



Advantage Credit Union, Inc.

Dear Members,

Leaving 2022 and entering 2023 was blustery, snowy and blizzardy. A nor'easter dumped a pile of snow and blew gale force winds down on Ontario causing the Credit Union to close early on December 23rd, 2022, the day before Christmas Eve. But ringing in the 2023 New Year turned out not to be as harsh and New Year's Eve celebrations rang in the New Year.

The Credit Union began 2023 with many expectations and anticipations alike. We anticipated rolling out new products and services for our members with the expectation of excellent member service, member satisfaction and a good return on investment. We started out by offering higher Certificate of Deposit rates between 4.00% and 4.25%. The minimum balance was \$500.00 and the best part about these certificates is that there **is no penalty for early withdrawal**.

We expanded our home banking features by offering a point-to-point external transfer service that allows our members to debit or credit their Credit Union account for making loan payments, clearing checks, or to make regular deposits. Venmo, Cash App and Paypal are also money moving venues that the Credit Union members can take advantage of. We continue to offer our remote deposit capture service that allows the member to take a picture of their check and deposit it to their account remotely at their convenience. **These services are free.**

Very soon we will be rolling out a new mobile banking service that will enhance our Debit card program. Members will be able to download an app on their phone to assist them with maintaining/navigating their debit card transactions. These features will include a wallet app for members to use their phone to pay for purchases without presenting a debit card. Our new card already has the tap feature embedded on them. The new debit card app will allow members to navigate and change card settings like raising spending limits and blocking lost or stolen cards. **There is no charge for this service.**

Advantage Credit has always been Community Service driven, knowing how important it is to give back to our community. Last year our community service endeavors included our annual high school senior Marilyn Archer scholarship award of \$1,000.00. Our 2023 scholarship winner was Adrian Allen a graduate of Mansfield St. Peter's. We attended the Richland County Jr. Fair Livestock auction where we bid on potential young farmers' small animals. The winning bid for our young farmers this year was \$900.00. We participated in "Make a Difference Day Food Drive" to help restock the food pantries at Catholic Charities and Wayfinders half-way house. We collected non-perishable food from our Credit Union family and donated it. Our entire staff here at the Credit Union donates to United Way annually. We make it an effort to support local churches and other local organizations.

We finished 2023 with a strong bottom line, a healthy net worth and solid audit exams.

So, we here at the Credit Union want to wish you all an incredibly Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2024. In addition to that, we promise to maintain our excellent member service as well as safekeeping all the accounts here at Advantage Credit Union, Inc.

Happy New Year,
Camille J. Grayson, President/CEO
Advantage Credit Union, Inc.