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Trust Us

Quarterly Newsletter



FIRST IN TRUST, FIRST IN SERVICE, YOUR TRUSTED FINANCIAL LEADER SINCE 1959.

January 2024



Board of Directors

Board of Directors Nominations Now Being Accepted!

If you're at least 18 years of age, a First Trust Credit Union member in good standing, and are interested in helping shape the future of First Trust Credit Union, consider nominating yourself for election to the Board of Directors. Interested persons must file a petition, including the signatures of at least **141** First Trust Credit Union member/owners, with the Secretary of the Board of Directors, Linda Bechinski, by February 23rd, 2024. If you have any questions in regard to how to file a petition, please call 800-276-6161, ext. 2290. A summary of biographical information including your employer, position held, member account number, and a brief statement of qualifications must accompany your petition.

Board Members Who Will be Standing for Re-Election

3-Year Terms: Pam Jenks, & Jim Mink

Elections will be held at the 2024 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2024. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please Note: Nominations will NOT be accepted from the floor of the Annual Meeting unless sufficient nominations have not been made by the Nominating Committee, or previously submitted by petition to the Secretary of the Board of Directors by Feb. 23, 2024, to provide one nominee for each available position.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday ~ April 6th, 2024

Members are invited to join the Board of Directors and staff on Saturday, April 6th, 2024 at the Michigan City branch at 950 E. U.S. Highway 20 for the Annual Meeting. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.(CST) and light refreshments will be served. Doors will open at 12:45 p.m. Please **RSVP your attendance to:** Dorene Martinson, Marketing Director, no later than Tuesday, April 2nd - call (219) 877-2290 or send an e-mail to dmartinson@firsttrustcu.com.



CD RATES HAVE INCREASED!!!

Did you know that First Trust offers some of the most competitive CD rates around? That's not all ... for a limited time you can take advantage of a 6-month term CD (\$10,000+ deposit) at **4.8% APY**, and a 12-month term CD (\$10,000+ deposit) at **5.0 APY**. You don't want to miss out on this fantastic offer! Ask us how TODAY!

(Federally Insured by NCUA. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates subject to change without notice.)

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

2024 Calendar

New Year's Day Holiday
Monday - January 1st, CLOSED

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday - January 15th, CLOSED

Presidents' Day
Monday - February 19th, CLOSED

First Trust's Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 6th (1:00 p.m.)

Memorial Day
Monday - May 27th, CLOSED

Juneteenth
Wednesday - June 19th, CLOSED

Independence Day
Thursday - July 4th, CLOSED

Labor Day
Monday - September 2nd, CLOSED

Veterans Day
Monday - November 11th, CLOSED

Thanksgiving
Thursday - November 28th, CLOSED

Christmas Eve
Tuesday - December 24th,
(Closing at 1:00 p.m.)

Christmas Day
Wednesday - December 25th, CLOSED

New Year's Eve
Tuesday - December 31st,
(Closing at 3:00 p.m.)

New Year's Day
Wednesday - January 1st, 2025,
CLOSED

Friday, March 15th

Final day for high school seniors to submit 2024 \$1,000 scholarship applications! Visit our website for more information or to download an application at firsttrustcu.com.

DON'T MISS OUT



Financial Holiday Hangovers... How to Bounce Back!

The holidays can be "the most wonderful time of the year" as the song says, but they can also leave many of us feeling exhausted and rundown physically, emotionally, and financially. Overspending on gifts, travel expenses, and party planning can add up quickly leaving you with an empty wallet and elevated credit card balances. Here are some tips to help you bounce back from all the holiday financial mayhem, and plan for the future so you can begin to build the best version of YOU financially in 2024:

Pay Off Debt Accumulated During the Holidays:

- If you have a high interest rate credit card, you may want to consider transferring your balance to a card with a lower interest rate that has a grace period of 0% on balance transfers for a specified time period. This will give you time to pay down your debit without accruing interest. If you are planning on receiving a tax return, be sure to file your taxes early rather than later. This extra money can help pay down your debt.
- Practice disciplined spending by eliminating purchases and other expenses you don't really need. You may be pleasantly surprised at how much money you will save. If you received holiday gifts you don't really want, consider returning them for a refund.
- Consider applying for a personal loan to pay off debt. First Trust offers up to \$15,000 personal loans at interest rates that are considerably lower than many credit card interest rates. This can help you consolidate several of your credit card bills down to one payment every month.

