

## Annual Sentry Credit Union Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025,  
at 4:30 pm, in the Sentry Theater.



### What's Inside

Open Accounts Digitally

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Youth Corner

Associate Spotlight

### Special Dividend

As a member-owned financial cooperative, SCU has proudly served Sentry Associates, Retirees, and their immediate family members since 1935. One of our foundational tenets is giving each member the opportunity to improve their economic and social conditions. That is why, whenever SCU is financially successful, we share this success with you, our members. Part of SCU's successes were shared in mid-December with a special dividend totaling nearly **\$1 million** paid out to members. Everyone who was a member as of November 30th of 2024 received a share of this special dividend based on their relationship with the Credit Union. This special dividend reflects SCU's strong financial performance over the past 5 years. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out to us at the Credit Union. From the entire SCU team, thank you for your loyalty and for being a member of Sentry Credit Union!



## Smart Money Plan

Using money wisely is the best way to ensure balance with the financial aspects of your life. All successful people have a plan for their money, which is a contributing factor to their success. A smart money plan helps you to know what you are spending your money on in order for you to be successful with your money. Before you can build a smart money plan, you need to set a goal so that you can have a target to achieve. What is your money goal? Is it to not live paycheck to paycheck, save for the future, travel, buy a boat, retire, leave money to your heirs, etc. Whatever your goal is, write it down and put it in a place that you will see so that you can plan to achieve it. Remember, goals change over time, so update your goal whenever it makes sense.

With your goal set, you are now able to build a smart money plan. A smart money plan allows you to set it and forget it when it comes to bills, saving for the future, handling unexpected emergencies, and so much more. Too much focus is spent on developing a personal budget and sticking to that budget. This leaves no room for mistakes or learning. Instead of laboring on a budget, focus on the way you spend your money and what you spend your money on. This gives you better control over your finances and achieving your goals.

To build your plan, you need to understand how you are spending your money. When you boil down spending, you can look at it in these simple ways:

- **Income** – The money you take in to spend (Wages, Interest Income, etc.)
- **Expenses** – The money that you spend (Bills, Debts, and Disposable Income)
  - **Bills** – The recurring expenses that you have every month
  - **Debt** – The expenses you have based on the money you have borrowed
  - **Disposable Income Spending** – The money you spend on everything else, including savings and investments

To build your plan so that you can spend money on what you want, follow these steps.

- **First**, list your income (what you receive and when you receive it)
- **Next**, list your bills (how much they are and when they are due)
- **Then** list your debts (how much you owe, what your payment is, and when it is due)
- **Finally**, plan for your Disposable Income Spending (this is the money you have left after paying bills and debts)

To make these steps successful, track your spending to know where your money is going. One of the most difficult parts of building your smart money plan is completing these steps for the first time and beginning the process of tracking your money. To help you complete these steps and track your money, SCU has built a smart money tool. Visit our website to download and print our Smart Money Plan tool at [sentrycu.org/Smart\\_Money\\_Plan](https://sentrycu.org/Smart_Money_Plan) to start working on your plan today.

### Connect with SCU

Stay in the loop about Sentry Credit Union with the latest updates, news, and tips!

**Search for "Sentry Credit Union" to find us on these social media platforms:**



# Open Accounts Digitally

Have you been looking to open a new Piggy Bank Savings or start your savings for this year's holidays with a Christmas Club? You're in luck! Now available to members is the ability to request accounts through SCU Digital Banking. Simply log in to digital banking and follow these steps:

1. From the dashboard, navigate to the "Accounts" page by selecting the "Accounts" menu option.
2. On the "Accounts" page, select the option to "Open an additional share or loan", this will launch the page to request an additional account.
3. Select "Start a New Application" to begin the process.
4. Choose the product you would like to open and follow the instructions to make your request.

After you complete this process, an SCU Associate will reach out to help complete the request and answer any questions that you may have.



