As I was preparing to celebrate a longtime employee’s retirement from the credit union after 41 years of service, I reviewed old annual statements to see how many employees the credit union had in 1978 when our retiring employee began their career...the answer is 19 employees. I also came across our 1957 annual statement which stated, “Your Credit Union was organized on February 16, 1953. Since that time it has grown to be a very fine Association with total assets of $156,601.51. Our membership numbered 388 on December 31, 1956...we have helped many families with their financial problems and the cooperation in repaying these loans has been very satisfactory as a whole...we have built up our guaranty fund, which protects our Credit Union against bad debts, to a total of $5,358.90. As yet we have not found it necessary to charge any loans off this fund... We hope that you will continue to make good use of your Credit Union. We have more than doubled in size during this past year.”

This history still resonates at CoVantage today. Approximately 18% of our current borrowers have loans of $1,000 or less (at significantly favorable terms), and our charge-off rate today is less than half of what the average credit union size would experience; or as we said in 1957, “the cooperation in repaying these loans has been very satisfactory as a whole.”

It was fascinating to see that “working with members experiencing financial challenge” has been in our credit union’s DNA from its inception. Today, the number of members we serve has grown to over 115,000 and we continue to grow (albeit not doubling in number each year).

Our simple mission of welcoming all, outstanding value, exceptional service, working with those experiencing financial challenge and remaining financially strong is just as relevant today as it was in 1953. In fact, I believe in today’s world our simple mission is needed more than ever before. You don’t have to scroll through the news for long to see there are not enough organizations looking out for the best interests of others. Today, at CoVantage, we do some things that are complex, but generally we keep our cost of operations lower than other financial institutions and return the savings to our member-owners by providing better value and more convenient ways to bank.

Last year the savings amounted to $15 million more in value that was returned to CoVantage members in the forms of better rates, lower fees, and patronage payments, than would have been provided by the average credit union our size. In fact, an independent credit union research company named Callahan and Associates ranked CoVantage 4th in the nation out of nearly 5,500 credit unions in their member value rating called “Return of the Member.”

We are humbled by the loyalty of our members and extremely grateful that over 90% of our member-owners have said they would recommend CoVantage to their friends and family. And this is how — by sticking to our simple mission — CoVantage has been able to survive and to thrive all these years, and why I believe your credit union’s best days are still ahead.

Thank you for your loyalty and for supporting your cooperative! ~ Charlie Zanayed, President
Where do you want to go this summer?

We can help you get there.

Vehicle Rates as low as

2.99% APR*

Apply whenever/wherever it’s convenient:

- Fill out a FAST application in MyCoVantage
- Visit any branch or call 800-398-2667, option 2
- Ask for CoVantage financing at the dealership

*APR is for a 24-month term car loan, up to 75% financed, for those with credit scores of 722 and above. Estimated payment per $1000 of principal is $42.98. Effective 6/17/19 and is subject to change. Annual percentage yield (APY) for advertised Money Market account is for balances of $250,000 or more. Dividend rates on lower balance amounts are also available. Federally insured by NCUA.

Are You Retiring Within the Next 5-10 Years?

What should you focus on as the transition approaches.

You can prepare for your retirement transition years before it occurs. In doing so, you can do your best to avoid the kind of financial surprises that tend to upset an unsuspecting new retiree.

How much monthly income will you need?

Look at your monthly expenses and add them up. Consider the trips you have in mind in the near term. You may end up living on less; that may be acceptable, as your monthly expenses may decline.

Should you downsize or relocate?

Moving into a smaller home may reduce your monthly expenses. If you will still be paying off your home loan in retirement, realize that your monthly income might be lower as you do so.

How should your portfolio be constructed?

In planning for retirement, the top priority is to build investments; within retirement, the top priority is generating consistent, sufficient income.

How will you live?

There are people who wrap up their careers without much idea of what their day-to-day life will be like once they retire. Remember that retirement is a beginning. Ask yourself what you would like to begin doing. Think about how to structure your days to do it, and how your day-to-day life could change for the better with the gift of more free time.

How will you take care of yourself?

What kind of health insurance do you have right now? If you retire prior to age 65, Medicare will not be there for you. Check and see if your group health plan will extend certain benefits to you when you retire. If you can stay enrolled in it, great; if not, you may have to find new coverage at presumably higher premiums.

Give your retirement strategy a second look at the transition approaches.

