

8:00 pm, November 8, 2009

THIS JUST IN: Detroit Edison, NuUnion credit unions to merge

By — [Dustin Walsh](#) — Sherri Begin Welch — [Daniel Duggan](#) — [Chad Halcom](#)

Detroit Edison, NuUnion credit unions to merge

The boards of directors for Plymouth-based **Detroit Edison Credit Union** and Lansing-based **NuUnion Credit Union** have approved a letter of intent to merge the two organizations.

The merger is dependent on approval by NuUnion's members, the state's **Office of Finance and Insurance Regulation**, and federal regulators. The merged credit union will be known as **Lake Trust Credit Union**.

Stephen Winninger, NuUnion's CEO, would assume the role of the new credit union's CEO and **William Theiss**, CEO and president of Detroit Edison Credit Union, will assume the role of president.

The two nine-member boards will merge to an 18-member board.

The combined assets of the new organization would top \$1.5 billion — making it the fourth-largest credit union, based on asset size, in the state. NuUnion has more than 91,000 members and \$839 million in assets. Detroit Edison Credit Union has more than 66,000 members and \$681 million in assets.

Fundraising campaign launched for Promise scholarships

The **Detroit College Promise** has launched its first annual fundraising drive with a goal of raising \$2 million.

The money will fund expansion of the promise, which provides scholarships to **Detroit Public Schools** students, from a pilot program launched at Cody High School and Frederick Douglas College Preparatory High School last year. With more funding, it can be expanded to all high schools in the Detroit Public Schools system.

Since founding the Detroit College Promise last August, Bingham Farms business owner **Nat Pernick** has raised \$70,000 to provide scholarships, educational resources, financial aid application assistance and support to college-bound seniors graduating from Detroit Public Schools and attending Michigan public colleges or universities.

Westborn Market expands Dearborn location

Westborn Market is expanding its Dearborn store with an 8,000-square-foot addition.

It marks the third expansion of the store after it expanded across Michigan Avenue in 1988 then expanded another 8,000 square feet in 2004.

The current move will enable **Westborn Flower Market**, which had remained in operation for the past 22 years on the original store's

Advertisement

site, to move across the street and to become housed under one roof with the store selling produce, bakery, meat as well as other food and beverage items.

Kupelian attorneys leave to launch new firm

Six attorneys from the Municipal Law Group at Southfield-based **Kupelian Ormond & Magy P.C.** left the firm to launch Troy-based business and municipal law firm **McGraw Morris P.C.** last week.

Former Kupelian shareholders **Thomas McGraw** and **G. Gus Morris** are the founding partners of the new firm on Big Beaver Road. Associates **D. Randall Gilmer, Stacy Belisle, Kevin Kilby** and **Christopher Raiti** also left Kupelian to become associates at the new firm.

The departure now leaves Kupelian with nine shareholder attorneys, two associates and three of counsel at offices in Southfield and Ann Arbor. Remaining in its Municipal Law Group practice are shareholders **Paul Magy, Stephen Ormond, Stephon Bagne** and **Matthew Schlegel.**

— *Chad Halcom*

Ex-AT&T sales reps stand to get \$11M after verdict upheld

AT&T Michigan could have to pay nearly \$11 million in commissions plus interest after losing its bid to overturn a Detroit jury verdict in favor of two former sales representatives who helped the company land a contract worth up to \$1 billion.

The **Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals** on Oct. 29 upheld two judgments in favor of **Cheryl Snipes** and **Pamela Anton** for a combined \$6.7 million. Snipes and Anton had helped the former **SBC Global Services Inc.** secure a services contract with multimedia provider **Colin Communications Inc.** in 2000, worth in excess of \$1 billion, according to records produced in the court case.

The pair sued after SBC informed the pair they would receive commissions totaling \$90,000, even through their standard commission rates would have fetched sums in the millions. A jury in 2007 valued the contract at \$531 million and awarded \$3.5 million to Snipes and \$3.2 million to Anton.

The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict Oct. 29; shareholder David Lawrence at Farmington Hills-based **Couzens, Lansky, Fealk, Ellis, Roeder & Lazar P.C.** and attorney for the sales reps, said last week the combined judgment now stands at \$10.9 million with interest.

David Deromedi, member-shareholder at **Dickinson Wright P.L.L.C.** in Detroit and attorney for AT&T Michigan in the case, could not be immediately reached for comment.

TARDEC robotics chief to spend 6 months working at Pentagon

Director Jim Overholt at the Joint Center for Robotics at the **Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center** in Warren began a six-month reassignment to Washington last week to head up a program at the Pentagon.

Overholt took a developmental assignment as director of the Joint Ground Robotics Enterprise, within the Office of Land Warfare and Munitions Portfolio Systems Acquisition Directorate at the Pentagon, TARDEC announced.

He will be responsible for crafting a 2010 robotic vehicle development strategy for the organization, and is expected to return in May. The appointment came from the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

Deputy Director Greg Hudas will run daily activities at the JCR in Warren during Overholt's absence. Overholt will continue to oversee strategic planning for TARDEC robotics during his time in Washington.

— *Chad Halcom*

House speaker, Ficano join investment mission to China

House Speaker **Andy Dillon**, D-Redford Township, is joining Wayne County Executive **Robert Ficano** and others for an investment mission to China.

The delegation was to leave Saturday on a 10-day trip and will visit Shanghai, Suzhou, Wuxi, Chongqing and Beijing, according to Ficano's office.

A news release from Dillon's office said the group will meet with business leaders, including those in the solar and wind energy industry, to talk about investing in Michigan.

— *Amy Lane*

© 2010 [Crain Communications Inc.](#)