



Michigan First MoneyWise

Winter 2018

Thoughts from 2017!



Around November of each year, I begin thinking and talking about the arrival of spring. There is something about a new year and spring that seems to give a new beginning, and an opportunity to grow and get better. As we head into our 92nd year of serving members, we never lose sight of why we exist. Every day is an opportunity to make a difference in the

life of a member. When you improve the lives of people, you improve communities. That is at the heart of what we believe and do.

A lot of good things happened in 2017 and here are some of the success highlights:

- Total membership now exceeds 138,000 and total assets are greater than \$850 million.
- More than \$170 million in loans were granted to members.
- Our 365 Live Call Center has been serving members around the clock and total calls per month are now more than 60,000.
- More than 97% of members were served within seven minutes at our teller lines.
- Over 93% of members visiting our financial service representatives received service within 10 minutes. This represents almost 170,000 visits to our branches, a record number.
- One additional Kroger branch location was added in Canton and the Southgate Kroger store was relocated. That brings the total number of Kroger branches to nine and the total number of Michigan First locations to 18.

- Members continue to contact and buy policies through the Michigan First Insurance Agency at record numbers. Our objective is to help members find more reasonably priced insurance of all types. We recognize that not all members can get lower prices all the time, but we encourage members to keep trying as circumstances and carriers may change.
- The Michigan First Mortgage team, a division of the Credit Union, has grown significantly during the year. New locations have opened in Okemos and at the Evergreen Office.

Our greatest challenge in 2017 has been keeping up with growth. With an ever growing membership and more calls and visits, our team is working extra hard to serve members at the highest possible levels. We are encouraging all members to utilize the robust mobile app that will accommodate most of their banking needs. That will help free up time to serve members who need more conversation and assistance.

During 2018, expect to see:

- An additional Michigan First Mortgage location in Plymouth.
- Completion of the expansion at our Evergreen headquarters location.
- More in-store locations possibly available.
- Even more features added to our mobile app, which will make your banking even easier.

Thank you again for the confidence you have placed in us and for the additional business and referrals you send our way. The opportunity to serve you is at the core of everything we do. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee, and the entire Michigan First team, I wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2018.

Michael Poulos

Michael Poulos, President/CEO

Special Offers for New and Current Experience Michigan First Rewards Visa® Cardholders

New cardholders can receive 2.99% annual percentage rate (APR) on eligible purchases and balance transfers.¹

New Visa® credit card accounts with an open date of January 1, 2018, through March 31, 2018, can receive 2.99% APR through October 7, 2018, on qualifying purchases and balance transfers that post by March 31, 2018.

This low introductory rate is one reason to open a credit card, but there are many benefits to having our card in your wallet:

- No annual fee or balance transfer fee.
- An attractive annual percentage rate (APR).
- Earn reward points for using our credit card and extra points for spending in Michigan.
- Redeem rewards points for gift cards, merchandise, travel, and more.

If you're interested in a Rewards credit card, call our 24-hour loan center at **866.933.6333** or visit **MichiganFirst.com** to apply.

Cardholders with active accounts opened prior to January 1, 2018, can enjoy a 2.99% APR on balance transfers.²

Take advantage of this low rate and transfer high interest balances from other cards to save money on your payments. Any balance transfer posted to your account between January 1, 2018, and March 31, 2018, will receive 2.99% APR through the October 7, 2018, statement.

Visit **MichiganFirst.com** for additional details.

¹ Qualifying transactions must post to your account between January 1, 2018, and March 31, 2018. Beginning with the November 2018 statement, any remaining balance from this promotion will return to your assigned rate at the time your Visa was opened. All purchases, cash advances, and balance transfers are subject to credit approval. Account must be in good standing. Terms and conditions subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Cash advances are excluded from this promotional offer. Limited time offer.

² Qualifying balance transfers must post to your account between January 1, 2018, and March 31, 2018. Beginning with the November 2018 statement, any remaining balance from this promotion will revert back to the standard rate for the card. This offer applies to new balance transfers only. 2.99% APR promo rate applies to balances from a non-Michigan First credit card. All balance transfers are subject to credit approval. Account must be in good standing. Terms and conditions subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Cash advances are excluded from this promotional offer. Limited time offer.

Free Financial Advice from Experts!

