and how you expect it to be used.
2. Visit the grocery store together. The lesson to learn is that the things we need to sustain ourselves do cost money and so we need to be conscious of the choices we make. Be sure to show your youngster that you are comparing prices and discuss why.
3. Open a savings account at the Credit Union for your child. Make sure your child understands that a financial institution is a safe place to "grow" their savings. Try to make it a point to bring your child along when making deposits so that they are able to hand their savings to a teller. The physical act of handing the money over the counter and seeing the savings build can make a lasting impression.
4. Give your child jobs around the house or yard to earn extra money. When your child wants to buy a toy or go to a movie with a friend, he or she will learn that money does not grow on trees; rather it must be earned.
5. It's ok to say, "We can't afford it right now." You don't have to plead poverty, but it's ok to simply tell your child, "It's not in our budget." Learning to face reality and to put the breaks on spending is a good lesson to learn early.



## Members Helping Members

As a member of Massachusetts State Employees Credit Union, you belong to a unique financial organization. MSECU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that's designed to benefit the financial needs of its members – people like you.

Unlike banks, our mission is based on delivering the maximum reward to members – not a small group of stockholders. We are committed to providing:

- A safe and secure place to save
- Economical ways to borrow
- Friendly, professional service you can trust
- A full range of resources to help you reach your financial goals

The way we do it is by members working together – members helping members.

For more than half a century, MSECU members have worked together to make their credit union strong and successful. This success is not measured in numbers. It's measured by how we help members meet their goals:

- Loans for every need – from cars to homes
- Savings and Money Market accounts
- Checking accounts with Debit Card access
- Retirement, Education, and Certificate accounts
- Premier Remote Banking Services – online and by phone

Your participation is what makes it all possible. It helps us continue making these convenient services and competitive new ways to serve you as your needs change.