

DOLLAR\$ & \$ENSE



Manager's Memo

by Rick Krehbiel

Just for Fun: What coin is worth "two bits?" (Look for the answer somewhere in the newsletter)

Winter 2015

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The new year has begun and I hope it is off to a great start for you. I am writing this in early December so I am not yet certain how the books will look at year end. I am confident that 2015 will end better than 2014 ended. I am confident we will end with positive net income but the exact amount is yet to be determined.

The board of directors of Mid-Kansas Credit Union is working to bring in an outside broker to offer additional investment opportunities to our members. These investments would not be guaranteed by Mid-Kansas Credit Union and will not be federally insured by NCUA or anybody else. But these investments will have potential for returns in excess of fixed rate certificates and money market accounts. Watch our web site for updates as we expect to have someone providing these opportunities sometime during first quarter of 2016.

It's with mixed emotions I am announcing to our membership that I will be stepping down as manager of Mid-Kansas Credit Union in 2016. For the past 41 years I have had the privilege of working for you to try and provide the best financial services possible. Since March of 1985 I've sat in the manager's chair and many times have felt very much out of place. It's time for new leadership with new ideas to move forward in this ever changing marketplace. While the board of directors has begun the process of finding my replacement, details of who it will be or when it will happen are yet to be determined.

I honestly believe that Mid-Kansas Credit Union's best days are still ahead of us. I hope the same for all of you. Have a great 2016!

Free Gifts!!!

Now that we've got your attention...did you know that making purchases with your MKCU Visa Credit Card can earn you free gifts? With the Christmas shopping season behind us for another year, now is a good time to check how many reward points you've earned and redeem them for free gifts.

You can set up a profile and check/redeem your points at: www.scorecardrewards.com

Your reward gifts are completely free to you - including the shipping.
But don't delay because they won't stick around forever (reward points eventually expire).
Put your points to work and reward yourself!



*The MKCU Annual Meeting will be here before you know it!
- watch your mail for an invitation -*

Mid-Kansas Credit Union Mission Statement

Mid-Kansas Credit Union is a member owned, democratically controlled financial institution, dedicated to providing quality member services at a fair price and being responsive to the needs of our members, while maintaining our long-term stability.





Office in Moundridge

104 S. Ave. B—P.O. Box 608
620.345.2980 or 888.345.2980
620.345.2996 Fax
Lobby: M-F 8-5, Sat 8-12
Drive Up: M-F 7:30-5, Sat. 8-12

Office in Buhler

200 W. 2nd Ave.—P.O. Box 569
620.543.2662
620.543.2464 Fax
Lobby: M-F 9-4:30
Drive Up: M-F 8:30-5, Sat. 9-12

MOUNDRIDGE STAFF

Rick Krehbiel, Managing Director
Larry Schmidt, Loan Manager
Cameron Voth, Loan Officer
John Vogt, Fieldman/Ag Loan Officer
Anthony Jasso, Collections & IT
Susan Johnson, Loan Clerk
Becky Setser Clark, Member Service Rep Supervisor

Member Service Reps:

Naomi Poloniecki
Jan Graber
Cindy Unruh
Stephanie Pfeiff
Liz Johnson
Paula Rodriguez

BUHLER STAFF

Jan Pankratz - Branch Manager
Member Service Reps:
Linda Plett
Sharon Stucky-Dollars & Sense Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Schmidt, Chairman
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Larry Schmidt, Member

Ag Notes

by John Vogt - Ag Loan Officer

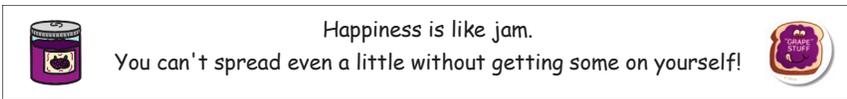


John with his wife, Karen

It has been an enjoyable past three months getting re-acquainted with MKCU members in Moundridge and Buhler, and also getting to know new members with Ag and Commercial Loans. A few things are the same, many things are different, but it's very gratifying to see the financial progress member's have made over the past several years.

