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What is a “SEG” or “Select Employee Group”?

Because a Credit Union is a unique cooperative, those who would like to join must be eligible in some way. Eligibility in Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union is based mainly on businesses and organizations within the community. Because your business/organization became one of our SEGs, all present and future employees or members of your business or organization are eligible for membership at our credit union. This free benefit allows your employees or members to have a *choice* of which financial institution they would like to utilize—anyone can join a bank, but to enjoy the advantages of membership at Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, a person must be eligible through a family member, business, or organization.

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union is not-for-profit and we do not have stock holders; therefore, our profits are returned back to our members in the form of lower loan rates, higher dividends, and fewer fees. All AAACU members enjoy many money and time saving services, including free checking, low interest rate loans, high interest rate savings, and many 24-hour services—which are especially convenient for today’s busy lifestyles!

Teaching Kids Money Management



The spending habits and know-how kids develop while growing up can mean the difference between a future of financial security—or an unending struggle to stay afloat.

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union understands the importance of teaching children good spending habits. That’s why we developed **The Dollar Dog Kids Club™**—a free program for children 12 and under. Give that special child in your life a head start by opening an account for them at AAACU. Club members enjoy many benefits: games, contests, special events, financial literacy tools, and more!

AAACU makes saving fun for kids. Every time a child makes a deposit, they get to pick a prize from Dollar Dog’s Treasure Chest!

Visit www.aaacu.com, scroll down and go to the Dollar Dog Kid’s Club page. Check out upcoming club events, and Dollar Dog’s free, fun, educational games!

\$5.00

This **\$5.00 Coupon** entitles the children of SEG employees to a **FREE** membership at **Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union**. Please bring your *identification and a copy of this coupon along with the child's social security card and we will gladly open an account for you.*

Certificate expires 12-31-10. If account is closed prior to 1 year of the opening date, the \$5.00 deposit will not be returned to the member. Only ONE certificate per member. Must meet eligibility requirements.

Help Employees Who Are Struggling Financially



If financial stress is affecting your employees' productivity, here are some ways your partnership with AAACU may be able to help them:

Almost everyone has a friend, relative, or spouse that is without work or has had their hours cut back. Many people are too embarrassed to get help for their financial situation—or they get taken advantage of by predatory payday advance lenders or “get your debt erased!”-type scams.

In this economy, one of the biggest factors affecting employee productivity is financial stress. Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union is here to help. We are a source you can trust!

Bouncing Checks

People who are living paycheck to paycheck are more likely to bounce checks and therefore, pay more fees. At AAACU, our insufficient funds fee is only \$25, and if money is available in a member's savings we will transfer it to keep the check from bouncing—at no cost. We provide “Overdraft Privilege” to our members in good standing—if there is no money in checking or savings, then they pay \$25 per item for being overdrawn, but their checks do not *bounce*—we cover their charges and allow their account to go negative up to \$525. They have 30 days to bring their account back to positive.

AAACU also offers an overdraft protection loan—a line of credit that is only accessed when there is no money in checking or savings to cover a check. Instead of paying \$25 per bounced check or for Overdraft Privilege, members with our Overdraft Protection Loan pay interest—about 4 cents a day for a \$100

bounced check. Our checking accounts are free and easy—plus we offer 3 boxes of duplicate checks free per year and free Debit cards.

Consolidating Debt

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union has many solutions to help people who are overwhelmed with bills. One option would be to get a debt consolidation loan. Multiple payments at high interest rates can be reduced to one easy monthly payment at a lower rate, and the debt can be paid off over as long as five years. The loan process is quick and easy—turn-around time can be as quick as a day, and applicants get \$25 if they apply on-line.

A home equity loan is another option. The rates are very affordable and there is no application fee. A Home-Equity Line of Credit would give the home-owner an option to only draw out the money when necessary.

VISA Balance Transfer: 12.96 % APR

Unlike too-good-to-be-true offers you may have seen elsewhere, there is no fee to transfer a balance to our VISA, and the rate is fixed *for the life of the balance*.

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union has been serving the area since 1953, and we are proud to serve you and your employees! We are dedicated to helping our community and our friendly and knowledgeable staff is here for you! *Finally, a benefit you can offer your employees that doesn't cost you a penny—credit union membership!*

*GreenPath Debt Solutions is a reputable nationwide non-profit that offers free credit counseling, in person or by phone.
www.Greenpath.com
1-800-550-1961*

Meet Your SEG Coordinator

Allow me to introduce myself—I am the new SEG Coordinator at Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union. Although I have worked at AAACU for 3 years, this is a new position that was created to allow us to reach out more to the community we serve. It is my pleasure to be able to provide you with information about our wonderful credit union and to find ways to better serve you and your employees' needs!



