

MONEY TALK

The quarterly newsletter keeping you informed on credit union matters

Kilowatt Community Credit Union

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Welcome to 2012!!

Happy New Year to all our wonderful members and their families from myself, the staff and all the credit union volunteers! This is an exciting year for Kilowatt Community Credit Union! We will be celebrating our 60th year in operation! It all began on January 15, 1952 when eight employees from Missouri Power and Light were granted a Certificate of Organization by the Secretary of State. These Charter Members were Robert J. Bliesath, L.E. Bailey, Troy M. Russell, Monroe W. Fink, Joseph W. Hughes, Donald L. Anderson, Cecil Horn and Ortho O. Rearick. These eight men had the vision to start an organization that over the years has helped hundreds of people finance their dreams, pay for their education, purchase automobiles, boats, motorcycles and use the equity in their homes to improve their lives. They gave our members the chance to save for their future and improve the quality of life for their families.

When the credit union was originally chartered it was open to employees of Missouri Power and Light only, now we are chartered to serve the residents of Cole and Callaway counties as well as Ameren employees and their families. So if you know anyone that lives in these counties please invite them to join our credit union.

When you join our credit union you are not a customer, you are a member and as a member you are an owner of the credit union. All of our Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee are members and they volunteer their time to oversee the operation of the credit union. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer for the credit union please call or write to our office.

If you have stories to share about your experience with Kilowatt Credit Union please send them to our office, attention Merry Marshall. We would love to share them with our members at the upcoming annual meeting. Our next newsletter will have the details for our 60th Annual Meeting, please watch for that in early April.

Holidays



The office will be closed on the following dates:

January 16, 2012	Martin Luther King Jr Day
February 13, 2012	Lincoln's Birthday
February 20, 2012	Washington's Birthday

Please plan accordingly and remember you can use our website or ATM to access your account!

Membership Drive Coupon

If you are a current member and you recommend the most qualified new members between now and March 31, 2012, we will reward you with \$100.00!

New Member:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Phone numbers:

Home _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

MEMBER Referring:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

A member can be anyone who works or lives in Callaway or Cole Counties or works for Ameren UE. Member who refers the most will WIN \$100 on April 1st.

Sprint The Now Network

Why Throw Away Your Money? Save with Sprint!

Join the over 1.2 Million credit union members nationwide that are already saving over \$111 million on their wireless plans! Kilowatt Community Credit Union is pleased to bring our members these major savings through the **Sprint Credit Union Member Discount Plan**.

Ways you can save:

* 10% off* most regularly priced Sprint individual service plans

* 15% off* most regularly priced Sprint business service plans

*Waived activation fee on new activations

*Waived upgrade fee

*Available to new AND existing Sprint

customers

Enjoy the perks, benefits and exclusive discounts that only credit union members like you can receive.

3 Ways to Get Your Discount:

- Call 877-SAVE.4CU (877.728.3428) and let them know you're a **credit union member**. Ask to be a part of the NACUC_ZZM Corporate ID to save

- Click www.SprintSave4CU.com

- Visit your nearest Sprint Store

What are you waiting for? Start saving today!

*Application of discount requires 2-year contract extension on existing plans. Verification of membership is required at time of activation/upgrade.

BUDGET: Back in Black!

Do You have a family or personal budget? Is it working for you? If it works and you are reaching all your goals including savings, good for you! For those of you that do not have a budget in place this is a great time to start one with the new year! Do you live paycheck to paycheck and wonder where your money goes? This is the perfect reason to make a budget and stick to it! A budget is a strategy for controlling your money with a purpose.

Step 1- Write down all income you receive in a week, twice a month, or monthly. Include all income from all jobs or other sources.

Step 2- Add all income sources together and determine how much total income is available in a standard month. Most bills are paid monthly so it helps to create a home budget plan based on one month's time. If you're paid weekly, for example, combine your weekly paychecks to come up with a monthly average.

Step 3- Write down the name and amount of every regular bill you currently pay. Regular bills usually include rent or mortgage, credit card payments, utilities, car payments and all insurance payments. If some bills vary month to month create an average and figure it on the high side.

Step 4- Write down every other expense you have in a given month that doesn't come in the form of a bill. Groceries, for example, and gasoline are regular expenses that most everyone must budget for. For each of these non-bill expenses, refer to recent credit card statements and checkbook ledgers or statements to help estimate how much money you spend on each in an average month.

Step 5- Add together every bill and expense you regularly spend money on in a month, compare that total to the total amount of income you receive. If you spend less that you earn, you're in good shape. If you spend more than you earn, you will need to make difficult choices in your budget.

Step 6- Review the list of expenses with a critical eye and be sure you've put down realistic amounts for each item. Estimating \$100 per month for groceries is commendable, but not realistic for the long term if that's the bare minimum you need to keep from starving. Likewise, if you've written down \$500 for groceries but your total expenses are more than your income, you may need to reduce the amount of money you're spending in that category. Adjust any expense estimates up or down as needed.

Step 7- Write down extra expense categories for savings, emergencies and recreation if you did not add these items the first time and if you still have a surplus of income after deducting all expenses.

Step 8- Write down categories for infrequent bills, such as the annual tags and registration for your car. Divide annual bills by 12 months to determine how much money you need to budget each month. Budgeting for and putting aside a small amount of money each month toward larger infrequent bills makes those bills much easier to pay when they come due because you aren't shuffling money around trying to come up with a much larger amount all at once.

Step 9- Hang the final results of your efforts on the refrigerator or put them in the area where you pay bills. The amount of money listed next to each bill and expense is the budget amount you have chosen for your home. When spending money or paying bills, make every effort to keep your expenditures less than or equal to the amount you have written down on that list.

A budget requires a small amount of commitment, but the rewards are well worth it, you control your money, it doesn't control you!

PRIVACY POLICY

The following Privacy Policy was established by Kilowatt Credit Union's Board of Directors, in accordance with Federal and State laws to maintain the confidentiality and security of your personal information. We routinely collect and rely on your non-public personal information that we receive from the following sources:

- * Information we receive from you on applications or other forms you complete.
- * Information about your transactions with us.
- * Information provided by a consumer-reporting agency.

We may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above to companies with whom we have strict, confidentiality agreements, to perform marketing services on our behalf. We will never sell or otherwise provide information to telemarketing companies.

We do not share any non-public personal information about our members or former members to anyone except as permitted by law.

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees and officials that need that information for a specific business reason. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your non-public personal information.