One of the best changes has been the Loan Workup and Financial Analysis spreadsheets developed recently by Keith Tucker and Frank Waggoner for MKCU. I have been learning this new Excel-based system, and appreciate it more every day. This system has made it much easier to complete an annual credit work-up, and then be able to quickly use that base during the year as requests and changes occur. Frank has been working with me several days per week, and that has made the transition much easier.

I have started 2016 annual workups, with the majority of them needing to be done between January and April. I look forward to working with many of you during these upcoming months. As we are in the Holiday season, this is a great time to be thankful for the blessings farmers, ranchers and local industries help provide for us.



Happiness is like jam.

You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself!

Notes from Buhler

by Jan Pankratz - Buhler Branch Manager

Many of us begin a new year by organizing and de-cluttering our homes. This includes throwing away papers that have been accumulating. There is also the decision of how long we need to save papers in a safe place. Use this guide to tell you what and how long:

One Year: Pay stubs; statements from your credit union, social security, insurance companies, retirement plans, credit- card companies; utility bills; any receipt needed for income tax filing purposes

Three Years: Items possibly needed in the event of an IRS audit such as thank you letters from charities and year-end investment statements

Six Years: Documents from a home's sale, purchase or improvement expenses, for six years after your home is sold

Seven Years: State and federal tax records and receipts; your 1040 tax return (save these forever, in fact)

Please be aware of what you throw into the trash or recycle bin. Do yourself a favor and purchase a shredder and then most importantly, remember to use it!

Congratulations!

To our International Credit Union Day Door Prize Winners!

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Moundridge Office</u></p> <p>Galileo Thermometer: Irvin Harms Snappy Shark: Aayden Wedel Apples to Apples game: Corbin Unruh Bits and Pieces puzzles: Patsy Lankford</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Buhler Office</u></p> <p>Adult: \$50 - Loma Seachris \$25 - Marsha Fast Kids: \$25 - Hollie Dick</p>
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To the Moundridge Holiday Open House Winners!

Adult \$50.00 Gift: Chelsea Critchfield Youth \$25.00 Gift: Savannah Kelly

Member Services

- ACH
- Agricultural Loans
- ATM Cards
- Auto Loans
- Cashier's Checks
- Direct Deposit/Direct Payment
- Drive-up ATM
- Drive-up Window
- E-Alerts
- E-Statements
- Fax Machine Service
- Free Checking Accounts
- Foreign Currency & Foreign Item Collection
- Free Notary Service
- Home & Family Finance
- ®Resource Center
- Home Improvement Loans
- IRA Accounts
- Market Index Certificates
- MK Net
- MK Pay
- Money Desktop Financial Management
- Money Market Share Accounts
- Money Orders
- Night Depository
- Overdraft Privilege
- Overdraft Protection
- Payroll Deductions
- Personal Loans
- Real Estate Loans
- Safe Deposit Boxes
- Share Certificates
- Touch-Tone Teller
- VISA Credit Cards
- VISA Debit Cards
- VISA Cash Advance
- VISA Gift Cards
- Wire Transfers

The Loan Corner



-Larry Schmidt - Loan Manager
-Cameron Voth - Loan Officer

By Cameron Voth

With the holidays behind and a new year ahead, now is a time to get finances in order. A major part of that is refinancing debt. Anything from cars, appliances, credit card debt, RV's, motorcycles, ATVs, real estate, homes, etc. Mid-Kansas Credit Union wants to help with the process and the only cost would be the finance charge if a loan is made. Of course there will be great deals in the new year and MKCU can take care of those purchases with great financing options.

Along with the season of spending, comes the question of how do you track all that spending? The single most important thing to financial security, and more accurately financial freedom, is actually knowing how much you are spending. This of course is easier said than done. But the hardest part is getting started. Most people who do track every penny spent will say the hardest part was getting into a habit of doing so. Once the habit is established, tracking every expense is second nature. The reason tracking expenses is so important is because, otherwise, there is no way to truly know how much money is going out. The problem comes when there is more going out than coming in and there is the constant state of playing catch up. Once you know how much you are spending and in what areas you are spending, you can re-evaluate and try to alter a budget or just create one all together. But again, just having the knowledge of exactly what is being spent and where is huge.