The following seminar will be held at our branch located at 27000 Evergreen Rd., in Lathrup Village:

- **401k Rollover**
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by Jamie Russell, Advisor
Michigan First Wealth Management Group

The following seminars will be held at our branch located at 21650 Gratiot in Eastpointe:

- **Senior Care Planning**
Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by Mickey Vizard,
Planning for Your Future, PLLC
- **Trusts and Estates**
Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by Mickey Vizard,
Planning for Your Future, PLLC

The following seminars will be held at our branch located at 1815 Breton Rd. SE in Grand Rapids:

- **Trusts and Estates**
Thursday, February 8, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by Mickey Vizard,
Planning for Your Future, PLLC
- **Market Outlook 2018**
Thursday, February 15, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by Jamie Russell, Advisor,
Michigan First Wealth Management Group
- **Mortgage Home Buying Seminar**
Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Presented by John Fitzgerald,
Michigan First Mortgage

For additional information or to register, please visit **MichiganFirst.com/Seminars** or call Member Services at **800.664.3828**.

Stay Safe from Cybercrime During Tax Time

While it's important to always use caution online and watch out for scams, tax season is a time when you should be extra careful. The National Cyber Security Alliance reports that cyber criminals see tax time as the perfect opportunity to try and steal your personal information to cash in on a refund request and/or steal your identity.

Here are tips from StopThinkConnect.org to help ensure you don't become a victim. Online con artists will tempt you to take action in a variety of ways and you should be aware of the following:

Phishing scams: Cybercriminals will try to get you to do something, like click on a link or respond to an email, so they can steal your personal information. Watch out for unsolicited emails, texts, social media posts or fake websites that may lure you in and prompt you to share valuable personal and financial information. Armed with this information, online thieves can pilfer funds and/or commit identity theft. Opening malicious links or attachments also can cause malware – viruses, spyware and other unwanted software that gets installed on your computer or mobile device without your consent – to infect your computer files.

Imposters claiming to be Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents: The IRS will never email or call you demanding immediate payment without having first mailed a bill. They will not ask for a credit or debit card number via email or phone.

Tax preparer fraud: The overwhelming majority of tax preparers provide honest services, but some dishonest individuals may target unsuspecting taxpayers and the result can be refund fraud and/or identity theft. The IRS reminds anyone filing a tax return, that the preparer must sign it with their preparer tax identification number.

The National Cyber Security Alliance also has some easy-to-use “STOP. THINK. CONNECT.” tips that will help protect you against fraudster tricks:

Keep all machines clean: Having updated software on all devices that connect to the Internet is critical. This includes security software, web browsers and operating systems for PCs and your mobile devices. Having current software is a strong defense against viruses and malware that can steal login credentials or potentially use your computer to generate spam.

Get two steps ahead: Turn on two-step authentication on accounts – also known as two-step verification or multi-factor authentication. Many popular email services and financial institutions offer this key security step for free.

Create better passwords: If your passwords are too short or easy to guess, it's like giving a cyber thief your banking PIN. Longer passwords and those that combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols provide better protection.

Get savvy about Wi-Fi hotspots: Public wireless networks are not secure. Cybercriminals can potentially intercept Internet connections while you are filing highly personal information on public WiFi. Don't use public WiFi when using banking and other apps that contain private information.

When in doubt, throw it out: Links in email are often the way bad guys get access to your personal information. If it looks weird, even if you know the source, it's best to delete.

Think before you act: Be leery of communications that implore you to act immediately – especially if you are told you owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly.

Finally, ask if your tax preparation service has checked for malware issues.

Visit **StopThinkConnect.org** for more resources to help you stay safe online.



Need Money for College? Enter our Scholarship Competition!

Our annual scholarship contest kicks off on January 8 and we're excited to once again offer students a chance to win some serious cash for college! In order to enter the competition, students must have their own Michigan First account opened by January 8, 2018.

Students can win up to \$5,000!

We're excited to award one \$3,000 scholarship and two \$5,000 scholarships in the following three categories:

- High school senior video
- High school senior essay
- College student video

We're also giving away multiple \$1,000 scholarships to eligible students!

To enter the contest, students are asked a question and they answer it via video or essay submission. The scholarship question will be posted January 8 at 12:00 p.m. EST on **YoungFreeMichigan.com** and participants have until February 5 at 3:00 p.m. EST to enter.