Many times people have questions about certain products and services or have concerns about their financial situation, but with busy schedules, do not have time to get their questions answered. As a SEG, I can bring AAACU to your employees! I can come to your business and give your employees a free seminar on a variety of financial topics, such as money-saving tips or ideas on how to improve their credit scores. I could also host an informal “Information Day,” possibly in your employee break room or lunch area—AAACU will provide informative brochures and snacks and I would be available to answer questions one-on-one, take applications, and more!

I look forward to working with you and your employees in the future!

—Lauren N. Clarke

Financial Literacy

At Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, we are committed to the credit union philosophy of “People Helping People.” This is one of the many things that make us different from other financial institutions. Another important difference is our mission to assist members with their financial well-being beyond simply offering low fees and great rates.

Workplace Presentations

We are available to speak to your employees on a variety of important financial topics, from IRA options, to buying a home, to how to pay your bills on-line, to protecting yourself from identity theft.

Classroom Presentations

Recent surveys and polls have been filled with disappointing news regarding the lack of basic financial knowledge among many young people today. That lack of knowledge is directly related to the financial problems many young people face later in life, such as bankruptcy and difficulty obtaining affordable credit. At Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, we want to do everything we can to help change that and help people of all ages learn responsible ways to manage their money.

Staff members at Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union are available to talk to people of all ages on financial topics, such as money management, saving, loans, credit fraud, security issues, and more. If you feel you could benefit from a having a volunteer speaker in any area related to finance, please consider contacting Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union. We will do our best to provide a speaker and accommodate different schedules!

If you would like to set up a presentation, or if you have any questions about any of the great services we offer, please feel free to contact:

Lauren Clarke

SEG Coordinator

(989) 354-1627

1-800-443-3577, Ext. 1627

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Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

Every year, millions of Americans become the victims of a serious crime—identity theft.

It can take a lot of time and money to clean up the mess a thief has made of your good name and credit record. You might lose out on job opportunities, loans—you might even get arrested for crimes you didn't commit!

Minimize your risk by guarding your personal information and being aware of the warning signs that your identity has been stolen.

The 3 major credit reporting agencies are required to provide you with a free copy of your credit report at your request.

Warning Signs That Your Identity Has Been Stolen

- Missing mail
- Receiving credit cards you didn't apply for
- Denial of credit for no apparent reason
- Receiving calls from debt collectors or companies about merchandise or services you didn't buy.

Do it Now!

- Sign up for e-statements so there are no paper statements for thieves to steal from your mail box or trash!

To get your AAACU statement electronically, click "Preferences" on home banking, then "E-statements Options."

- Don't carry Social Security Cards or PINs in your wallet.
- Shred documents containing personal information before throwing them away.
- Don't leave sensitive information in an unsecured mailbox—drop it off at the post office or a collection box. Have the post office hold your mail if you are out of town.
- Think twice and ask questions before giving out your personal information.

To order your free annual credit report visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll-free 1-877-322-8228

How Identity Thieves Use Your Information

- They change your address and then run up charges on your credit card bill, and because the bill is being sent to a different address, it may be some time before you realize there's a problem.
- They open new credit card accounts, phone service, or bank accounts in your name, and run up charges/write bad checks.
- They counterfeit checks or authorize electronic transfers in your name and drain your bank account.
- They file for bankruptcy under your name to avoid paying debts they've incurred under your name
- They may get identification, such as a driver's license, with your name and their picture
- They may file tax returns or apply for jobs in your name
- They may give your name to police during an arrest. If they miss a court date, a warrant for arrest is then issued in your name.

How Identity Theft Happens

- The "old-fashioned way": **stealing a wallet or a purse**
- **"Phishing" or "Pretexting" scams:** thieves call or e-mail victims pretending to be a legitimate company, usually claiming that there is a problem with your account and that they need to verify your personal information.
- **"Dumpster Diving":** thieves go through trash to find discarded personal information
- **Stealing mail** or putting in a change of address to divert mail to another location.
- **"Skimming"**—a data storage device placed on an ATM or other card-reading machine to steal your information when your card is swiped.



**Complete this survey
for a chance to win a
\$25 VISA gift card!**

Business /Organization Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip

Phone #:

Fax #:

Contact Name:

E-mail:

*Check this box if you'd like to
receive this Newsletter by E-mail*

Number of Employees:

Please return to any of our branches or send to:

Lauren Clarke
SEG Coordinator
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1013 US-23 North
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Alpena, MI 49707
Fax (989) 354-2428

Win Lunch for Your Employees!!!

Encourage your employees to take advantage of membership at **Alpena Alpena Area Credit Union**. When your employees open an account at AAACU, tell them to mention that they work for YOU—one of our Select Employee Groups.

Every new account is an entry in the drawing for a \$50 gift card that you can spend however you would like on your employees—whether it's for pizza, subs, or something else your employees would enjoy!

There's a new winner every quarter—and even just one new account puts you in the running for the gift card. We'll even deliver your prize!

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