



Proudly serving our members in the
New York Metropolitan Area since 1970

Spring 2023

What's in it for me?

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Metro News

We're Still Here at Your Service!

What a tumultuous Spring of 2023 brought to you once again by the FED. Financial Institutions are sharing the brunt of the FED's rate increases as they try to stave off inflation. A mismatch between funds locked in low rate investments (the doing of the FED's drop in rates) since the beginning of COVID in 2020 and the raising of customer savings product rates (to keep up with the FED's raising of rates) beginning in 2022.

Customers withdrawing their deposits to search for higher rate savings products, left Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and First Republic Bank scrambling for funds to keep up with the customer withdrawals. Selling off their investments brought them large losses. The looming larger losses made more of their customers pull their money for safety. You can see how this trend would force the Federal Reserve to step in. They did step in and these banks are "no more". But unlike other bank failures, the Federal Reserve saved all of the uninsured depositors. The FED removed the maximum insurance limits. Depositor/customers of past institutional failures lost their uninsured amounts. Will the FED save depositors of future institutional failures? Maybe? Maybe Not?

Was the FED aware that their raising of rates would put stress on the banking industry? Yes, but their focus was to halt inflation. All indications are that they may be easing, but we may not see Prime get back to "reasonable" 4.5%-5.5% rates too soon. Of course, there are more reasons for the failures. Crypto currencies. Financial mismanagement. Lack of regulatory oversight.

Has Greater Metro felt the effects of the FED's rate rollercoaster ride? We have. But it has been limited to navigating the fluctuation in rates. The Board of Directors and Management follow a conservative strategy to always safeguard our member assets. There is no dabbling in Crypto. No rolling about in Cannabis nor opening our doors to Commercial accounts. We believe that we operate a financially sound institution and although we may complain that our Regulators, the NCUA, overstay their welcome during their exams, we do welcome their detailed oversight. All of these points add up to continued safe service to our members.



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held at the main office in Long Island City on Wednesday, May 24th at 6PM. The primary order of business will be the election of Anthony Sofo to the one expiring Board seat. He was the only candidate. This being the case, one vote will be cast for him at the meeting and he will begin serving his three year term.

The Annual report will be distributed, which will contain the minutes from last year's meeting, the current meeting agenda, the comparative financial statements between 2022 and 2021 and the reports of officers.



Joint Accounts and Beneficiaries

Whenever a financial crisis occurs, depositors/members review their accounts to make sure their savings are insured. The last time this occurred was during the Crisis of 2008. That was the last time before this March's bank failures. Back in 2008, insurance covered \$100,000 in savings. Congress temporarily increased coverage to \$250,000 during the crisis but then made this permanent in 2010. This is the standard amount reflected in all FDIC and NCUA decals and brochures for an individual. The insurance increases depending on how accounts are set up. Joint and Trust accounts provide more insurance as does the designating of beneficiaries. On the next page is a chart describing different account structures and related insurance coverages. There are Insurance Calculators available online.

Although restructuring accounts can provide peace of mind during a financial crisis, especially **if the institution dies**, please bear in mind that that these restructurings govern the funds **if you die**. So, if you're adding individuals just for insurance purposes, make sure that you like them well enough to include them in your estate planning.

Volunteers

Back in the day, when employees filled the many offices of IBM and IBM actually took an active sponsorship role promoting its affiliated Credit Unions, volunteers were a grab away. Who could say no to a little after-hours comradery topped off with a burger and a brew. With those good old days in the rear-view mirror, so is the pool of eligible members to fill the volunteer leadership roles that makes Credit Unions what they are - **Member Owned**.

As we look to expand membership to the surroundings of our Long Island City main office, we hope to attract new members that embrace the Credit Union philosophy and step into leadership roles. We still invite all of our members to lend their expertise wherever they can. Participation and involvement may have evolved with Zoom, but for those that can spend some time around a conference room table, there'll always be a burger and a brew!

Dormant and Abandoned Accounts

We're approaching that time of the year to review inactive accounts. The Credit Union regularly notifies members when their accounts become dormant after a year of inactivity. A simple transaction on the account renews the active status. Accounts that are dormant for three years fall into a different category where funds may have to be remitted to NYS. We strive to get the funds to our members rather than to NYS. The easiest way to avoid this is to **use your accounts**.



Our Mobile App

Download it and take advantage of Online Banking wherever you are. With newly added facial recognition access, you can also manage your Debit/ATM cards by locking and unlocking them for security, set up transaction alerts and notifications, deposit checks (of course properly endorsed "For Mobile Deposit Only")



NCUA

SHARE INSURANCE COVERAGE OVERVIEW



How does the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) protect my money?

The NCUA is the independent federal agency that administers the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. Credit unions that are federally insured by the NCUA offer a safe place for you to save your money, with deposits insured up to \$250,000 per individual depositor.



