

MembersAlliance  
CREDIT UNION

You can *rely* on us!

# The DIRECT Line

a communication to our valued members

## Chip (EMV)-Enhanced Credit Cards: Coming Soon to MACU!



### In This Issue

Private student loan terms  
Bonus points with new VISA card  
New mobile app features  
Get your Medicare ?'s answered  
Fall Shred Day Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

### Who will get these cards at MembersAlliance?

If you are a MembersAlliance VISA credit card holder, your current card will eventually be replaced by a chip-enhanced card. The new chip-enhanced cards are slated to be issued starting in October for new accounts and lost replacement cards.

Beginning in December 2015, expiring MembersAlliance VISA credit cards will be replaced with the new chip card. The goal is for all of our members to have the new chip card by the end of 2016. You will receive instructions and information with your new card, but as always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact us for additional explanation.

MembersAlliance Debit chip cards will be issued in early 2016. Watch your mail for information.

### What is a chip-enhanced card?

The new chip-enhanced card contains an embedded microchip. This chip holds information that is encrypted, making it extremely difficult for the card to be copied or counterfeited. Rather than swiping your card, the user will insert the chip card into a chip-enabled terminal to complete a transaction. In addition to the embedded microchip, your new card still has a magnetic stripe on the back enabling the user to make purchases by swiping the card at merchants who have not yet switched to chip-enabled terminals.

### What are the benefits of a chip card?

The advanced security due to the chip technology makes it difficult for a fraudster to counterfeit your card. Global acceptance: the ability for travelers to make transactions at terminals outside the U.S.

### Where can I use my new chip card?

At the exact same merchants you do now, by inserting the card into terminals that are chip-enabled or swiping your card at merchant locations that have not yet switched to chip-enabled terminals. You can also continue to use your card as you did before for online and telephone payments.

### What does EMV stand for?

Europay, Mastercard, and Visa

## Private Loan Terms Everyone Should Know



Before borrowing any loan, read all the loan terms. MembersAlliance offers the **Credit Union Student Choice Private Loan**. Ask a loan representative for details; we are here to help college bound students find your best solution to fill the funding gap.

Visit [membersalliance.studentchoice.org](http://membersalliance.studentchoice.org) and click on "igrad" to find helpful tips & information such as the following article:

Private student loans used to be a pretty scary option: interest rates that can change, less protection in case of hard economic times, and parents not sure if they'll be liable for the loan.

The good news is that there's been a lot of positive change in the private student loan industry; but understanding important terms will help you secure the best loan.

*Note: Federal loans directly to students are normally the best primary option. Private loans are more of a viable alternative to parent PLUS or other PLUS loans.*

### Variable Rate Terms

Primarily, you hear about interest rates being fixed or variable. A variable rate loan can change in interest rate. The rate is normally tied to a financial index such as Prime or Libor. These indexes will vary over the course of time based on how the economy is doing. For instance, mortgage rates a few years ago were at 7 percent and have been as low as 3 or 4 percent. You need to have a good idea as to how long you'll take to repay student loans before choosing a variable rate loan. If you only borrow an amount you can afford to repay within 5 years, you won't be economically devastated if payments rise.

### Parent versus Private Student Loans

In the past, most loans were issued in the student's name with the parent cosigning. This has changed with more private loan options available in the parent's name. This can be very good thing for eliminating confusion on who's really responsible for the loan. Parents are dually responsible on a cosigned loan but the sole responsibility means parents will keep an eye on the payments. They'll also skip caring about their son's or daughter's future income as a method of repayment. After all, the exact income a student will earn is unpredictable before they've graduated.

### Cosigning and Cosigner Release Options

A cosigner is simply someone who says I'll pay this loan if the other person doesn't. Both positive and negative credit history is reported on their credit reports for the loan. Servicers will offer cosigner release options. For instance, after a certain number of on-time payments, the cosigner can be removed. It's important to fully read the release terms before borrowing the loan as well as before applying for a cosigner release.

