



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Floyd Rummel III - CEO

I always like to start my February report to the membership with a short review of the previous year. Your credit union had another very good year in 2023. We once again exceeded our goals for membership and loan growth. Even with this huge growth, the credit union was able to sustain its capital ratio by over 10%. Your credit union is very well positioned to withstand any economic headwinds that may appear in the future.

There will be several senior management changes as we head into 2024. Marty Willms, Vice President of Operations, retired on January 31, 2024. In addition, Melody Fallon, Vice President of Lending, will be retiring April 4, 2024. We are fortunate to have qualified people already on staff to replace them. Drew Gertsch is the new Vice President of Operations,

and Gloria Rantapaa will be the new Vice President of Lending.

Another new addition to our senior management team is Misty Winter who joined the credit union in August 2023 as Executive Vice President. These credit union professionals are very qualified to move the credit union forward in the coming years.

As I am sure many of you have noticed we have begun a much-needed remodel of the Sturgis location. This project will be completed in three phases with the basement being the first phase, and the upstairs completed in the final two phases. This may cause some minor inconveniences for the membership during the process; however, we think you will be very happy with the result.

Our 73rd Annual Membership meeting will be March 14, 2024 at the VFW in Sturgis. Please join us for the business meeting and meal as we celebrate 2023 and give you a preview of new things to come in 2024. This is your opportunity to meet your volunteer Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee. These dedicated volunteers are very important to the operations of the credit union.

I want to thank you again for your support of Northern Hills FCU. The credit union is here to serve you and to provide innovative solutions for all your financial needs.

73RD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Northern Hills Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, democratically controlled financial cooperative. As a cooperative, you elect members to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors' responsibility is overseeing the operation of the credit union.

The annual meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the credit union, the progress made in the past year, and plans for the future.

In accordance with the Bylaws of Northern Hills Federal Credit Union, the Board Chair appointed a Nominating Committee to nominate a slate of candidates to fill the two vacancies on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee has nominated the following NHFCU members who have expressed the desire to serve on the Credit Union Board of Directors and have qualified as candidates:

Gordon Budahl, Laura Prosser

When only one member is nominated for each position to be filled, and there are no petitions presented to add the name of a specified nominee to the ballot, there is no need for a vote and the nominees are elected by acclamation.



PLEASE JOIN US!

WHEN: Thursday,
March 14, 2024

TIME: Registration:
5:30 pm
Meeting: 6:00 pm
Meal: 6:30 pm

WHERE: Veteran's Club
868 Main St
Sturgis, SD 57785

RSVP BY: Thursday, March 7
by calling
605.347.4527

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Northern Hills Federal Credit Union is proud to support higher education and wants to announce the availability of our scholarships.

For **graduating seniors**, we will be offering three scholarships in the amounts of \$1,000, \$750, and \$500.

Applicants must plan to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school.

For **non-traditional students**, we will be offering one scholarship for \$1,000. The applicant must not already hold a bachelor's degree and must be attending or plan to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school within the next calendar year.

To receive an application you can call, stop by any location, or download it from our website under **Quick Links**.

Applications are due March 31, 2024.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR FINANCES WITH MONEYMAP

MoneyMap is a free online money management tool that has been integrated into NHFCU's online banking and mobile app. With MoneyMap, you can aggregate your accounts, track your spending, create a budget, track your net worth, and manage debt. Visit our website under the **Digital/MoneyMap** tab for more information. Log in to your online banking to start using MoneyMap today!

HOME "EVERYTHING" LOAN

A home equity loan lets you access the value in your home for home improvements, education expenses, big-ticket items, or debt consolidation. It essentially enables you to turn a portion of the value of the stake you own in your property into cash. The loan amount you qualify for is calculated on the difference between your home's current market value and the balance due on the mortgage. This is what's known as the loan-to-value (LTV). For some people, home equity loans can offer a lower interest rate than other types of loans.

There are two options when tapping into the equity that's been built up. Both **home equity loans** and **home equity lines of credit (HELOCs)** are secured loans and are backed by the equity in your home. However, there are some key differences. A home equity loan is a type of installment loan, where you receive a single payout upfront and pay back the loan in monthly installments. A HELOC, on the other hand, is a type of revolving credit and works like a credit card. You borrow from the credit limit, pay it back, then borrow from it again and again during the borrowing period, which can range from five to ten years. A HELOC gives you flexibility. If an unexpected expense arises, you can take the amount to cover the expense and leave the rest. This gives you the flexibility to use the line of credit in a way that suits your specific needs.

Another key difference is borrowing rates. While most home equity loans have a fixed interest rate, HELOCs come with variable interest rates, which are connected to an index such as prime rate. So, as prime rate fluctuates so will the rate on your HELOC. If you are concerned about rate volatility, a home equity loan might be a better option.

These are a few things to consider when taking out a home equity loan. A home equity loan allows you to borrow money over a longer period. Whether it is a closed-end home equity loan or a HELOC depends on the needs of an individual and what they are comfortable with.



AI IMPOSTER SCAMS ON THE RISE

You may have seen Artificial Intelligence on the news and wondered how it will affect our daily lives. Unfortunately, as with many new technologies, scammers have already found a way to deceive people with it. Scammers are incorporating AI in their scams by using it to mimic the voice of a loved one who claims to be in a distressing situation, such as a car wreck or a kidnapping.

