

Money Matters



December, 2019 Newsletter

Don't Let Criminals Play on Your Emotions!

In advertising, provoking an emotion can be a very effective way to increase sales. Fear, for example, is a very powerful emotion. Advertisers will appeal to that emotion by telling a quick story to frighten consumers, like: "Millions of people have their identities stolen every year," or "Did you know criminals can forge your name and take out a mortgage on your home." Then, the advertiser offers a way for you to protect yourself against those things happening, usually for a monthly fee.

Unfortunately, criminal con artists know this trick as well, and every year they fleece unsuspecting Americans out of billions (billions with a b) of dollars by playing to an emotion, usually fear.

A typical scam attempt may start with you receiving a phone call from the "Internal Revenue Service" or the "Social Security Administration". While the call may actually be coming from overseas, the con artists use spoofing technology to make the phone number appear to be from somewhere in the U.S. Many times you'll hear a recorded or computerized message saying something like, "We have detected

suspicious activity on your social security number. If you don't call us back we will issue an arrest warrant in your name." In many cases, that's scary enough to get a return call.



These con artists are skilled. Think about all of the merchant data breaches you've seen in the news. A lot of times con artists seem more legitimate because they'll have some information about you. They might give you a Case #, and if you call them back, they will answer their phone as the Department or Agency they are pretending to be from. The Scam always ends with the need for you to give them money or information.

You can protect yourself by knowing and following a few simple rules:

Never give information about your Social Security Number, accounts, or credit cards to anyone who initiates contact with you.

Your Social Security Number will never be "suspended" as the result of a phone call.

Neither the IRS nor the Social Security Administration will ever threaten you with an arrest warrant over the phone. Usually, legitimate contacts will occur through the mail. If you are threatened over the phone, it's a scam.

No legitimate governmental agencies demand payment by wire transfer or prepaid VISA cards. If someone tells you to buy VISA Gift Cards and give them the numbers on the front and the scratch off PIN on the back, it is a scam.

If someone claiming to be from the IRS or Social Security or another governmental agency tells you not to tell anyone about the call, it's a scam. The con artists don't want anyone to have the opportunity to tell you it's a scam. Trust your gut. If it seems funny, look up the number for the entity supposedly calling you yourself. Don't use a number the caller gives you. Call them, and explain the situation. In nearly 100% of situations, they'll tell you it's a scam.

Breakfast with Metro!

Annual Membership Meeting

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the Metro Credit Union Annual Membership Meeting.

This year's meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Marriott Regency Hotel, 10220 Regency Circle.

We've changed things up a bit this year, as the 2020 meeting will be an early morning event complete with a breakfast buffet.

Each year the Annual Membership Meeting provides Metro members with the opportunity to check on the performance of their financial institution over the course of the previous year, and to also learn about plans for the future.

The meeting is open to all Metro Credit Union members and their guests. Tickets are \$15.00 each and are available for purchase at all Metro Credit Union offices beginning in February.

Your ticket will provide you with a terrific breakfast buffet, the opportunity to learn more about your financial institution and a chance to win one of several door prizes.

Each year three directors are elected to fill three expiring terms on the nine-member Metro Credit Union Board of Directors. In 2020, the terms of Larry Ludwig, Joe Eckley and Rick Boldt are scheduled to expire.

Each of these volunteer directors has expressed an interest in serving an additional three-year term. As a result, the Nominating Committee has entered their names in nomination.

According to credit union bylaws, in the event that no other qualified candidates are identified prior to the meeting, and the number of open positions is equal to the number of candidates, no actual ballot election will be held. Credit union bylaws do not allow for nominations from the floor.

Current Metro Credit Union members in good standing who have an interest in running for a board position, may submit a petition signed by 1.00% of the membership along with a statement of qualification and biographical information to the Nominating Committee by Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

Metro Credit Union Directors are unpaid volunteers who are elected from within the membership. They are required to meet monthly and also make themselves available for training throughout the year.

Biographies for the three current Metro Credit Union Directors who have expressed interest in serving an additional three-year term are shown on page 3.

If you've not had the chance to attend a previous membership meeting, we encourage you to consider attending this year. We know that you'll learn a little more about the workings of your financial institution, and we can promise you'll have some fun!



Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 7
Marriott Hotel, Regency
10220 Regency Circle

Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Tickets \$15.00. Available
at any Metro office
beginning February 7th

Call for more information

See you there!





Metro Member: 24 years

Larry Ludwig

(Incumbent)

Employer: President, Rockbrook Alarms, LLC

Education: Bachelor's - University of Nebraska Omaha

Mr. Ludwig was first elected to the Metro Credit Union Board in 2002. He currently serves as Vice Chair after having served several terms as Treasurer. Mr. Ludwig served in the United States Marines and is a Persian Gulf war veteran. "I've found my time serving on the Metro Board to be extremely satisfying, particularly when you consider that we are all working toward the same goal of improving our members' lives."



Metro Member: 20 years

Joe Eckley

(incumbent)

Employer: Eckley Auto Brokers

Education: Gross High School

Mr. Eckley began his 30+ year career in the auto sales and finance industry immediately following high school. He has served as a volunteer Director on Metro's Board since 2013. Joe and wife Corrina have three children (Megan, Rachel and Joey). In addition to doing work for Catholic Charities, Joe and his family enjoy spending time at the family cabin located in Cedar Creek, Nebraska. Joe says, "there isn't a better feeling than walking into a place of business where everyone knows your name. This has been my experience with Metro and it has impressed me so much. I actually use my experience with Metro as the foundation for great customer service when training our employees." Joe uses his decades of experience as a business owner, and especially his knowledge of the automotive sales industry, to serve Metro's members on the board.



Metro Member: 32 years

Rick Boldt

(Incumbent)

Employer: University of Nebraska Medical Center

Education: Associate of Arts, Civil Engineering

Mr. Boldt has served as a Metro Credit Union Volunteer Director for 12 years and has previously served as a member of the Supervisory Committee. In addition, Mr. Boldt has served on a number of boards in the community including: Ronald McDonald House, Meyer Foundation for Disabilities, Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures and others.

Mr. Boldt is employed as the Senior Manager for Special Projects for Chancellor's Office, Sodexo Relations for Food & Environmental Services, Transportation and Recycling for the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "I am committed to continuing the unique family environment that we have created at the credit union. Our members and employees have been the key to the success enjoyed by our organization. My commitment to family, combined with my 40 years of experience with UNMC, will continue to influence the decisions I make as a Metro Credit Union Volunteer Director"



2020 Volunteer Director Candidates