365 Live Call Center:
800.664.3828
Call us 24 hours a day,
7 days a week, 365 days a year

24-Hour Loan Center:
866.933.6333

 MichiganFirst.com

 MichiganFirst.com/Facebook

 MichiganFirst.com/Twitter

 MichiganFirst.com/YouTube

Michigan First Credit Union is
federally insured by the National
Credit Union Administration.

Routing & Transit Number: 272078365



NMLS#493687

Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election

Save-the-date for our Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Located in the Community Room at our Evergreen branch:
27000 Evergreen Rd.
Lathrup Village, MI 48076

In accordance with the credit union's bylaws, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals for three-year terms on the Board of Directors:

- Linda Height
- Michael Hohf
- Donna VanderVries

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following individual for a three-year term on the Supervisory Committee:

- Lisa Fort

As stated in the bylaws, Michigan First members in good standing may place their names in nomination. Petition forms, along with instructions, may be obtained by contacting Christine Wismann, Senior Executive Assistant, at **248.443.4602** or **CWismann@MichiganFirst.com**. These forms require the valid signatures of one percent of the total membership, each of whom must be a member in good standing. The completed forms must be returned in person by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2018, to the President/CEO's office at the Evergreen branch.

A Michigan First Membership Has Its Perks!

MoneyPerks® is a member benefit that can save you money through waived fees and better rates. You earn points for doing everyday things like paying your loans, using e-statements and direct deposit. Here's a sampling of the ways you can use MoneyPerks points:

Get an even better rate!

- Receive up to 0.50% rate "bump" on new CDs
- Get up to 0.75% rate discount per loan

Waive the following fees:	MoneyPerks Points Needed
Account History (At Branch)	1,000
Account/Loan Number Change	6,000
Cash Withdrawal (Service Center)	800
Card Replacement (ATM/Debit/Credit)	3,000
Check Copy	1,000
Check Order (One Standard Box)	3,000
Credit Card Overnight Delivery Fee	6,000
Extension Agreement	5,000
ID Safe Choice	5,000
Minimum Balance Fee	800
MoneyNow	4,000
Money Order	800
Mortgage Application Credit Report	3,000
Non CO-OP® ATM Fee	700
NSF/Overdraft	4,000
Official Check	800
Official Check Copy	1,000
Official Check Stop Payment	4,000
Outgoing Wire Transfers	3,000
Outgoing Wire Transfers – International	6,000
Overdraft Transfers from Savings	800
PIN Re-order	500
Return ACH	4,000
Safe Deposit Box 3x5 (Annual Fee)	4,000
Safe Deposit Box 3x10 (Annual Fee)	6,000
Safe Deposit Box 5x10 (Annual Fee)	10,000
Safe Deposit Box 10x10 (Annual Fee)	15,000
Sales Draft Copy	1,000
Skip-a-Pay	5,000
Skip-a-Pay (Home Equity Loan)	7,000
Statement Copy	1,200
Stop Payments	4,000
Undeliverable Mail	1,000

Visit MichiganFirst.com/personal/membership-perks for the full points redemption chart.

Holiday Reminders

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
Monday, January 15
All branches closed
- **Presidents' Day**
Monday, February 19
All branches closed

Although our branches are closed, you can log in to our mobile app to do your banking anytime, anywhere! If you need to speak with us, call:

365Live
our 24-hour call center
800.664.3828

Notice of Fee Changes

Effective January 1, 2018:

- Money order – \$3.00
- Non CO-OP ATM transactions – 1 free per month, \$2.50 for each additional
- Service center cash withdrawal – \$4.00 per withdrawal for personal and business accounts

Important 2017 Year-end Tax Information

Your 2017 year-end tax information was included as the last page of your December 31, 2017, statement (or e-statement) from Michigan First.

Your Most Important New Year's Resolution? Write a Will.

New year possibilities always inspire resolutions and help jump start things we tend to put off. Many postpone writing a will even though it may be the most vital piece of your estate plan.