To avoid falling victim to AI scams, you should:

- **Be cautious of unsolicited calls from loved ones claiming to be in distress, especially from numbers you don't recognize.** If you're suspicious of a call from someone claiming to be a loved one in distress (e.g. they were in a car wreck or kidnapped), hang up and contact the loved one directly using a trusted phone number. Ask questions only they would know.
- **Be cautious of what you share on social media.** Scammers can mimic anyone's voice with just seconds of audio, so make sure to regularly review and remove audio recordings of yourself and your loved ones from social media. Edit your privacy settings to prevent scammers from getting access to your personal information.
- **Never buy gift cards, send money, or wire transfer in response to a phone call.** Once money has been received by a scammer, it is almost impossible to get it back.
- **Don't act without thinking.** You may be tempted to panic when you hear what sounds like a loved one in distress. Take a moment to stop, evaluate, and verify the situation to avoid losing money.

If you suspect that you or somebody you know has been the victim of a scam, contact the South Dakota Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at **1-800-300-1986** or **consumerhelp@state.sd.us**.

SEAMLESS IN-PERSON BANKING ANYWHERE



Ever wish you could access your local credit union from across the country? With CO-OP Shared Branching, that dream can become a reality.

Whether you are across the state or across the country, your credit union travels with you.

Thanks to a nationwide network of technology and convenience, your credit union accounts can be accessed in all 50 states across the country. At any CO-OP Shared Branch, you can take care of all your financial affairs, including deposits, withdrawals, transfers, and balance inquiries.

Just be ready with your photo ID, routing and account number, and name of your credit union, as you may be asked to complete a form with that information.

To find a location near you, visit our website or www.co-opsharedbranch.org for a complete and current listing of all CO-OP Shared Branches.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Effective January 1, 2024, many companies in the United States must report information about their beneficial owners – the individuals who ultimately own or control the company – to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Filing is simple, secure, and free of charge. Beneficial ownership information reporting is not an annual requirement. Unless a company needs to update or correct information, a report only needs to be submitted once.

Who has to report?

Your company may need to report information about its beneficial owners if it is:

1. a corporation, a limited liability company (LLC), or was otherwise created in the United States by filing a document with a secretary of state or any similar office under the law of a state or Indian tribe; or
2. a foreign company and was registered to do business in any U.S. state or Indian tribe by such a filing.

How do I report?

Reporting companies report beneficial ownership information electronically through FinCEN's website: www.fincen.gov/boi.

When do I report?

FinCEN began accepting reports on January 1, 2024.

- If your company was created or registered prior to January 1, 2024, you will have until January 1, 2025, to report.
- If your company is created or registered in 2024, you must report within 90 calendar days after receiving actual or public notice that your company's creation or registration is effective, whichever is earlier.
- If your company is created or registered on or after January 1, 2025, you must file within 30 calendar days after receiving actual or public notice that its creation or registration is effective.
- Any updates or corrections to beneficial ownership information that you previously filed with FinCEN must be submitted within 30 days.

Where can I learn more?

You can find guidance materials and additional information by visiting www.fincen.gov/boi or our website under the **Save/Business Accounts** tab.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our members, staff, and volunteers who donated at your NHFCU locations to the United Way of the Black Hills fund drive. Together we donated \$3,903.14 to help those in need in our communities.

OPT IN TO NHFCU TEXT SERVICES

Want to receive messages about loan or account specials, new and updated services, office closures due to weather or holidays, online banking and mobile app issue alerts, and information about scams and fraud in your area? Simply text the phrase **TEXTME** to **605.720.6767** and type in your first and last name when prompted to get started.

PREVIOUS YEAR IRA OR HSA CONTRIBUTIONS

Remember, you can make IRA or HSA contributions for the 2023 tax year through April 15, 2024. The 5498 IRA and HSA forms reporting contribution information will be mailed out mid-May. We have a full line of IRA products. Ask one of our friendly associates for details.





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LOCATION CORNER

The Sturgis location remodel is well on its way!! We are excited to share a progress update. The remodel is going to take place in three phases. We are currently in phase one with the lower level. It is undergoing a remarkable makeover. The fresh coats of paint, new LED lighting, and modern fixtures and flooring are coming together to make a welcoming atmosphere. We hope to have phase one wrapped up on the first of March.

Phase two will consist of the upper-level office space and construction of additional offices followed by the final phase which will be the lobby area. We understand that navigating through a remodeling project can sometimes be inconvenient and we really appreciate the flexibility and understanding of both our members and staff. We can't wait to see the completion of phase one and look forward to the new and improved workspace. Stay tuned for more updates!



Buying your first home in South Dakota?

Northern Hills FCU offers:

⋮ NO DOWN PAYMENT ⋮

⋮ NO MORTGAGE INSURANCE ⋮

⋮ 30-YEAR FIXED RATE TERM ⋮

⋮ SERVICED BY NHFCU ⋮

(we will not sell your loan to somebody else)

Meet with a lender in person or apply online.
We are remote by choice, after all. NMLS #631613

[APPLY ONLINE](#)