

Memberlink

Helping You Build A Better Life!



SPRING 2025

Enjoy Your Journey with WCCU Credit Union!

From Your First Car, To Your Next...
Better Solutions From People You Know & Trust!

APPLYING IS EASY!

Buying your auto should be an easy, hassle-free experience. At WCCU, we want to be your trusted partner to guide you through every step of the way. We believe in making auto loans straightforward, quick, and easy.

WHY CHOOSE US?

- ✓ **Competitive Rates:** We offer some of the most attractive auto loan rates ensuring you get the best deal that makes sense for you.
- ✓ **Quick Approvals:** Waiting isn't fun. That's why we strive to process your auto loan application swiftly, getting you behind the wheel faster.
- ✓ **Flexible Terms:** Whether you want a short-term loan or something a bit longer, our range of loan terms means we work to find the perfect fit for your budget and keep you informed every step along the way.
- ✓ **Refinancing Options:** Already have a car loan elsewhere? Switch to us and see how much you could save.

SIMPLE FINANCING

Whether you've got your eye on a brand new or a pre-owned, we have loan options for both new and used vehicles.

PROTECT YOUR RIDE FOR LESS

- ✓ **Debt Protection:** Protect you and your family against the unexpected in the events of death, disability, involuntary unemployment.
- ✓ **Mechanical Repair:** After your factory warranty is no longer valid, how will you pay for repairs? Choose from three different plans to help protect against unexpected repairs.
- ✓ **GAP Plus (Guaranteed Asset Protection):** If your vehicle is in an accident and deemed a total loss, GAP Plus can help you pay the difference between what your insurance pays and the balance you may owe on your loan!



Ready For Your
Next Vehicle?
Shop AutoSMART
Today!



Apply Online
Get Pre-Approved
Find Your Ride &
Drive It Home!



Connecting with Chris

Chris Barnick
President/CEO

I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual Governmental Affairs Conference in Washington D.C. with two of my colleagues.

GAC is a national conference that gives credit unions the opportunity to engage with lawmakers, advocate for the credit union movement, and highlight the difference credit unions make in our members and communities' lives.

This year's theme was **Together We Move - Moving with purpose. Moving with Passion. Moving with strength.** It reflected on working together to improve financial well-being across the nation. It reminded me of the work we are focusing on at WCCU.

As we continue to move forward, your credit union is extremely focused on improving our infrastructure, developing our teams, and improving the products and services that we offer you.

We are striving to build stronger relationships with you through improved communication and education. We are making a concentrated effort on sharing the many great ways which we can help you reach your goals.

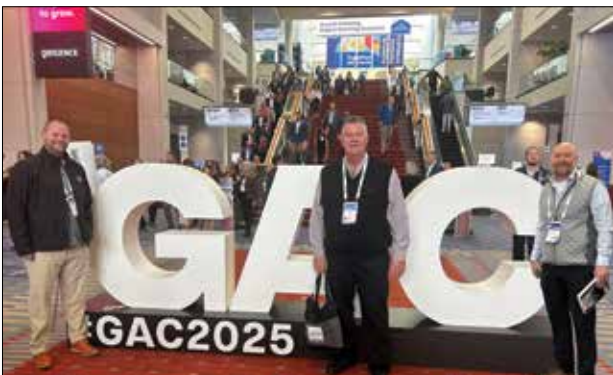
This effort will come in the form of more consistent communication and the use of different platforms to reach more of you.

Your goals are our goals, and it is important that you know how we can help!

Thank you for your business and I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 13th. Enjoy your spring!

Warm Regards,

Chris Barnick, WCCU President/CEO



WCCU representatives (l-r) Chris Barnick, President/Chief Executive Officer, John Rudie, Chief Financial Officer, and Vince Paduano, Chief Lending Officer attended the Governmental Affairs Conference (GAC) in March where they engaged with lawmakers to advocate for credit unions, members, and the communities we serve.

Bauer Schuhl Farming School



Bauer Schuhl is an annual two-day conference for Amish and other plain community farmers. The event is held near Hillpoint, Wisconsin and attracts over 1,000 participants from all over the country.

Workshops are taught in German with note-takers at each session so that proceedings can be later published in

English. Practical topics include animal and soil health, egg production, bee keeping, money management, etc.