The other piece of the puzzle is what tool to use to follow all those expenses. Thanks to the beauty of technology there are countless apps for smart phones and tablets, as well as software for computers. Some software will even link with multiple phones, tablets and computers. Out of the thousands of possibilities, here are a few options. For iPhones or iOS, an app called *Spending Tracker* is about as basic as it gets, allowing you to enter your income for a month and then enter every individual expense into categories you select or create. This app is free but you can always pay for the premium version. For Android devices, a comparable app is *Cash Droid*, a very basic expense tracking app with a free and premium version as well. Another more involved option would be services like *Money Desktop* or *Mint* which allow you to link multiple bank accounts, credit cards, etc. so you can track everything in one place. These services also provide break downs of what areas money is being spent. *Money Desktop* is a featured service by Mid-Kansas Credit Union. To access and/or sign up, log in to your MK Net account and there will be a *Money Desktop* icon in the upper right hand corner. More information will be available via a link to help you evaluate this service. Last but not least, a spreadsheet on a computer or even on paper works great too.

These are, again, just a few options. Please do your research before downloading or using any of these services to make sure they are something you are comfortable with using. None of these services, except for *Money Desktop*, are endorsed by Mid-Kansas Credit Union.

It's a New Year...

It's the beginning of a new year and many of you will be making plans in 2016 - for a different vehicle, to improve your credit, to save for retirement, or a new house. The **Home and Family Finance** link on the Mid-Kansas Credit Union website (www.mkcu.coop) is a good place to start researching these topics (and many others). Use these helpful tools to plan your financial strategy in 2016.

Perhaps you are teaching your children about the value of a dollar and want to help them improve their financial skills. You can find helpful teaching tools for your children by clicking on the **Googolplex** link on the Mid-Kansas Credit Union website (www.mkcu.coop). There are three different levels: **5 Spot** is for Elementary School; **AJ's** is for Middle School; and **C-Note** is for High School. Each level has age appropriate activities and stories to help your children learn more about money.

Just for Fun Answer: Quarter. *In the early days of U.S. money, the main coin was the Spanish dollar, which was sometimes cut (like a pie) into eight "bits." Each bit was worth 12 1/2 cents. Therefore, the American quarter dollar is said to be worth "two bits."*

From: <http://www.factmonster.com/quizzes/coins/1.html>



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

MID-KANSAS CREDIT UNION will be closed:

Monday, January 18
in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

and

Friday, March 25
in observance of
Good Friday



Is your account dormant?
Dormant accounts are a drain on the Credit Union and if left too long, you will be charged a fee. Please check the status of your account.

THE VISA DEBIT CARD



Looks like a Credit Card, BUT works like a check!

THE VISA CREDIT CARD
from Mid-Kansas Credit Union



STOP IN AND APPLY TODAY!

You may make your payment at Mid-Kansas Credit Union and receive credit that same day.

Seven days a week you can access your accounts by calling . . . 620.345.2980 or 620.345.3300
OR on-line at www.mkcu.coop by logging in to MK Net. Contact us if you have questions.



Contest Winners to the SANDWICH TRIVIA WORD SEARCH

Congratulations to our winners: 1st prize—Luene Flickinger; 2nd prize—JoAnne Friesen; 3rd prize—Joyce Watkins

Board Games Word Search

Find and circle all of the types of Board Games that are hidden in the grid. Words may be found left, right, up, down or diagonally and backwards. Bring your entry to either location (listed on page two) or mail your entry to Mid-Kansas Credit Union: **MKCU Word Search, P.O. Box 569, Buhler, KS 67522** by Tuesday, March 1, 2016 (please note change of address to mail entries). Credit Union Staff, officials, and spouses are ineligible. Winners will be determined by drawing and prizes will be credited to your share account. (One entry per family or newsletter). Please remember to write your name, address and account number on the entry. 1st Prize: \$25; 2nd: \$15; 3rd: \$10.

