

## Larson Recipient of Volunteer Activist Award

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Marshall Community Credit Union would like to recognize Credit Union Chairperson, Jay Larson as the recipient of the 2019 Howard Spencer Grassroots Volunteer Activist Award.

The Howard Spencer Grassroots Volunteer Activist Award recognizes a Michigan credit union volunteer that exhibits an exceptional commitment to grassroots, political and PAC engagement over a sustained period. Jay's involvement in MCCU and within the Michigan Credit Union industry spans countless years. As MCCU's Board Chairman, Jay is a credit union volunteer who understands the importance of grassroots advocacy. He is a constant proponent of the mission: people helping people.

Larson continues to be an active participant by meeting with key lawmakers during Michigan Credit Union League's (MCUL) Hike the Hill, Credit Union National Association's GAC and MCUL's GAC. As a leader in advocacy, he engages with lawmakers during town hall meetings or at in-district events. He constantly encourages credit union executives and volunteers to attend and actively participate in political functions. Whether attending an event in Lansing or Washington, D.C., Larson is an exceptional grassroots advocate for Michigan's credit unions.

"I was taken by surprise. I consider it a real honor and I hope I deserve it. I know I could've done more but I think I made points where I needed to make points. You wonder if you really have an impact, but I think every little bit helps, and maybe I've helped a little bit and didn't even know it," Larson told MCUL.

He continued to give advice to new, younger advocates, telling them to not get discouraged if you Hike the Hill or come to an event in Lansing and don't feel like you've immediately made a difference.

"The first year I did it, I felt like a fish out of water. I didn't really know what was going on. But I think, if you're going to do it, you have to make a commitment to do it for at least a couple years so that you can actually go in and feel comfortable enough to talk about specific issues and examples," said Larson.

Marshall Community Credit Union is a federally insured full-service financial institution with offices located in Marshall and Battle Creek and Coldwater. For more information on products, services or membership, please contact 269.781.9885 or visit marshallcommunitycu.com.