### Education Lines of Credit

A new method for paying for college is a line of credit. The parents or the student and cosigner are approved for a specific amount. Then the amount can be borrowed as needed. This can help keep families from over borrowing.

### Forbearance

Forbearance is a temporary break from payments. Ask about your options for taking a break from payments when needed. Federal student loans are normally better for this, but private loan companies will sometimes work with you.

## Choose our VISA card and Be Rewarded!

This fall is a great time to apply for our VISA Platinum Rewards Credit Card. Every new card holder will **receive 1,000 bonus points\*** to use on things like gift cards, travel, loan rate discounts and more! Plus you'll enjoy all the other benefits of being a MACU VISA credit card holder including:

- **low interest rate**
- **no annual fee**
- **no cash advance fee**
- **no balance transfer fee**
- **Rewards points with every purchase**

Apply at any of our 5 locations or go online at [membersalliance.org](http://membersalliance.org). Offer good Sept. 1 - Nov. 30, 2015.

*\*Some restrictions apply. Subject to credit approval.*



### New Look to MyCardInfo VISA site

The "MyCardInfo" VISA credit card site has a new look! MyCardInfo provides cardholders with information on your VISA credit card including current activity, statements, and payment option. This new site makes it even easier to review your account information.

People that sign on directly to the MyCardInfo site or who use the WebDirect online banking link to MyCardInfo will both see the changes.

When you visit your MyCardInfo site, you'll enjoy:

- **Responsive design for optimal viewing and navigation from any device**
- **Ease-of-use through simple and clean dashboard views**
- **Alerts and information more easily visible and accessible**

**LOVE MY CREDIT UNION REWARDS**

**Exclusive discounts & benefits for credit union members.**  
**The more offers you take advantage of, the more you SAVE.**  
**Start saving today at [LoveMyCreditUnion.org](http://LoveMyCreditUnion.org).**



## Do You Know your Full 13-Digit account number?

When establishing a direct deposit (i.e. Paycheck, Social Security, etc.), online payment account (i.e. PayPal) or other automatic deposit or payment from your account, you will be asked to provide your Full 13-Digit account number to the issuer.

For a checking account, this number can be found at the bottom of your printed checks. For either savings or checking, the Full 13-Digit number can be provided to you by a member service representative at the credit union; we cannot give this number over the phone or by email.

If you do not provide the correct Full 13-Digit account number when setting up a payment, it will not be processed automatically and may be returned or rejected.

## Mobile Banking gives you even more



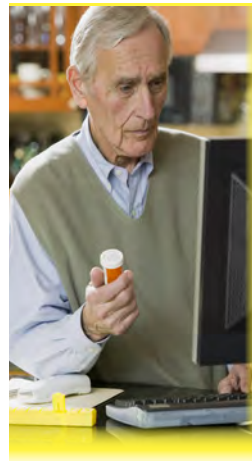
A new version of our WebDirectm Mobile Banking App is coming your way, offering several new features:

- **Pending / Hold Transactions** – pending transactions will now be displayed at the top of the transaction list.
- **Running Transaction Balance** – remaining account balances will now be displayed in transaction history.
- **Quick Balance** – optional feature that allows you to see account balances without logging in. choose which accounts you want to see in the “quick balance” view & enable it.
- **Fingerprint Authentication** – choose this optional feature for iOS 8 or later and Android devices that support fingerprint authentication.

**Congratulations to our President Cheryl Sio who celebrates 40 years of service with MembersAlliance this September!**



## Confused about Medicare? Educate Yourself



### “The ABCs of MEDICARE”

#### FREE SEMINAR

(2 SESSIONS ON 2 DATES)

**WED., OCTOBER 7**

**11:30am-1pm OR 6:00-7:30pm**

and

**TUES., NOVEMBER 3**

**11:30am-1pm OR 6:00-7:30pm**

at **MEMBERSALLIANCE**

**S. Alpine Rd. location**

**CALL 815-226-2260 TO**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

Whether you're a new Medicare Beneficiary, retiring soon, or already have Medicare Insurance in place, we invite you to attend this educational presentation about the different options available for your Medicare Insurance: Medicare A & B, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Part D (Prescription Drug), or Medicare Advantage. With the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period right around the corner, it's the perfect time to learn what's new for 2016!