How do I know my money is 100% protected?

FIRST STEP: Know how your accounts are organized, based on type of ownership.

SECOND STEP: Divide your accounts into four ownership categories:

1. INDIVIDUAL
2. JOINT
3. TRUST
4. RETIREMENT

Check the chart below for share insurance coverage examples.



How do I know my credit union is covered?

Look for the NCUA share insurance sign pictured below or use the NCUA Credit Union Locator on MyCreditUnion.gov to find a federally insured credit union.



Where can I get more information about share insurance?

Visit the NCUA's [YouTube channel](#) to access videos on NCUA's share insurance coverage and how to use the NCUA Share Insurance Estimator to calculate your coverage.



ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP TYPE	EXAMPLE ACCOUNT	Less Than \$250k ACCOUNT	Greater Than \$250k ACCOUNT	NOTES
1. Individual	Savings, Checking, Money Market - For Self Only	You're covered!	Up to \$250k protected	Total amount in combined accounts.
2. Joint	Savings, Checking, Money Market - Multiple Owners	You're covered!	Up to \$250k protected per owner	Amount per each owner's interest in joint accounts
3. Trust	Formal or Informal Revocable Trusts	You're covered!	Up to \$250k protected per beneficiary	Amount per beneficiary, for each owner. Special rules apply for accounts over \$1.25 million
4. Retirement	Traditional/Roth IRA, Keogh	You're covered!	Up to \$250k protected	Amount in traditional and Roth IRA accounts added together. Keogh accounts insured separately. Beneficiaries do not change the coverage amount.
NOT COVERED	Mutual Funds, Stocks, Bonds, Life Insurance Policies	Your losses will NOT be covered.		The Share Insurance Fund does NOT cover losses on these types of accounts and funds.

Please note: Separate coverage is also available for the trust interests of beneficiaries of irrevocable trust accounts

SHARE INSURANCE ESTIMATOR: MyCreditUnion.gov/estimator

National Credit Union Administration
Office of Consumer Financial Protection
1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
800-755-1030
NCUA 12007 - January 2018

MyCreditUnion.gov



Credit Union Offices will be closed on the following days in 2023:

Memorial Day Monday, May 29
 Juneteenth Monday, June 19
 Independence Day Tuesday, July 4
 Labor Day Monday, September 4
 Columbus Day Monday, October 9
 Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 23
 Christmas Monday, December 25

Board of Directors

Robert Morrison Chairman
 Mark Schwefringhaus Vice Chairman
 Monica Duffy Treasurer
 Anthony Sofo Secretary
 Jerome LoMonte Director

Management

Peter Nalaskowski President/CEO

Any concerns or issues unresolved by Credit Union staff and management should be addressed to the Supervisory Committee

Supervisory Committee

Thomas Amato Chairman
 Thomas McCarthy, Andrea Nelson, John Forster,
 Vincent D’Agostino

Correspondence May Be Sent To:

Greater Metro FCU
 Supervisory Committee
 31-10 37th Avenue, Suite 403
 Long Island City, NY 11101
 Email Address: SupervisoryCommittee@greatermetrofcu.org

Mailing Address For Transactions

Greater Metro FCU
 ATTN: Mail Teller
 31-10 37th Avenue, Suite 403
 Long Island City, NY 11101

Telephone Directory

Toll-Free 800-361-1012
 Local 718-361-1002
 ARTIE 888-225-6055
 MasterCard Lost/Stolen 800-449-7728
 Fax 718-361-1775
 Direct Deposit Routing & Transit # 221475605
 Internet Website Address www.greatermetrofcu.org
 General Inquiries memberservices@greatermetrofcu.org

The Prime Rate



Our Variable loan products are tied to the Prime Rate. Savings rates follow in this direction as well but not as directly. So, if you are a borrower, more specifically one who has a loan with a variable rate, you’ve had a good run but there’s no argument, **you’ve had a bad year!**

The eighties were horrible for borrowers with Prime hitting 13% in 1984. The early nineties saw Prime drop to a low of 6% in 1992 and then had gradual changes to where Prime was between 5% and 8%. The Financial Crisis of 2008 took **Prime to a low of 3.25% in December 2008 where it remained for 7 years.**

December 16, 2008	3.25%	March 17, 2022	3.50%
December 17, 2015	3.50%	May 5, 2022	4.00%
December 14, 2017	4.50%	June 16, 2022	4.75%
December 20, 2018	5.50%	July 28, 2022	5.50%
December 31, 2019	4.75%	September 22, 2022	6.25%
March 4, 2020	4.25%	November 3, 2022	7.00%
March 16, 2020	3.25%	December 15, 2022	7.50%
		February 2, 2023	7.75%
		March 23, 2023	8.00%
		May 4, 2023	8.25%