A will is a legal document that lets you direct how your property will be dispersed (among other things) when you die. It becomes effective only after your death. It also allows you to nominate an estate executor as the legal representative who carries out your wishes. In many states, your will is the only legal way you can name a guardian for your minor children. Without a will, your property will be distributed according to the intestacy laws of your state. Intestacy is a situation in which someone dies without having made a valid will. The laws of your state also govern the validity of a will.

What are the requirements?

They vary from state to state. Generally, for your will to be valid, the following requirements must be satisfied:

You must be 18 and of sound mind: Generally, you must be 18 years of age to execute a will, although some states have a different minimum age requirement. You also must be of sound mind. That means that you must have testamentary capacity – that you know and understand what property you own, its nature, who would inherit it, and the plan for disposition outlined in the will. You must also be free of undue influence or fraud at the time the will is drafted. In other words, you must draw up a will of your own free will.

Wills must be properly executed. Generally, this means that the will must be:

- **Written** – the general rule is that a will must be written. Usually, the will is typewritten or in some printed form. The one exception to the general rule is a nuncupative (oral) will. Nuncupative wills are generally valid only if made during your last illness and only if the witnesses reduce it to writing very soon afterward.
- **Signed by you (the testator)** – you or someone in your presence and at your direction must sign the will.
- **Witnessed** – generally, your signature must be witnessed by two competent persons.* Some states require three witnesses and some require no witnesses in certain cases, such as when a holographic will is executed. A holographic will is a will that is valid despite not being witnessed, because it is completely in the testator's handwriting. Other states may also require the signatures be notarized.

**Competency is a legal term and means the witnesses are of legal age (generally 18) and understand what they are witnessing. A witness is generally not considered competent if he or she is a beneficiary under the will and would not inherit if you died intestate (without a valid will). If this happens, the state will generally void the devise (real estate) or legacy (money or property) to that beneficiary. Some states void bequests (something given in a will) to all witnesses.*

Tell someone your funeral wishes. Your will might not be read immediately after your death and it may not be possible to have your funeral and burial wishes honored if you include them in your will. Instead, put funeral wishes in a separate letter and leave the letter with a trusted friend, close relative, or your executor; and have it read immediately upon your death.

Choose your beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are the people and organizations to whom you leave property. They can be relatives, friends, trusts, or charities. The essence of the will-making process revolves around thinking about the property you own and who you want to have it after your death.

Store the will in a safe, accessible place. Your executor and at least one close family member should know where you keep your will. Storage options include a file in your attorney's office or a fireproof safe at home. In some areas, it is possible to keep a copy of your will on file at the local probate court. It is not recommended that you store your will in a bank safe deposit box. Some states seal safe deposit boxes upon the owner's death, and the box can be opened only after obtaining the probate court's approval.

Review your will annually or upon certain events. A will should be reviewed at least annually or whenever your life situation changes. Here are some circumstances when you may want to revise your will:

- You marry or remarry
- You have a child
- You divorce
- Your spouse or child dies
- You move to another state
- Your income changes
- You retire
- The value of your estate changes
- Tax laws change

For information on how your investments play a key role in your estate planning contact Jamie Russell at **248.443.4619**.

Securities offered through Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Security products are not NCUA guaranteed, not credit union guaranteed and may lose value. Fixed and/or Traditional Insurance Services offered through Rehmann Insurance Group. Rehmann Insurance Group is not affiliated with Royal Alliance or registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Michigan First Credit Union and Michigan First Insurance Agency are not affiliated with Royal Alliance, Rehmann Financial or Rehmann Insurance Group.



Save on TurboTax and Get a Chance to Win \$25K!

As a Michigan First member, you can save up to \$15 on TurboTax® — the #1 best-selling tax software. With TurboTax, you'll get your taxes done right and your biggest possible refund — plus a chance to win \$25,000!

- **NEW: Expert review of your return.** With TurboTax Live, you can have a live CPA or EA by your side to answer questions and review your tax return.
- **Get a head start on your taxes.** Snap a photo of your W-2, or import it into TurboTax from over 1 million companies. Either way, you'll save time and get a jump start on your tax return.
- **Be sure nothing gets missed.** TurboTax CompleteCheck™ reviews every detail in your return, walks you through any final changes, and gives you the green light to file.

To be automatically entered to win the \$25K Grand Prize or one of twelve \$1,000 First Prizes, just try TurboTax Online for free (and provide your email address) by February 15th.¹

Visit **MichiganFirst.com** to start TurboTax now and save!