Review it in the company of the financial professional who helped you create and refine it. An adjustment or two before retirement may be necessary due to life or financial events.

Representatives may be reached at 800-398-2667, ext. 2288.
Since Change IT UP was launched a year ago, a MILLION DOLLARS has been saved by over 12,000 members who are simply using their debit card! If you haven’t signed up for CoVantage’s Change IT UP Debit Card Savings Program yet, it’s easy!

How it works:
1. Enroll in Change IT UP through MyCoVantage or with a staff member.
2. Use your CoVantage Visa debit card to make a purchase.
3. Your daily debit card transactions are rounded up to the next whole dollar. All rounded-up amounts are aggregated and automatically transferred from your checking to your savings account at the end of each day.
4. These funds in your savings account can be used whenever you need it.
5. On December 31, CoVantage will match 5% of the rounded change from the Change IT UP program. ENROLL TODAY!

MyCoVantage Online & Mobile Banking has an easy feature for borrowing money which allows you to quickly apply for certain loans with information already on file.

You can quickly and easily:
1. Log in to MyCoVantage, go to More>Borrow
2. Review prefilled information in the online application;
3. Enter the amount you would like to borrow;
4. Enter the purpose of the loan;
5. Submit…it’s that simple!

GET A LOAN DECISION IN ONE BUSINESS DAY!

www.covantagecu.org

Change IT UP
Debit Card
SAVINGS PROGRAM

A New Way to SAVE!

Do you like debit and credit cards because of the convenience and freedom they give you? At CoVantage, we believe in the value of ease and flexibility, and that is why you can be approved or sign up for a debit card or credit card, at any branch and instantly have your plastic card in hand. No need to wait for the card to arrive in the mail. You can start using it immediately!

Instant-issue cards for new cardholders, or re-issues (such as for lost or stolen cards), are available at all full-service CoVantage locations. (Cards up for renewal will still be mailed to cardholders before the expiration date.)
**LOCATIONS**

**WISCONSIN**

**ANTIGO**
Main Office
723 Sixth Ave.
Antigo Main Driveup
801 Sixth Ave.
Antigo Northside Driveup
2209 Progress Blvd.

**APPLETON**
665 Ridgeview Drive

**CRANDON**
502 W. Pioneer St.

**ELCHO**
N1133 Antigo St.

**MENASHA**
1093 Appleton Road

**NEENAH**
625 Deerwood Ave.

**RHINELANDER**
905 Boyce Dr.

**RIB MOUNTAIN**
2200 Oriole Lane

**ROTHSCHILD**
27 Brown Blvd.

**SHAWANO**
911 E. Green Bay St.
Shawano Main St. Driveup
604 S. Main St., Shawano

**STEVENS POINT**
1200 Badger Ave.

**SUAMICO**
(coming August 2019)
1670 Sunset Beach Rd.

**WAUSAU**
303 S. First Ave.

**WESTON**
4903 Schofield Ave.

Surcharge-Free ATMs located at:
- Every CoVantage Location listed above
- Lakewood Super Valu, 17186 Twin Pine Lake Rd., Lakewood
- White Lake Market, 633 Bissell St., White Lake
- Sav-A-Lot Food Store, W2818 Warrington Rd., Keshena
- Over 30,000 CO-OP and Alliance One Network ATMs (Visit www.covantagecu.org for a listing)

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**MICHIGAN**

**CRYSTAL FALLS, MI**
1 Credit Union Way

**IRON RIVER, MI**
303 Fourth Ave.

**MENOMINEE, MI**
1011 23rd Ave.

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Charlie Zanayed, President/CEO
1 Credit Union Way
715-478-5100

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
502 W Pioneer Street
715-842-8469

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
905 Boyce Drive
715-524-8200

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
2200 Oriole Lane
715-524-8200

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
27 Brown Boulevard
715-359-3994

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
911 E Green Bay Street
715-359-3994

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
604 S Main St
906-843-3854

**坷臉 looks like a rip**
1011 23rd Avenue
906-265-5147

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CoVantage Credit Union
PO Box 107
Antigo, WI 54409-0107

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30-year fixed LOW RATE GUARANTEE*

*For low rate guarantee, applicant must provide written competitor’s loan estimate. If rate is lower than CoVantage’s advertised rate at time of application, offer only available for 30-year fixed rate conventional mortgages.

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Get help with mortgage questions at a CoVantage branch near you.

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This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.