Representatives from WCCU Member Business Department attended the event and discussed financial education with participants. Pictured: (l-r) WCCU Lenders Jon Schmidt and Kim Olstad

Better Solutions!

Saving With Credit Card Balance Transfers

Convenience Store	Balance: \$848.22	30% APR
Home Improvement Store	Balance: \$1,888.28	33% APR
Sporting Good Store	Balance: \$1,025.57	31% APR
Department Store	Balance: \$625.25	32% APR

1234 5678 9012 3456
Your Card 11/25

Transfer \$4,387.32



7.25% APR - 18% APR*

*Rates are based on creditworthiness and will vary with the market based on the U.S. Prime Rate.



Better Solutions! Strategy

Use store cards to get the rewards or discounts, then transfer the balances to your WCCU Credit Card to save more!

Transfer existing balances from higher rate cards to your WCCU Card:

- ✓ Reduce your interest rate
- ✓ Consolidate debt into one easy payment
- ✓ Pay off balances faster
- ✓ Potentially save hundreds, even thousands, in interest



Scan the QR Code or visit www.wccu.coop to get started!
APPLY FOR A CARD | TRANSFER BALANCES | LIMIT INCREASES

Enjoy Your Journey

with **WCCU**
CREDIT UNION

Artist First Name: _____

Age: _____



Color and return to any WCCU location. Ten lucky winners will be randomly chosen to win \$10. Entry must be postmarked or returned by 5/1/25. Winners will be announced in the WCCU Summer Newsletter.

Please print the following information:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Child Name:

Parent/Guardian Name:



Overdraft Privilege

At times, unexpected expenses can leave you with too little cash in your checking account. Having a check returned due to insufficient funds can be a costly, inconvenient and potentially embarrassing experience.

At WCCU we do not encourage overdrafts. As always, we encourage you to manage your finances responsibly. However, we want to save you from the additional merchant fees and possible damage to your credit history that might result if a check is returned. That is why we provide a discretionary service called "Overdraft Privilege" to eligible accounts in good standing. (For example, we typically do not pay overdrafts if your account has not been positive within the last 35 calendar days, you are not making regular deposits, or you have a past due loan, garnishment or levy).

With Overdraft Privilege transactions may be approved, up to the Overdraft Privilege limit, when there are insufficient available funds in your account. A \$20 fee will be charged per presentment against insufficient available funds and will reduce the amount of Overdraft Privilege that is available to you. Please be aware that Overdraft Privilege is intended for inadvertent or occasional use, such as a balance miscalculation. You are encouraged to use other overdraft protection services WCCU offers, such as an automatic transfer from a savings account, as your first line of defense against overdrafts.

Overdraft Privilege is automatically provided to eligible accounts and there is no charge unless you use the service. If you prefer not to have Overdraft Privilege on your account, please contact any of our WCCU offices and we will remove it.

VERY IMPORTANT:

The above protection will cover only checks, ACH items, in person withdrawals and any recurring debit card transactions. If you wish to extend your Overdraft Privilege to cover ATM and everyday debit card transactions, the regulation requires that you give WCCU your consent by "Opting In". To do this, simply contact any of our WCCU Offices or use the Overdraft Privilege widget to enroll yourself. If you have already given WCCU your consent, there is no need to opt in again. Although you do not ever expect to use it, it will give you peace of mind knowing the Overdraft Privilege is there if you need it.

**Subject to WCCU discretion. An Overdraft fee of \$20 per presentment will be charged for overdrafts. There is a cap of \$100 per day on the total amount of fees we can charge you for overdrawing your account. Payment of your overdraft is discretionary and we reserve the right not to pay. WCCU has the right to require payment to bring the account current immediately after an overdraft.*

Would You Be Prepared For An Unplanned Early Retirement?

Most of us would prefer not to think about an unexpected (and unwelcome) early retirement, but it does happen frequently. In fact, nearly half of current retirees retired earlier than planned, and of that group, more than 60% did so due to changes at their company or a hardship, such as disability.¹ For that reason, it's a good idea to take certain steps now to help prepare for the unexpected.

What You Can Do Now

Save as much as possible in tax-advantaged accounts.

