

Hopewell Federal President Announces Retirement

HEATH – March 25, 2010. At yesterday's annual meeting for Hopewell Federal Credit Union it was announced by William Hepner, Jr., chairman of the board, that the retirement notice for Alan P. Smith had been accepted. Hepner praised Smith's accomplishments over the past 27 years at the credit union and noted that he was one of the first 50 credit union professionals in Ohio to receive his Certified Credit Union Executive designation in 1992; that he led the credit union in converting their charter from an occupational to a community credit union in 1994; and that he was honored as the Credit Union Professional of the Year in 1999 by the Ohio Credit Union League. Overall, Smith has worked in the credit union field for 43 years.

Smith was born and raised in Tiffin, Ohio and earned a bachelor's degree from Tiffin University. He and his wife Janice moved to Newark in 1983 and Heath in 2004. They have five children and 15 grandchildren. When asked what he liked about his work he replied, "I always looked forward to going to work each day as I felt I was helping members improve their financial well-being. Helping people help themselves always made me feel good."

The Hopewell Federal board of director's unanimously voted to appoint James G. Johnson, executive vice president and chief operations officer, as the next president of Hopewell Federal Credit Union.

Johnson has been at Hopewell since 1996 and in the financial services industry for 37 years. He grew up in Columbus, Ohio and moved to Newark in 1974. Johnson received his bachelor's degree from Park University in Parkville, Missouri and is a Graduate of Credit Union National Association Management and Financial Management Schools. He currently resides in Heath with his wife Nancy and they have three grandchildren.

When looking towards the future, Johnson will be focused on opportunities to grow the credit union's offerings and optimize the use of technology to expand products and services while maintaining Hopewell's financial strength. According to Johnson, "Given the outstanding team I have to work with at Hopewell, the transition from one CEO to another will be seamless to our members as we help them get ahead financially day in and day out."