

## In This Issue:

- **MPECU's Annual Meeting**
- **Loan Special-Ends January 31st!**
- **1% Refinance Offer**  
Now includes 4 Wheelers and Snowmobiles!
- **Small Business Grants for Women-Owned Businesses**  
Help your business stand out with a boost from one of these grants
- **Scholarship Applications Due February 1st**
- **Bolt\$**
- **Faster, Greener Statements!**

## MPECU's Annual Meeting

Join us Wednesday, February 7th at the DECC Harborside Room (350 Harbor Drive, Duluth) as we celebrate 85 years of service!

5 PM-Registration and Social

5:30 PM-Wills, Trusts, and Estates Seminar with MPECU Retirement and Investment Services' Ed Grondahl

Dinner and MPECU Annual Meeting to follow

The cost is \$15 per member or \$45 per non-member. You can RSVP online or call us at 218-336-1800. Reservations must be made by Friday, January 26th.

### ***Food Selections:***

#### **ROAST STRIP SIRLOIN AND KING SALMON**

Salad of Spinach, Strawberry, Candied Pecans and Chèvre with Honey Balsamic Vinaigrette 6 oz.  
Sliced Roast New York Strip with Cabernet Demi-glace 5 oz. Oven Broiled King Salmon with Béarnaise Sauce Herbed Boursin Mashed Potatoes

#### **BRUSCHETTA CHICKEN AND GRILLED SHRIMP**

Salad of Field Greens, Spinach, Grated Carrots, Grape Tomato, Pepperoncini, Kalamata Olive, Balsamic Vinaigrette A smaller portion of our Bruschetta Chicken with four Grilled Shrimp Served over Saffron Rice

#### **BAKED ACORN SQUASH WITH MINNESOTA WILD RICE**

(Vegetarian) Topped with Spicy Walnuts and drizzled with Pesto Cream Sauce

#### **CHILDREN'S MEAL**

Breaded Chicken Tenders, Buttery Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots and Salad of the Day



### **Loan Special-Ends January 31st!**

Consolidate your debts with MPECU. Apply now for a loan and get a great rate of 5.90% APR!\* Give us a call today at 218-336-1800 and take advantage of this offer soon--it ends on January 31st!

Want to start saving for Holiday 2018? Start saving NOW with an MPECU Christmas Club. Contribute throughout the year and we'll transfer it into your savings account on November 1st, just in time for the holiday shopping season. We can also link your direct deposit to divert a set amount each payroll to go into your Christmas Club--you can put your holiday savings budget on auto-pilot!

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. This loan special is available until January 31, 2018. Qualified borrowers may borrow between \$500 and \$3,000 in new money with a 12 month term. Estimated payment of \$44.00 per \$500.00 borrowed.



### **1% Refinance Offer**

#### **Now includes 4 Wheelers and Snowmobiles!**

Cut down the rate you're paying for your non-MPECU loans! Refinance your auto, motorcycle, 4 wheeler, or snowmobile loans with us and we'll take 1.00% APR off the amount you're currently paying--down to 1.99%!\* Give us a call at 218-336-1800 and start saving today.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Offer is only valid for refinancing non-MPECU auto, motorcycle, 4 wheeler, and snowmobile loans. The lowest rate MPECU will offer on the refinance special is 1.99% APR for six years. When financing a used vehicle, the age and condition of the vehicle will determine the maximum rate and term. Offer is subject to change or discontinue at any time.

## Small Business Grants for Women-Owned Businesses

Help your business stand out with a boost from one of these grants

In 2012, the most recent year with statistics available from the U.S. Small Business Administration, women were majority owners of 9.9 million businesses in the U.S. with over \$1.4 trillion in sales and 8.4 million employees. While this is a great number, 14.8 million of businesses are owned by men with sales of over \$9.4 trillion and 41.1 million employees. To help women start their own small businesses, improve these statistics and add to the economy, several institutions offer grants to female entrepreneurs.

### Grants.gov

One source of small business grants for women is the federal government. If you're just starting out, this website is a great place to begin because it assembles all of the grants offered by the federal government in one place. Not only will you find some good grants for female entrepreneurs, but you might also see some other grants you are eligible for because of your location or industry. The team at NerdWallet.com cautions you to be sure you select small businesses in your search, as the government might have a grant that looks right for you in name, but is actually meant for a larger enterprise.



### Women Business Centers

The U.S. Small Business Administration has a large presence at the national level in Washington D.C., but the agency has several Women's Business Centers throughout the country that specifically offer assistance to female entrepreneurs. There are more than 100 of these educational centers and several of them have their own grant programs based on what the SBA has deemed appropriate for each region. While there's no way to tell exactly how much money each office has to offer, it doesn't hurt to visit and learn more about how the SBA can help you get your business off the ground.

### InnovateHER

If your business offers a product or service that isn't just provided by women but also helps women and their families, you might be a good candidate for the U.S. Small Business Administration's InnovateHER Challenge. Entries are closed for 2017, but the 2018 contest should open at the beginning of the year. Applying for InnovateHER is a bit complicated, as you have to apply at a local level before you can move on to regional and national levels. However, if you do make it to the top tier, the prize money in previous years has been as high as \$40,000 for first place. If you are interested in applying, keep your eyes on SBA.gov.

### The Amber Grant for Women

If your business just needs cash to cover one large expense or to make a purchase for the future, consider the Amber Grant Foundation, run by Womensnet. The Amber Grant Foundation honors a young woman who passed away at the age of 19 before she could open the business she dreamed of. Every month, the organization awards a \$500 Amber Grant to a woman-owned business. At the end of the year, one of the 12 grant winners will walk away with \$2,500 in additional grant money.

Beyond these sources, there are plenty of grants offered at a state and local level at which you and your business might be eligible for. With these grants, your business can reach the next level and

improve the community around it.

---

**Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union • 218-336-1800 • [www.mpecu.com](http://www.mpecu.com)**



### Scholarship Applications Due February 1st

The Minnesota Credit Union Foundations Scholarship Council is now accepting applications for scholarships to be awarded to Minnesota Credit Union members, which includes members of MPECU. This year, they will be awarding:

Two \$3,000 scholarships;  
Two \$2,000 scholarships; and  
Ten \$1,000 scholarships

Any student pursuing post-secondary education in the fall 2018/spring 2019 is eligible to apply. The essay and applications will be accepted until February 1, 2018 and winners will be announced late March/early April.

For details and to apply, please link to the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation Scholarship Council's website.

**Bolt\$**



**Put Debit Card Fraud Prevention in Your Own Hands With SHAZAM BOLT\$!**

- Freeze/unfreeze your cards instantly if lost or misplaced
- Get alerts for debit card purchases at certain dollar thresholds or types of transactions
- Block certain transactions from getting approvals on your card

Our processor Shazam is at the forefront of fraud protection. Between monitoring your account and calling to verify transactions, to giving you the power to control your own card with Shazam Bolts, you can be sure to minimize your risk for debit card fraud.

**Shazam Bolts is a free app you can download from the App Store or Google Play.**







### **Faster, Greener Statements!**

Access E-statements from within your MPECU online banking! Register yourself the next time you are logged into the online banking system and receive your statements in a more secure manner.

Simply click the E-statements tab to get started--*your browser's pop up blocker must allow pop ups in order to launch E-statements.*

