



VOL. 32 NUMBER 2 April 2018

# MONEY Matters



## Smart Phone, Smart Saver

Phone apps have changed our lives. We now have, at our fingertips, the ability to access information 24/7, wherever we are. There are a number of useful apps that can even help you save money and track your spending.



**Level Money** — Are you often struggling at the end of the month to pay your bills, wondering where all your money went? This app helps you keep track of your spending by letting you set daily, weekly, or monthly limits on how much you can spend. You begin with your actual bank balance and subtract essentials like rent and utilities. The remaining balance is what you can spend on non-essentials. You can even set alerts to warn you when you only have a certain amount of money left.

**Mint** — This is a budgeting app that links to your banking and credit card accounts and keeps track all of your spending. It will analyze how and where you spend your money, suggest a budget, and even suggest how to reduce the money you spend on monthly bills and fees. It also alerts you when bills are due or your bank balance falls below a certain amount.

**Flipp** — Like a traditional Sunday newspaper, this app tells you all the sales and special offers currently available, as well as help you find coupons. It covers weekly ads from 800+ retailers, including supermarkets, pharmacies, and big retailers, like Target or Walmart. If you're a member of a store's loyalty program, it can automatically apply discounts when you use your loyalty card at checkout.

**Good Budget** — This app uses the envelope system of budgeting. You begin by placing a certain amount of money for each expense (rent, groceries, gas, eating out, etc.) into its own category. This app keeps track of each amount, helping you to stay on budget. It also allows you and your spouse to sync your account, letting both of you know who's spending, where it's going, and how much is left in each "envelope."

**ShopSavvy** — When you're out shopping in a store, this app lets you scan the bar codes on merchandise and compare prices from other local and online competitors to see whose price is better. It offers special cash-back deals and you can set up notifications to alert you when a specific product goes on sale.



*The Thirty Second Annual Meeting of Germania Credit Union was called to order on February 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Germania home office. The following directors were elected to serve three year terms: Jeff Smestuen, Liz Broesche and Kent Barnhill.*



### Office Hours:



Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
(No transactions after 4:00 pm)  
Germania will be closed  
Monday, May 28th  
In observance of Memorial Day.

### DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS



Upon request, a member is entitled to review or receive a copy of the most recent version of the following credit union documents:

- 1) Balance sheet and income statement.
- 2) A summary of the most recent annual audit.
- 3) Written board policy regarding access to the articles of incorporation, bylaws, rules, guidelines, board policies, and copies thereof.
- 4) Internal Revenue Service Form 990.

### Current Rates:

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for Regular Share Accounts is accurate as of 3-31-2018.

#### Regular Share Account

Dividend Rate..... 0.025%  
APY ..... 0.025%

Contact the credit union for further information about applicable rates, fees and terms.

### Statistics:

(as of February 28, 2018)

Assets ..... \$10,292,997  
Shares ..... \$8,769,812  
Loans ..... \$6,716,495  
Members ..... 2,455

### Board of Directors

Richard Grimmer, Chairman  
William Boeer, Vice Chairman  
Trey Hardy, Treasurer  
Liz Broesche, Secretary  
Kent Barnhill  
Howard Tomlinson  
Lisa Eben  
Traci Bagley  
Jeff Smestuen

### Staff

C.W. Barker, President  
Janet Mantey  
Jo Lynne Goldberg  
Chelsea Lozano

### The Best Ways to Use a Few Hundred Dollars

Sometimes it can feel like you need thousands of dollars to move the needle on your finances even a little bit.

So if you find yourself with a few hundred dollars--say from a tax refund or an unexpected windfall--the temptation to spend it can be great. After all, how much difference can \$500 make? But used wisely, even a few hundred dollars can put you on the road to a more financially secure future.

Here are some ways to make even a small amount of money count.

- Start an emergency fund. Ideally you want six months of living expenses stashed to cover unforeseen expenses, but \$500 is a good start. And once you have a good start, it can spur you to keep contributing.
- Take advantage of compound growth. Before spending that money, consider putting it into your IRA (individual retirement account). Not only will compounding increase your balance over time, but increasing your pretax contributions can cut your tax bill.
- Save for a bigger-ticket expense. Whether it's for a major house renovation or a dream vacation, put the money in a credit union savings account; whenever you have a little extra money come in, set it aside as well. You could end up with a gift the whole family will cherish for years.
- Donate to charity. If you itemize deductions on your tax return, consider helping an organization whose works you admire. Not only can you deduct the gift, but it might ultimately mean more to you than spending the money on yourself.



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*Where people are worth more than money.™*

