



For Immediate Release

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VALLEYSTONE CREDIT UNION EXPANDS WITH SHARED BRANCHING CAPABILITY
First credit union in Western Mass to join Shared Branch Network

January 20, 2006 Wilbraham, MA ValleyStone Credit Union has announced that it has joined the FSCC Shared Branching Network enabling their credit union members to conduct their financial transactions at over 2,000 branches in the United States and six foreign countries. ValleyStone is the first credit union in Western Massachusetts to join the Shared Branching Network.

ValleyStone Credit Union recently entered into an agreement with FSCC, Financial Service Centers Cooperative, Inc. of San Dimas, California. FSCC is a cooperative shared branching network, owned and controlled by credit unions. It has created a nationwide delivery system for credit union members through a unique concept for improving location needs.

“This is an exciting time for us and all of our members. The access we will soon be able to offer our members is extensive,” stated James P. Nagy, President/CEO ValleyStone Credit Union. “In today’s world convenience for those who travel, those who move, and those on the go, is of extreme importance, and we feel great about the practicality of this service for our members,” he added. The system and process are expected to be in place in September 2006.

FSCC CEO, Sarah Canepa Bang commented, “We are delighted to have ValleyStone Credit Union as part of the FSCC shared branch network. Their participation not only provides expanded access for ValleyStone CU members, it also demonstrates their commitment to the credit union ideals of cooperation and people helping people.”

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ValleyStone Credit Union members will now be able to conduct their financial transactions at the hundreds of other shared branches across the country through FSCC's user-friendly teller system which connects through a data switch, directly to each participant's credit union data processing system. This process simulates the member actually being in his or her own credit union's lobby. The members will not pay an additional fee for their transactions at shared branch locations. ValleyStone Credit Union members will be able to locate branches throughout the country through the website www.cuswirl.com.

Bonnie Doolin, League Shared Branching liaison, stated that, "the addition of ValleyStone to the Shared Branching network is a key development. Now members will have shared branches available to them from Cape Cod north through the state of New Hampshire, and from Boston west to Chicopee. Our very mobile credit union members will certainly appreciate the added value of more access in this important region. ValleyStone CU has taken a leadership role by opening its branches as FSCC outlets."

"This is a symbol of the cooperative nature that is inherent in the credit union industry," emphasized Mr. Nagy. "And it corresponds with the progressive approach that ValleyStone Credit Union has undertaken since it began its community charter in 2000," he affirmed.

Benefits to the credit union itself include the ability to deliver services very efficiently; the economic advantages for the credit union membership of building fewer branches; and the use of this network to support the industry in a time of disaster which became very prominent in the days and months following Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans area.

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About ValleyStone Credit Union ValleyStone Credit Union, a community credit union serving those who live or work within Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties as well as their family members, was established in 1937 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Since 1955 it was named the Monsanto Employees Credit Union, and in 2000 with an incredible foundation of service to its members, it acquired a community charter and was renamed. The new name, ValleyStone, speaks to its heritage and commitment to those in the Pioneer Valley and also its strength historically and presently. Today as a community credit union, living within a world of direct deposits and internet account access 365/24/7, decisions remain local by those living and working in the same communities. Members enjoy the luxury of a true local financial institution along with quick service, fast decisions and most of all the confidence of a cooperative financial service organization that is owned by the people it serves. ValleyStone provides service to its members from its three locations in Wilbraham, Chicopee and Springfield. For more information, visit www.valleystone.com

About Financial Services Centers Cooperative, Inc. (FSCC) FSCC is a cooperative shared branching network, owned and controlled by credit unions. Through the FSCC network, credit unions have access to over 2,000 shared branches in 43 states and six countries. FSCC represents over 1,000 shared branch outlets within its own network. FSCC currently has credit unions and branches in 28 states and plans to add over 150 new branches in 2006. FSCC is the only shared branch network with branches in foreign countries including Japan, South Korea, Italy, Puerto Rico, and Germany. Through its innovative use of technology, FSCC offers a wide variety of unique services to its participating credit unions including kiosk support, 24/7 call center and help desk support, automated back office support, online training, disaster preparedness and disaster recovery. For more information, visit www.fsc.com.

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