

Grow Your Financial Sense: Rebate vs. Lower Interest Rate

As your member-owned financial cooperative, our mission is to help you get the best value.



What's Inside

Helping You Save Smarter:
New & Improved Money Market

2022 Annual Meeting Recap

2022 Board Member List

Open a 2023 Christmas Club

Money Skills for Kids

Associate Spotlight



Rebate vs. Lower Interest Rate

Is a new vehicle in your future? Give yourself a leg up by researching financing options available to you!

Don't be fooled by promises of 0% financing. These financing options often come with a cost: Losing out on certain manufacturer's rebates. They may also come with restrictions, and may only be available to those with a near-perfect credit history.

Let your trusted advisors at SCU help you review your financing options to ensure you're making the best possible choice. As your member-owned financial cooperative, our mission is to help you get the best value. Our lenders collaborate with you to find a financing solution that is transparent and beneficial to your budget. When the 0% option is really 0%, no strings attached, we'll let you know!

Give us a call or email today to ensure you are getting the best deal:

Melissa Jackson

(715) 346-6734

melissa@sentrycu.org

Matt Krauter

(715) 346-6567

matt@sentrycu.org

Helping You Save Smarter: New & Improved Money Market

At SCU, we're always looking for ways to help you save smarter. If you want to start saving more aggressively, an SCU Money Market account is the perfect solution.

Compared to a traditional savings account, the deposit requirement of an SCU Money Market account is slightly higher—but so are your earned dividends!

The SCU Money Market is now new and improved with tiered savings levels. In addition to the unique benefit of dividends paid weekly, you now earn higher dividends when you save more.

The Money Market balance tiers are:

	BALANCE REQUIRED
Tier 1	\$0 - \$24,999.99
Tier 2	\$25,000 - \$99,999.99
Tier 3	\$100,000 - \$199,999.99
Tier 4	\$200,000 and Up

SCU Money Market accounts have an initial required deposit of \$2,000. An average daily balance of \$1,000 is required to avoid a \$3.00 monthly fee. Withdrawals or transfers must be a minimum of \$250; deposit are unlimited. Funds are federally insured by the NCUA.



Open a 2023 Christmas Club

Avoid the financial stress of the holidays by saving a little bit all year long!

Open your 2023 Christmas Club account and enjoy the benefits of consistent saving. Benefits include:

- ✓ Convenient payroll deduction for easy saving
- ✓ Encourages budgeting and limits overspending on gifts
- ✓ Helps to avoid the buildup of credit card debt during the holidays

Get started on next year's holiday savings by contacting Laura or Leah:

Laura Wachowiak
(715) 346-6533
laura@sentrycu.org

Leah Bula
(715) 346-7404
leah@sentrycu.org



2022 Annual Meeting Recap

On Wednesday, August 31, 2022 SCU held its 87th Annual Membership Meeting.

We were happy to welcome members back to in person to meet at the Sentry Theater. In addition, new for this year we offered a live webcast of the meeting. During the meeting we celebrated retirements from the past year. Former President, Rex Fair, shared some parting words with the members and thanks to the Board and team. Rex served for 34 years at SCU ensuring top level service and keeping your Credit Union fiscally strong. Additionally, we had two long term Associates retire, Chris Weronke with 37 years of service most recently as Consumer Loan Officer and Diane Kwiatkowski with 43 of total service at Sentry most recently as our Consumer Loan Manager. We also acknowledged the retirement of Board Member, Lindsay Bernhagen, who served in many areas of the Board, most recently as the Chair of the Examining Committee.

Our Board Chairperson, Bruce Georgenson, was unable to attend the meeting. In his stead Vice Chairperson James Nickerson shared a message from the Chair. James highlighted the dedicated service provided by the SCU team over the past year's twists and turns along with the sound financial condition of your Credit Union. Treasurer, Mike Bilbrey, highlighted the 2021 financial results by focusing on three key signs that your Credit Union is healthy and well positioned to serve your financial needs. These signs are the Loan to Share ratio, at 69% for year end showing that we are serving the borrowing and savings needs of the members. A solid Net Worth ratio, at 13.07% showing that your Credit Union is well capitalized thus financially stable. Finally the 2021 Net Income, of \$522,833 showing that your Credit Union is building capital to serve members into the future.

