

## President's Message

Dear Valued Members:

Before Christmas, it was widely reported that holiday spending would be up from last year's totals. This was good news of course, although it was not quite as high as in years past. The final figures are not in quite yet, but pre-holiday projections showed us that this year, 43% of consumers said they intended to cut back their holiday spending, compared to 55% last year. The 43% figure is still much higher than in the previous eight years of 2000 to 2007, a period when the percentage intending to spend less never exceeded 35% and dipped as low as 21% in 2002, according to a survey conducted by the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). This is a good example of our economy is slowly recovering.

Now that the holidays have passed, and the nation is done with its holiday shopping, debt repayment becomes another signal of where our economy is headed. But there is good news on this front as well. "Many Americans say they remain concerned about their financial condition," said Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America. "But it is good news that fewer people are concerned about meeting monthly debt payments this year than last." In fact, only 24% of those surveyed said they were concerned about meeting monthly credit card payments this year, down 4% from last year. The same figures when asked about 'all debt' (as opposed to just credit card debt) were down 6% from last year's. These are good signs that things are headed in the right direction.

And now that the holidays have come and gone, it's never too early to start thinking about next year. It seems outlandish to plan for next year so soon, but proper planning can alleviate some of the issues you may have faced this past Christmas. The most basic, but maybe most useful planning tool, is a Christmas Club account. Many First Ohio Credit Union members already utilize this tool. It is simply a savings account that you can set up here at First Ohio Credit Union that allows you to slowly accumulate throughout the year the money you would like to have by Christmas 2010, in this case. We can automatically transfer funds from your savings or checking to your Christmas Club account every month. By simply putting in \$10 per week all year long, you will have over \$400 by this November. Little savings tricks like this will go a long way when the holidays sneak up on us again.

At First Ohio Credit Union we strive for the financial well being of all of our members. We hope you had happy and safe Christmas and New Year's holidays filled with friends and family. We look forward to serving you in 2010 and beyond.

Regards,

*Stephen M. Favar*

President & General Manager

## Board Positions up for Election

### Jeannine Curns



Jeannine Curns retired June 30th, 2006, from the position of Vice President for Administration at Heidelberg

University in Tiffin, Ohio, where her career spanned more than forty-two years. She recently returned to Heidelberg to work part-time as Human Resource Director. Jeannine was raised in Tiffin, but born in Antwerp, Belgium. She has served as President of the Ohio Association of College & University Business Officers and Tiffin Kiwanis Club, Chair of the Tiffin Area Chamber of Commerce & SIEDC, and was honored in 2003 with the Chamber of Commerce Athena Award. Currently she is a member of the League of Woman Voters, National Association of College and University Business Officers, College & University Personnel Association-Human Resources, serves as an officer of the Tiffin Charitable Foundation and serves on the City of Tiffin Planning Commission. She also continues her Tiffin Kiwanis Club activities, enjoys playing golf, reading, knitting, and spending time with two daughters, Lori Fate and Lynn Hull, and her four granddaughters.

### Richard A. Focht, Jr.



Richard A. Focht, Jr. was born and raised in Tiffin, Ohio. He graduated from Tiffin Columbian in 1965 and graduated from Baldwin-

Wallace College in 1969 with a B.A. in Business Administration and a concentration in Marketing. In 1969, Mr. Focht went into the U.S. Army in the Combat Engineers. He was honorably discharged in 1971 with the rank of SP-5.

After his service to his country, he returned home to Tiffin to work in the family construction business which specialized in water and sewage treat-

ment plants, bridges, and commercial buildings. He became an owner and President of the company. After the sale of the company, he became Tiffin City Administrator in 1988 and served in this position for two years. In 1990, he was selected as the President and CEO of the Seneca Industrial and Economic Development Corp. and the Tiffin Area Chamber of Commerce, and continues to serve as President and CEO of SIEDC to this day.

In 1993, he was inducted into the Tiffin Columbian Athletic Hall of Fame. He serves on numerous boards. Mr. Focht is married to the former Marcia Graham from Tiffin and they have three children: Todd-28 years, Bridget-26 years, and Timothy-23 years.

### Stephen M. Helms



Currently retired from Honeywell after 32 years with the Plant Engineering Department, where he worked

as a supervisor and a senior team advisor for the last 24 years, in both maintenance and the tool & die departments. Before that he was a journeyman tool & die maker in the tool room. Before that he served a tool & die apprenticeship at Norton Manufacturing.

He attended Allied Institute of Technology in Chicago, taking engineering courses. Spent 2 years in the U.S. Army, and is a Vietnam Veteran.

He is currently in his fifth year as a board member of First Ohio Credit Union and he served 8 years as a member of the supervisory committee.

He's served 3 years on the Budget and Allotment committee of Fostoria's United Way. He is an assistant treasurer for Wesley United Methodist Church and served as a member of the finance committee for 9 years. Current board member for Wesley Center and Wesley Foundation.

### Dennis C. Mathern, PhD



Dr. Dennis C. Mathern has been in the academic field for over 25 years. He is a Professor at the University of Findlay. Previously, he was

the Director of Undergraduate Business Programs of the College of Business for six years. Prior to coming to Findlay, he was an instructor in the College of Business at Bowling Green State University. Dr. Mathern is an author with McGraw Hill and he has performed many professional presentations.

