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Want to help steer the future of MPECU?

We're looking for candidates!

You have a say--let's hear it!

Our Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to fill a variety of volunteer positions:

Credit Committee-Members of the Credit Committee assume the responsibility of granting all types of loans and reviewing the bylaws, regulations, and statutes that govern the operation of the Credit Union industry.

Supervisory Committee-Members of the Supervisory Committee are responsible for ensuring that the Board of Directors and management of MPECU are meeting financial reporting objectives and establish practices and procedures to safeguard members' assets.

Board of Directors-Board members assist in making strategic decisions regarding the direction and actions of MPECU. They are tasked with protecting Credit Union members assets' through proper control and continuous evaluation of management practices.

For full job descriptions, including time commitments, and expectations, please visit our Get Involved page. **If you are interested in applying, please fill out and return the Volunteer Application on the Get Involved page before November 21, 2018.**

Drive 4 Less

Drive 4 Less is a program available for **new and used** vehicle purchases of up to 5 model years old. Like a lease, you can choose terms from 24 to 72 months. When your term is over, you can sell the vehicle to pay off the balance, use the vehicle as a trade-in and pay the remaining balance as a part of the transaction, keep the vehicle and refinance the remaining balance, or return the vehicle and walk away.

Unlike a lease there is:

- No down payment required
- No first and last month payment required
- You select a 12,000, 15,000, or 18,000 miles a year option
- No early payoff penalty--since you own the vehicle, you can pay it off at any time

Drive 4 Less is designed to have no "back end surprises"--you will not be exposed to any hidden expenses during the term or at the loan's end.

For more details, call Jennifer at 218-336-1820, Carolyn at (218) 336-1809, Riley at (218) 336-1806, or Leah at (218) 336-1827.

Scholarships Available

Apply by November 30th!

Available scholarships include two \$2,000 and eight \$1,000 scholarships and are available for traditional and non-traditional students. Students must:

- Be enrolled or plan to enroll in an undergraduate or graduate program through an accredited, non-profit educational institution
- Enroll in at least one course during the scholarship period
- Must be a Credit Union member "in good standing" (i.e. not delinquent on loans or have a negative balance)

Additional Information:

- Financial need is not considered in the selection process
- Applicants will be asked to approve their names, words, and/or photos can be used to promote scholarship program

Applications must be submitted by November 30, 2018 in order to be considered. More details on the scholarship program and the application can be found on the Foundation Scholarship Council's webpage [here](#).

Setting Travel Expense Limits for Your Employees

Reduce business travel fees to save your company some cash

Business travel might be a necessary expense, however there's no doubt that it can be a costly one. According to Certify, companies spend almost \$112 billion on domestic travel each year, with employees spending about \$949 each year on business travel costs. By implementing travel expense policies and applying some money-saving strategies, you'll start slashing those hefty costs.

Establish a travel policy

The first step to curbing travel expenses is to set a companywide policy, as Aleda Schaffer, strategic partnerships manager with American Airlines, shares with Entrepreneur. Browse the internet for free travel policy templates you can download and modify to suit your business's goals and financial resources. The travel policy should outline thorough details for multiple procedures. For example, you might include a per diem cap in the travel policy document. This simply means there is a daily maximum expense an employee can make during each given day of a business trip.



Distinguish a travel planner

Depending on the size of your company, designate one staff member as a part-time or full-time travel manager. If you're tight on resources and low on staff, consider finding a virtual assistant who can perform this function for your corporation, as Schaffer recommends. This will help streamline travel plan procedures and provide an extra level of accountability for employees when mapping out their next conference or tradeshow excursion.

Electronic planning and tracking

Multiple cloud software apps are available on the market to help simplify your company's travel expense processes. This technology can make it easier for employees to import expenses and track mileage, and some even let you scan receipts via your smartphone. Zoho Expense, Certify Now and Xpenditure Small Business are three of the best apps according to consumer reviews.

Sign up for rewards programs

CNBC contributor Chris Morris recommends booking reservations with the same hotel chain and airline when traveling, and to inquire about rewards programs offered by each. It might be possible to earn points that can go toward travel costs, which could result in a free night at a hotel or a cheaper flight.

Make reservations early

One of the biggest ways to keep travel costs low is to make reservations well ahead of time. Last-minute travel can rapidly increase business trip fees. As Morris shares, businesses can save an average of \$148 per airline ticket by booking the ticket at least eight days before the departure date.

Require authorization for last-minute bookings

If certain employees tend to make last-minute travel reservations, consider adding a booking policy to your business's corporate-wide travel expense procedure document. The Balance contributor Susan M. Heathfield explains an incident where an employee booked a \$1,200 plane ticket two days before an event. This same ticket would've cost just \$300 if the employee had booked it a few weeks in

advance of the travel date instead.

By proactively limiting your employee's travel expenses and adopting some cost-saving policies, you can enjoy the positive outcomes of staff business trips while enhancing your company's overall profit.

Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union • 218-336-1800 • www.mpecu.com

CU Forward Day

MPECU had two teams of volunteers help at the Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank packing food BackPacks for area children in need. The Backpack Program sends home nutritious, easy to prepare foods for local kids over the weekends when food at home may be scarce and school isn't in session for them to eat. The program serves over 1,000 children weekly in over 16 communities throughout Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin.

To learn more about the program, to volunteer, or to donate, please [click here](#).



Debit Card Alerts

When our card processor detects unusual activity on your debit card, they will notify you to prevent fraudulent charges from posting to your account, or to verify that you really did authorize the purchase. It's important to keep your phone number updated with MPECU so you can receive these notifications.

Text Messages

A text message from our card processor Shazam will notify you of unusual card activity. The text will state the last 4 digits of your card, the merchant name, and the dollar amount. You will NOT be asked to provide your card number. Reply Yes to confirm or No to deny. There is no charge for these text alerts. **All texts will come from them number 72718.**

Voice Calls

If you can't receive texts, or don't respond to the text notification, you will receive an automated call to verify the unusual activity. The call will state the last 4 digits of your card, the dollar amount of the transaction, and the name of the merchant. You will be asked to confirm if you made the transaction. Be cautious of scam calls that ask you to provide information, such as your full card number. **All phone calls will come from the number 855-219-5399.**

