

Welcome to the SeaComm Federal Credit Union podcast. Your guide to financial information and what's going on at your credit union!

It all started with ten Chevrolet Foundry workers, a tool box and a shared vision; to improve the financial lives for themselves and their coworkers.

The time was June 1963, John F. Kennedy was President of the United States, The Beverly Hillbillies was the top rated show on television, and General Motors' Chevrolet Aluminum Foundry employed much of Massena, New York residents. Within that plant, ten employees came together with an idea of offering a financial alternative to several out-of-state workers who, at the time, struggled to find monetary assistance locally. They each put \$5 into a tool box, forming a financial cooperative that would prove to benefit not just their coworkers, but family and friends alike. A charter was signed on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1963 and the newly formed credit union, today known as SeaComm, was established.

Within a short period of time, the organization grew to 350 members, and in 1966 the credit union moved its office to the United Auto Workers Hall. Less than 10 years later, its SEG-based charter was expanded to a community charter to include Massena, Brasher, Louisville, Norfolk and Stockholm. The credit union, now named Seaway Community Federal Credit Union, experienced growth of 1,200 members with \$600,000 in assets due to the expansion. With this kind of growth came the need for more building space. Construction began on a new headquarters, located at 30 Stearns Street in Massena, and in 1979 the doors opened.

In 1985 SeaComm opened its first retail branch in Potsdam, NY and five years later, the Malone location was opened. The growth and success of these branches led to the launching of three subsequent branches in New York; located in Canton, Ogdensburg, and Plattsburgh. SeaComm's continued success and evolution allowed further growth beyond New York State, with a retail branch opened in South Burlington and one in Essex, Vermont. The most recent branch development was in Watertown, NY following a 2021 merger with United Neighbors Credit Union. Currently SeaComm has nine branch locations across Northern New York and Vermont.

As SeaComm expanded, so did the products and services being offered. In the early days, members gained access to checking accounts, safety deposit boxes, and certificates. Today, SeaComm members can apply online, taking advantage of a full suite of loan offerings, to include mortgages. Members also have 24/7 digital access to their accounts through e-services such as NetTeller, Mobile app, Online Bill Pay and Enhanced SmartLine. While the product offerings have advanced over the years, SeaComm continues to focus on its roots and purpose.....which is the financial well-being of its membership.

Today, SeaComm has over 53,380 members and assets exceeding \$808 million. With the credit union philosophy of "People Helping People," SeaComm is focused on uplifting the communities it serves. Through monetary donations and the SeaComm Pay-It-Forward program, the credit union supports local organizations, strengthens the community, and gives back - - always remembering why those ten individuals came together, opened that red tool box, and started something bigger than themselves. For 60 years now, SeaComm has been proud to serve, and will continue to serve its communities, to be a trusted ally to its members throughout each financial journey.

That's it for this edition of the SeaComm Federal Credit Union podcast. Thanks for joining us!