If you're forced to retire earlier than planned, your work-sponsored retirement plans, IRAs, and health savings accounts (HSAs) could become critical resources. HSA assets can be used tax-free to pay for qualified medical expenses at any time, and you can generally tap your retirement plan and IRA assets after age 59½ without penalty. Although ordinary income taxes apply to distributions from pre-tax accounts, qualified withdrawals from Roth accounts are tax-free.²

In addition, the IRS has identified several situations in which retirement account holders may be able to take penalty-free early withdrawals. These include disability, terminal illness, leaving an employer after age 55 (work-based plans only),³ to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income, and to pay for health insurance premiums after a job loss (IRAs only).

Pay down debt.

Generally, it's wise to enter retirement (especially when unexpected) with as little debt as possible. Ensuring that your financial plan includes a strategy for paying down student loans,

credit card debt, auto loans, and mortgages can help you minimize your income needs later in life.

Know your bare-bones budget.

Another way to help cushion the shock of an unexpected early retirement is knowing exactly how much you spend each month on your basic necessities, including housing, food, utilities, transportation, and health care. Maintaining a written budget throughout life's ups and downs will help you quickly identify how much income you'd need over the short term while you work on a longer-term income-replacement strategy.

Understand Social Security benefits.

If you stop working due to disability, you may qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits if you meet certain requirements. You must have earned a certain number of work credits in a job covered by Social Security and have a physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death. If you remain eligible, benefits may continue up to age 65 and then convert to Social Security retirement benefits.

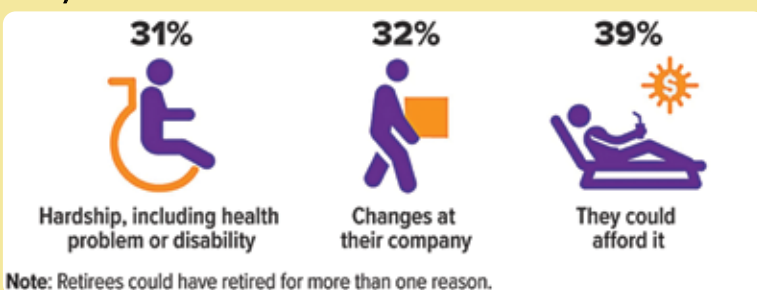
If you need to retire earlier than planned for reasons unrelated

to age 65 could leave you without health insurance. You may opt to continue your employer-sponsored health coverage for a limited period (permitted through COBRA, the Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act), although this can be quite expensive. If you're married and your spouse works, you may get coverage under their plan. You may also seek coverage through the federal or a state-based health insurance marketplace. If you receive Social Security disability benefits, you'd automatically qualify for Medicare after 24 months.

Don't Be Caught Off Guard

Don't wait for an unwelcome surprise. Take steps now to help ensure your overall financial plan considers the "what-if" of an unexpected early retirement.

Why 49% of Retirees Retired Earlier Than Planned



Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute, 2024

Maintain adequate levels of disability insurance.

Your employer may offer group coverage at reduced rates; however, you lose those benefits if your employment is terminated. Private disability income insurance can help you secure coverage specific to your needs, and since the premiums are typically paid with after-tax dollars, any benefits would generally be tax-free (unlike work-sponsored coverage that is paid with pre-tax dollars).

to disability and are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, you can apply as early as age 62. However, starting payments prior to your full retirement age (66 or 67, depending on year of birth) will result in a permanently reduced monthly benefit.

For more information on Social Security disability and retirement benefits, visit the Social Security Administration's website at ssa.gov.

Consider your health insurance options.

Terminating employment prior

¹Employee Benefit Research Institute, 2024

²Qualified Roth withdrawals are those made after a five-year holding period and after the account owner dies, becomes disabled, or reaches age 59½. The penalty for early retirement account distributions and non-qualified withdrawals from Roth accounts is 10%. Non-qualified withdrawals from HSAs will be subject to ordinary income tax and a 20% penalty. After age 65, individuals can take money out of HSAs penalty-free, but regular income taxes will apply to funds not used for qualified medical purposes.

³Age 50 or after 25 years of service for public safety officers

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Brandi Walton, Investments & Wealth Advisor

Contact WCCU Investment Consultants • (608) 634-7756 • 1333 South Blvd., Baraboo, WI 53913

Or call your local WCCU office and ask to be connected with Brandi, or Brandi's voicemail at extension 1756.