#1 Best-Selling brand of tax software based on aggregated sales data for all tax year 2016 TurboTax products. Visit <http://turbotax.intuit.com/lp/yoy/guarantees.jsp> for TurboTax product guarantees and other important information. ¹Limited time offer for TurboTax 2017. Terms, conditions, features, availability, pricing, fees, service and support options subject to change without notice. Intuit, TurboTax and TurboTax Online, among others, are registered trademarks and/or service marks of Intuit Inc. in the United States and other countries. TurboTax \$25,000 Sweepstakes. NO PURCHASE OR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia, 18 years of age or older at time of entry, who are customers of participating Financial Institutions or employees of participating businesses. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes ends 2/15/18. Subject to complete Official Rules and all applicable federal, state and local laws. For Official rules including participating Financial Institutions and business, odds of winning, alternate method of entry, and prize descriptions, visit <http://turbotax.intuit.com/go/sweepstakesrules>. PRIZES: 1 Grand Prize: A check for \$25,000. Retail value, \$25,000. 12 First Prizes: A check for \$1,000. Retail value, \$1,000 each. Maximum retail value of all prizes is \$37,000. The odds of winning a prize depend upon the total number of eligible entries received by the end of the Promotion Period. SPONSOR: Intuit Inc., 7535 Torrey Santa Fe Rd, SDG-2A-03-22E, San Diego, CA, 92129.

The Weather Outside is Frightful, Our Mobile App Lets You Bank from Home – Delightful!

Winter is here and if you don't want to brave the cold temperatures and snowy roads, we have good news. The Michigan First mobile app lets you bank from the comfort of your home and saves you time, money and gas! Through the enhanced app, you can safely and securely review account balances, make loan payments and more. You can also:

- Set up alerts to monitor accounts – alerts for transactions, balances and security can be set up by selecting “Settings” in the app, then “Alert Preferences.” You can receive alerts via text, email and push notifications.
- View Bill Pay history – keep track of upcoming and previous payments.
- Transfer money to other members – easily transfer money from your account to another Michigan First member through the “Transfer” tab at the bottom of the app screen.
- Deposit checks – please write “Michigan First mobile deposit only” on the back of your check when depositing through the mobile app.

Did you know you can also do the following in the app?

- Check if your social security, pension or other deposit arrived.
- View your account number.
- See if a payment from a merchant has been taken out.
- Locate the closest branch or ATM.
- Transfer money and make payments.

If you need assistance using the app or downloading it on your iPhone® or Android® device, please ask us for help! We're happy to show you the ropes and how easy it is to use. To view an informational video about our app, visit **MichiganFirst.com**.



CO-OP ATMs to the Rescue!

Did you know Michigan First is part of the CO-OP ATM network? This comes in very handy if you need to quickly visit an ATM and Michigan First isn't nearby. Through the network, we offer members access to nearly 1,600 surcharge-free ATMs in Michigan, and some could even be located at another credit union near you! If you're out-of-state, there are around 30,000 CO-OP Network ATMs nationwide. You can find ATMs or shared branches through our app or visit MichiganFirst.com/Locations.



27000 Evergreen Road
Lathrup Village, MI 48076

Our New Kroger Branch in Canton is Open for Business

We're excited to share our Kroger in-store branch in Canton is open to serve members! The branch is located at the corner of North Canton Center Road and Ford Road. All of our Kroger in-store locations are open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Guarding Identities While Supporting Our Community

Our Shred Days help keep your personal information out of the hands of identity thieves and also benefit our community. Join us for our next event where you can shred up to four bags of paper documents by donating five non-perishable food items or \$5.

Saturday, April 7

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Evergreen Branch in Lathrup Village

Can We Save You Money By Bringing Your Loans to Michigan First?

If you have loans at other banks or credit unions, talk to one of our Loan Heroes! We'll crunch the numbers and let you know if we can save you money by:

- Lowering your payment
- Reducing your number of payments
- Lowering your interest rate

Bring your loans to us! We offer:

- Auto loans
- Home equity loans
- Personal loans
- Marine and recreational vehicle loans
- Credit cards
- More!



Visit a branch today to talk with us about your loans and we'll review for possible savings opportunities.