SCU President, Tim Barthel, gave a message of the past, present, and future of your Credit Union. Barthel spoke about the past year and the focus the SCU team had to provide service with all of the curve balls during the year. The present state of the rising rate environment and the actions your Credit Union is taking to stay competitive with the market. The future of your Credit Union as we look to technology conversions and upgrades to continue to provide for the needs of our members. He closed by reminding the members that they are our focus and thanked them for their membership in the Credit Union.



Elections were held resulting in the re-election of Andy Kruit, Dennis Gruetzmacher, Mike Bilbrey, and Joe Morgan as directors the SCU Board of Directors. The meeting concluded with dialog between the board and members about the state of the Credit Union followed by refreshments served in the Theater lobby.



2022 SCU Board Members

Bruce Georgenson
CHAIRPERSON

Andrew Kruit
VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mike Bilbrey
TREASURER

Harry Rice
SECRETARY

Brian Cychosz

Dennis Gruetzmacher

James Nickerson

Joe Morgan

Andy Schultz

DeAnna DeCaluwe
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Jack Edgerton
EMERITUS DIRECTOR

Money Skills For Kids

Hey kids: Is your piggy bank getting full? Are you wondering how much money you have? You can count your money using these helpful skills!

Sorting Coins: Look at the shape, color, and design of each coin to begin sorting. Did you know that coins have a head and a tail? Make sure you look at both sides of the coin as you work! Separate your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters into groups.

Determine the Coins Value: Each type of coin has a different value. A penny is worth one cent, a nickel is worth five cents, a dime is worth ten cents, and a quarter is worth twenty-five cents. You may even have some half dollar or dollar coins in your collection! If you do, it's good to know that half dollars are worth fifty cents and dollar coins are worth one hundred cents, or one whole dollar. If you want to buy something that costs seventy five cents, you would use seventy five pennies or just three quarters.

Skip Counting: Skip counting is a useful tool for quickly learning the total worth, or sum, of your coins. Skip counting is based on the value of the coin. If you are counting nickels, which are each worth five cents, you will "skip" up to the nearest multiple of five for each coin you count. If you had three nickels, your skip counting would go "Five, ten, fifteen." For dimes, you would count 10, 20, 30 and so on; for quarters, 25, 50, 75 and so on. Take a look at your coins and practice skip counting with each type.

Did you know?

Sentry Credit Union has a machine that sorts coins for you.

This machine is called a coin counter. When you bring your piggy bank to SCU, we will show you how to use the coin counter. Then you can deposit the money into your Kirby Kangaroo account to save for your next big purchase or for the future!



ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT

Matt Krauter

Consumer Loan Manager
Started April 2022



What do you enjoy most about your role at SCU? I enjoy working with members to help them achieve their financial dreams through loan products and services. Recently, I helped an associate who had experienced a stressful life event. Through a loan on their car, we were able to help them consolidate their debt to put their finances in a better place. With that consolidation, we freed up some much-needed money in their budget to use on other expenses.

Favorite place to travel to? I love to travel to Florida, especially St. Pete Beach. I prefer the gulf side because it is more peaceful and quiet; the water is bluer and the beach is cleaner.

What is a secret talent or something that would surprise people about you? I like to fix things and do my own car repairs. Recently, I replaced the evaporative system, including all of the sensors, on our Chrysler Town & Country.

What advice would you share for members looking to live their best financial life? I would recommend the delayed gratification technique to help you spend your money more wisely. When you want to purchase something big, wait at least 5 days to think about the purchase. In that time, another solution may present itself, or you may find that it was a passing "want" rather than a "need."

The SCU Mission Statement

Our mission is to deliver safe, competitive and convenient personal banking products with exceptional service while actively encouraging membership from the Sentry Insurance community. As a trusted partner, our solid financial strength ensures members can rely on us to assist them toward attaining their financial goals while creating a highly-valued benefit.

SCU is closed on the following holidays:

- Thanksgiving** Thursday, November 24, 2022
- Christmas Eve (Observed)** Friday, December 23, 2022 (open 8 AM to noon)
- Christmas Day (Observed)** Monday, December 26, 2022