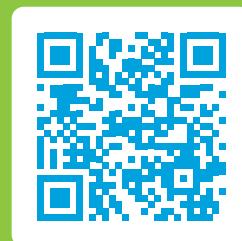
## Positive Habits for Smart Spending

Now that you have started a Smart Money Plan adopt these habits for success:

- Use a money tracker to track the way you are spending your money (paper or digital, whatever works best for you)
- Set goals & celebrate when you achieve them
- Pay yourself first for retirement (e.g. max out 401k matches if available)
- Set up savings and investing automatically so you can set it and forget it
- Borrow only what you need!
- Pay your credit card bills in full every month
- Increase the amount you pay monthly toward your debts
- Don't buy on credit unless you have a plan to pay it back
- Read books about money (audiobooks count)
- Annually do an inventory of where you are at and adjust your plan

Being consistent in these habits helps you to achieve success. Know that it takes time to build new habits, so take them one at a time. We all have stumbles along the way when building new habits, so when you stumble, take the time to reset your plan and start again. Remember, money does not buy happiness, yet a smart spending plan buys peace of mind!

For more smart financial articles visit our blog by scanning the QR code:







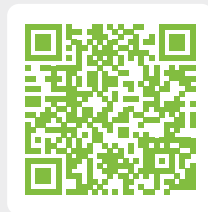
## Youth Spending Plan

Why is a spending plan important for kids?

Teaching kids how to spend properly helps them manage their money and also teaches them lifelong skills like:

- **Understanding Limits:** Kids learn that money is a limited resource and how to prioritize their spending.
- **Thoughtful Giving:** By creating a spending plan, kids focus on meaningful, thoughtful gifts for birthdays and holidays rather than just wanting everything.
- **Delayed Gratification:** They learn to wait and save, which builds patience and financial discipline.
- **Creative Problem-Solving:** Encouraging DIY gifts or side hustles helps kids to think creatively and to stay within their means when spending money.
- **Learning the True Value of Gifts:** They discover that love and thoughtfulness matter more than how much a gift costs, fostering generosity over materialism.

At SCU, we're here to guide you as your child navigates the different stages of learning about money. For more tips, check out our blog on teaching kids about money here: [sentrycu.org/blog/post/teaching-kids-about-money](https://sentrycu.org/blog/post/teaching-kids-about-money) or scan the QR code below.



Looking for a FREE chore, allowance, and financial education app? Download the award-winning app from My First Nest Egg by visiting [sentrycu.org/activity-center](https://sentrycu.org/activity-center). Be sure to use the code: GoSentryCU when signing up!

## Important Dates in the Future

<b>New Year's Day</b>	Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (closed)
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	Monday, January 20, 2025 (open, normal business hours)
<b>President's Day</b>	Monday, February 17, 2025 (open, normal business hours)

*In instances where we are closed, we will reopen for regular business hours the following weekday.*

## ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT

### Rian Schaible

Member Outreach Officer

Started September 2024



#### What do you enjoy most about your role at SCU?

Working together with the SCU Associates as a team to help our members. Everyone is very genuine in their actions, and it shows in the care given to our members. We all are living out the purpose of the Credit Union.

#### Where is your favorite place to travel to?

My home beach in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. I love it because it is the beach that I grew up going to and it has the best surfing and fishing in the state. The jetties in that area are what make it so great for surfing and fishing. Fun fact: you can see a shark every time you are there.

#### What is a secret talent or something that would surprise people about you?

I'm scuba-certified, and I have recorded over 200 dive hours.

#### What advice would you share with members looking to live their best financial life?

When it comes to managing your money, you have to make it a constant practice of good stewardship over your finances. To be successful with your money, you need to practice, practice, practice by thinking about what you spend your money on and making adjustments so you spend wisely. This consistency in managing your money makes you a good caretaker of your finances.

## The SCU Mission Statement

Our mission is to deliver safe, competitive and convenient personal banking products with exceptional service while actively encouraging membership from the Sentry Insurance community. As a trusted partner, our solid financial strength ensures members can rely on us to assist them toward attaining their financial goals while creating a highly-valued benefit.