- ABALONE
- ACRONYMBLE
- AGRICOLA
- BACKGAMMON
- BALDERDASH
- BLOKUS
- BONKERS
- CANDY LAND
- CAPITOL
- CHECKERS
- CHESS
- CHINESE CHECKERS
- CHUTES AND LADDERS
- CLUE
- CRANIUM
- FANORONA
- FULL HOUSE
- HI HO CHERRYO
- HIJARA
- HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPOS
- LIFE
- MASTERMIND
- MONOPOLY
- MOUSE TRAP
- PARCHEESI
- PAY DAY
- PICTIONARY
- QUARTO
- QWIRKLE
- REVERSI
- SCRABBLE
- SENET
- SEQUENCE
- SETTLERS OF CATAN
- SORRY
- TANTRIX
- TROUBLE
- TSURO
- UNCLE WIGGILY
- UPWORDS



B	M	S	N	I	I	P	Q	O	E	I	J	T	F	L	T	Z	U	N	K	E	J	Z	U	W
A	V	E	R	R	Z	U	I	S	K	B	B	A	T	K	I	H	E	A	J	C	C	A	K	J
C	N	Q	Z	E	A	E	U	Y	A	Q	N	V	N	B	J	F	U	T	C	N	R	V	D	O
K	E	S	K	R	K	O	L	L	A	O	H	I	J	A	R	A	E	A	H	E	A	E	X	T
G	U	X	T	X	H	C	D	B	R	Y	L	O	P	O	N	O	M	C	E	U	N	W	H	W
A	B	O	I	L	O	E	E	O	B	S	L	O	K	E	D	R	O	F	C	Q	I	M	F	W
M	F	L	L	R	R	E	N	H	D	A	N	G	O	Y	Z	V	H	O	K	E	U	C	Q	D
M	V	U	O	D	T	A	V	R	C	P	R	A	C	R	K	U	B	S	E	S	M	Z	E	Q
O	F	O	A	K	Q	N	O	G	D	E	O	C	X	C	N	M	M	R	R	U	S	Q	W	K
N	D	S	P	K	U	W	A	V	N	U	S	G	S	G	A	W	N	E	S	W	Q	I	E	Y
Q	H	Q	H	Q	P	S	C	T	A	X	C	E	R	T	I	P	S	L	D	J	R	M	L	K
T	M	M	T	U	B	X	P	J	L	L	L	Y	N	I	M	O	I	T	D	K	H	I	U	O
H	I	H	O	C	H	E	R	R	Y	O	H	M	Y	I	L	W	Z	T	L	M	G	T	R	J
I	Y	B	O	N	K	E	R	S	D	U	D	S	S	E	H	C	X	E	O	G	W	U	B	J
A	S	R	E	D	D	A	L	D	N	A	S	E	T	U	H	C	N	S	I	L	S	G	W	D
I	C	E	A	V	H	S	M	G	A	U	X	S	I	Z	O	O	M	W	C	T	T	K	R	R
A	X	R	M	N	E	C	R	Z	C	K	J	F	C	C	L	G	E	I	S	R	E	V	E	R
Q	G	V	O	F	O	Y	M	O	U	S	E	T	R	A	P	L	F	D	L	G	S	C	E	P
I	I	R	K	N	H	I	I	T	B	O	Z	R	B	S	C	M	T	Y	D	O	J	F	L	A
Y	Q	N	I	I	Y	O	T	U	T	B	R	A	D	N	I	M	R	E	T	S	A	M	B	Y
R	P	E	P	C	J	M	F	C	V	Y	R	N	U	L	W	Z	S	W	N	D	W	A	U	D
R	A	P	L	S	O	M	B	T	I	A	O	T	B	C	L	U	E	G	A	E	Y	D	O	A
O	O	G	R	H	F	L	V	L	U	P	A	R	C	H	E	E	S	I	S	L	S	P	R	Y
S	T	M	G	Z	R	Y	A	Q	E	Y	P	X	S	T	D	P	V	A	T	U	M	S	T	V
J	S	K	A	H	N	P	C	P	Q	O	N	Q	Q	F	W	X	C	I	C	O	F	A	F	T

Name: _____ Acct #: _____
 Address: _____