Let Us Help You Plan for 2024 and Beyond:

- Check your credit score. If you need help building your credit score, First Trust offers several options such as Savings Secured Loans. You can apply for a loan with money you already have in your savings, OR you can use your TAX REFUND!! Put Your Money to work for YOU! You don't need a Co-Signer or Credit Check for approval. It's a fast, easy way to build stronger credit. Utilize our free SAVVY MONEY online program to check and monitor your score daily.
- Set up a spare change or rainy day account with First Trust for future unexpected expenses such as car repairs or replacing appliances in your home. Having a small amount of money set aside can take the stress out of uncontrollable financial situations.
- Think about starting that 401K or retirement fund you've been putting off. First Trust offers IRAs.
- Set up a Christmas Club account with First Trust. You will be ahead of the game for the next holiday season and the spending that can come along with making your holiday "the most wonderful time of the year". Avoid another "Holiday Financial Hangover" when the holidays roll around at the end of the year.



\$8,000 in Scholarships Are NOW AVAILABLE for 2024 Graduating High School Seniors

First Trust's Board of Directors are pleased to announce that once again eight \$1,000 scholarships will be available this year to our young members who are graduating high school seniors. Each office of First Trust will offer two scholarships. The first \$1,000 scholarship will be for a graduating senior pursuing a four year degree. The second \$1,000 scholarship will be for a graduating senior pursuing an Apprenticeship, Associates Degree, or Certification in a selected field of study. Students can access information and/or the application on our website at www.firsttrustcu.com, or pick up a copy of the application at their high school's guidance office, or at any local First Trust Credit Union branch in Michigan City, La Porte, Valparaiso, and Wheatfield. **Application Deadline is March 15th!**



GIVING COMMUNITY HOLIDAY FUNDRAISERS

WAY TO GO!

2023 Highlights...

First Trust would like to personally thank all of our members & staff who donated to our Holiday Fundraisers throughout November & December 2023! All of our branch locations were able to generously give back to the following community partners this holiday season:

Michigan City - The Salvation Army - Angel Tree
Wheatfield - Wheatfield Elementary - Angel Tree
La Porte - Adopt a Family
Valparaiso - Hilltop Neighborhood House
(classroom sponsor)



La Porte ~ Check Presentation to Adopt a Family

Change for 2024...

La Porte Branch will be fundraising for their local Animal Adoption Center.



Michigan City

950 E. U.S. Highway 20
 Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 879-6161

La Porte

402 J Street
 La Porte, IN 46350
(219) 324-4359

Valparaiso

1404 E. Lincolnway
 Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 462-7805

Wheatfield

4259 W. State Road 10
 Wheatfield, IN 46392
(219) 956-3922

President/CEO
 Kim Kniola

Board of Directors

Robert Tillema, Chairman
 James Mink, Sr., Vice-Chairman,
 & Treasurer
 Linda Bechinski, Secretary
 Kathryn Harrow
 John Henderson
 Pam Jenks
 Judy Wright

Supervisory Committee

Rona Edquist, Chairperson
 Judith Mutchler
 Sandra Sobecki

Toll Free
800-276-6161



Federally Insured
 By NCUA



Additional coverage up to \$250,000 provided by Excess Share Insurance Corporation, a licensed insurance company.



Mortgage loans are provided by First Trust Credit Union NMLS #399279, and by partnership with Servion Mortgage, an affiliate of Servion Inc. NMLS #1037