Dr. Mathern earned his MBA at Bowling Green State University in 1991 and his Ph.D. in 1998 at BGSU. He also received his B.S. in Marketing Education at BGSU in 1982.

In addition to his work in the world of academia, Dr. Mathern has consulted for different businesses in marketing, strategy, leadership, and business survey research. Dr. Mathern has also worked in the private sector in the areas of banking and industrial credit

### Patrick J. Doran



Patrick Doran is seeking a Board of Directors position with First Ohio Credit Union. Patrick has been a First Ohio Credit Union

member since 1979 and is currently serving on it's Supervisory Audit Committee.

He graduated from Columbian of Tiffin and Spring Arbor University of Michigan. He is an Industrial Engineering Specialist with the Chrysler Group of Auburn Hills, MI.

In his spare time he manages a grain farming operation. He lives with his wife, Kimberly and daughter Jenna also First Ohio members.

If elected to the board, I promise to represent the members and act upon such business to the best of my abilities and in the best interest of the credit union.

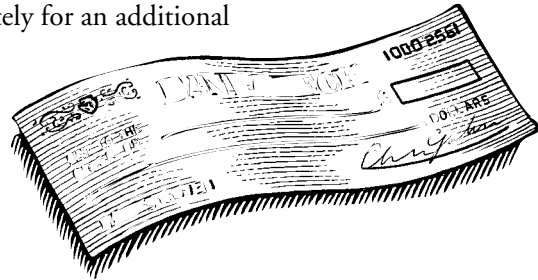
**Voting for the five candidates will begin Monday, February 1, 2010, and run through March 23, 2010, at the close of the business day. The First Ohio Credit Union Annual Meeting will be held the following day, March, 24, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs of the Fostoria branch. Please stop in any of our three branches to fill out a ballot.**

## Our Returned Check Policy

When our members pay with a check and the check is returned to us because it was drawn on insufficient or uncollected balances, we will electronically resubmit the check by using an ACH debit entry. Your payment will be reflected on your financial institution's monthly account statement as an electronic payment in the amount of your check, and will reference the check number you use to make this payment.

You may be billed separately for an additional returned check fee in the amount of \$30.

If you would like further information or have a question, please call 1-800-537-5993.



## First Ohio Credit Union 2010 Holiday Schedule

First Ohio Credit Union will observe the following holidays:

- New Year's Day..... Friday, January 1, 2010
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day... Monday, January 18, 2010
- Presidents' Day..... Monday, February 15, 2010
- Memorial Day..... Monday, May 31, 2010
- Independence Day ..... Monday, July 5, 2010
- Labor Day..... Monday, September 6, 2010
- Columbus Day..... Monday, October 11, 2010
- Veterans Day..... Thursday, November 11, 2010
- Thanksgiving Day..... Thursday, November 25, 2010
- Christmas Eve ..... Friday, December 24, 2010
- Christmas..... Saturday, December 25, 2010

In addition to the above Holidays, the following adjustments to our scheduled hours of operation will occur:

We will close both the lobby and drive-thru at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2010.

We will close the lobby and the drive-thru on Saturday, January 1, 2011.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter F. DiCesare  
*Chairman*

Ann Stahl  
*Vice-Chairman*

Stephen Helms  
*Treasurer*

Jeannie Curns  
*Secretary*

Steven Lehmann  
*Director*

Dennis Mathern  
*Director*

Bernie Spyker  
*Director*

### MANAGEMENT

Stephen M. Favor  
*President & General Manager*

Patti Essman  
*Senior Vice President*

Lindy McDole  
*Vice President*

Sharon Griffin  
*Vice President*

Ruth Kerr  
*Collection, Accounting,  
Operations Manager*

Suprena Johnson  
*Manager of Teller Operations*

Greg Davis  
*Assistant Branch Manager*

Rob Sacksteder  
*Marketing Coordinator, Editor*

### MAIN OFFICE

1650 North Countyline Street  
Fostoria, Ohio 44830  
419-435-8513  
800-537-5993

### TIFFIN OFFICE

203 North Sandusky Street  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
419-447-5929

### UPPER SANDUSKY OFFICE

111 Tarhe Trail  
Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351  
419-209-7589

(Call for hours)  
[www.firstohiocu.org](http://www.firstohiocu.org)

# First Ohio <sup>1st</sup> Credit Union, Inc.

# CULink

Winter 2010

## Scholarship Opportunity

First Ohio Credit Union will offer three scholarships in the following amounts: \$1,000, \$750, and \$250. The scholarships are open to all students who are members or whose parents are members of First Ohio Credit Union by September 1, 2009. The student must be enrolled or plan to enroll this year in undergraduate study leading to an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree.

Students who are interested must apply between January 15, 2010, and March 31, 2010. Applicants must complete their application form and submit their transcripts of grades along with two letters of recommendation. The application forms will be available at the Fostoria, Tiffin, and Upper Sandusky offices as of January 15, 2010, or on the First Ohio Credit Union website under the "What's New" section. Simply click on the link 'Scholarship Application.'

You can also call and request that one be mailed to you.

All applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2010.