Also, a representative from the new **OAK STREET HEALTH** will be at the seminar to provide information on this new facility offering primary care doctors for adults with Medicare.

## A Plan for Every Chapter of Your Life



### What is life insurance?

**Life insurance** is an important part of a financial safety net you can provide your loved ones in the event of your passing. It helps provide peace of mind, knowing that

your beneficiaries will receive money, when they need it most. It pays your beneficiaries money, which can be used for any purpose.



TruStage Insurance Agency

- Provides cash for daily living expenses
- Funds your children's education
- Meets monthly mortgage payments
- Protects your loved ones' future

### Credit union endorsed and tailored to your budget

You trust your credit union to provide value. MembersAlliance endorses TruStage products and programs because for more than 75 years they've been providing exceptional value and superior service exclusively to credit unions and their members. For more information, Visit [TruStageLife.com](http://TruStageLife.com) or Call toll free 1-888-888-0376

TruStage products and programs are made available through the companies of the CUNA Mutual Group. They have been providing insurance and financial services designed for credit unions and their members for more than 75 years, serving more than 13 million credit union members. TruStage™ is the marketing brand for the insurance offered through CMFG Life Insurance Company. The insurance offered is not federally insured or guaranteed or sold by your credit union. Products may not be available in all states.

Be sure to understand the complete details of coverage, including any exclusions and limitations.

# You Can Rely On Us!

# MembersAlliance

**You Can Rely On Us!** CREDIT UNION

Main office

2550 S. Alpine Rd.

Rockford

815.226.2260

Perryville branch

6951 Olde Creek Rd.

Rockford

815.484.1160

Inside Walmart

3902 W. Riverside Blvd.

Rockford

815.484.5350

7219 Walton St.

Rockford

815.484.5345

4781 E. Rockton Rd.

Rockton

815.484.1250



Your deposits are insured to \$250,000 per account.  
This institution is not federally insured.



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Permit No 781



## Shred It and Forget It!

**Saturday, Sept. 19**  
**9am - noon**  
**MembersAlliance**  
**Credit Union**  
**2550 S. Alpine Rd.**  
**(by drive up) Rockford**



Why make it easy for thieves to get their hands on your sensitive information? Thwart dumpster divers by shredding papers containing confidential information, particularly:

anything with Social Security or account numbers  
credit card offers & statements  
ATM receipts  
bank account statements  
documents with PINs and passwords  
items with your signature  
medical records  
pay stubs  
canceled and voided checks

To help prevent identity theft, members and non-members are invited to take advantage of this **FREE service on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** to dispose of unwanted personal documents safely and securely.

Shredding is done on-site by Paper Recovery Service, and the Better Business Bureau will co-sponsor. Limit 2 boxes per car is requested, please, so that everyone can be helped.

## Calendar of Events

Subject to change.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 19 | <b>Community Shred Day</b><br>9am-noon MACU S. Alpine location   |
| Sept. 29 | <b>"UTAS Retirement Seminar"</b> see insert pg.<br>presented by Klaas Financial<br>6-7:30pm MACU S Alpine location |
| Oct. 7   | <b>"The ABCs of Medicare" Seminar</b><br>see pg. 3 for details 11:30am-1pm/6-7:30pm<br>MACU S Alpine location      |
| Oct. 12  | <b>Columbus Day holiday</b><br>Traditional offices closed. Instores are Open!                                      |
| Oct. 14  | <b>"UTAS Retirement Seminar"</b> see insert pg.<br>presented by Klaas Financial<br>6-7:30pm MACU S Alpine location |
| Oct. 15  | <b>International Credit Union Day!</b>   |
| Nov. 3   | <b>"The ABCs of Medicare" Seminar</b><br>see pg. 3 for details 11:30am-1pm/6-7:30pm<br>MACU S Alpine location      |