(Calls are forwarded so you may experience a delay or be asked for a name and phone number in the event the call disconnects.)

Fax: 1-888-509-4597 (This is a direct and secure fax line to WCCU Investment Consultants)

Email: info@wccuinvestmentconsultants.com | Learn More: www.wccuinvestmentconsultants.com

Additional Offices 501 North Main St., Westby, WI • 1302 North Main St., Viroqua, WI • 2403 Hwy 14 East, Richland Center, WI
820 Viking Drive, Reedsburg, WI • 70 Commerce St., Lake Delton, WI • 138 Northridge Dr., Portage, WI



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Upcoming Holiday* & Event Schedule

- April 12, 2025 / Shred Event *(See Details This Page)*
- April 18, 2025 / Good Friday - Lobbies Closed 12-3 PM
(Drive Up & Call Center will remain open)
- April 25, 2025 / CMN Bake Sale *(See Details This Page)*
- May 13, 2025 / Annual Meeting *(See Details This Page)*
- May 26, 2025 / Memorial Day - All Locations Closed
- June 19, 2025 / Juneteenth - All Locations Closed
- July 4, 2025 / Independence Day - All Locations Closed

*Please note, you can access your account online in Online Banking or on the WCCU Online Banking App when our WCCU Branches are closed. Processing times will be impacted when WCCU Branches are closed on Federal Holidays.

Please be sure to plan accordingly for the timing of any Mobile Check Deposits and Online ACH Transfers you may have.

FREE SPRING SHRED EVENT

SATURDAY | **APRIL 12TH** | 8:30 - 11:30AM

AT THE FOLLOWING WCCU LOCATIONS:
REEDSBURG MAIN • RICHLAND CENTER MAIN • VIROQUA

LIMIT THREE LARGE BOXES PER PERSON

CMN BAKE SALE APRIL 25TH

Select WCCU Branches* will be holding a Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Bake sale on Friday, April 25th, 8:30AM until sold out. All proceeds will be donated to CMN, supporting LOCAL families with children facing chronic illness, trauma, and disability.

***Visit a participating branch:**

Baraboo, Lake Delton, Reedsburg Main, Richland Center Main, Richland Center Orange Street, Viroqua, and Westby.

2025 Annual Meeting

All WCCU Members Invited to Attend

Tuesday, May 13th at 5:30PM in Viroqua

Vernon County Fairgrounds
Vernon Memorial Healthcare Building

Sandwiches will be served and then a brief meeting will be held. All members present are invited and eligible to play bingo for cash prizes! Other prizes will also be given to those present.

******RSVP Required by May 1st******

To properly accommodate those who would like to attend, we are requiring a RSVP to reserve your seat, food, and bingo card.

Please contact any of our WCCU offices by May 1st or visit us online at www.wccu.coop.

2025 WCCU Board of Directors Election Update

This year, the terms of three Directors will expire. In the fall of 2024, the WCCU Nominating Committee accepted applications from members who had an interest on serving on our Board of Directors. The WCCU Nominating Committee evaluated each person based on their application, experience, and an interview and gave their recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Three applicants accepted nomination to be candidates. There were no petitions presented to the committee. The number of candidates is equal to the number of vacant seats. At the Annual Meeting, the three candidates will be announced and declared elected by acclamation.

Nominating candidates for board positions is a critical responsibility that significantly influences the future of an organization. This involves assessing any skill gaps on the board by analyzing current member expertise and identifying areas that need strengthening.

Thank you to this year's nominating committee and to all applicants for your willingness to serve.

Proudly serving Southwest Wisconsin for over 80 years! Helping you build a better life!



Baraboo
(608) 356.5500

Cashton
(608) 654.7580

Coon Valley
(608) 452.2444

Lake Delton
(608) 678.4000

Portage
608.745.1600

Prairie du Sac
(608) 643.0006

Reedsburg
(608) 768.9228

Richland Center
(608) 647.8835

Viroqua
(608) 637.6200

Westby
(608) 634.3118

WCCU On The Go: www.wccu.coop | Online Banking & Mobile App | WCCU Mobile Branch

Memberlink is published quarterly for WCCU Members. Contact: Ph. 608-634-3118 | Write: Kerri Theige - P.O. Box 70, Westby, WI 54667-0070 | Email: katheige@wccu.coop

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